

Beth-Din Established in Capetown

An Interesting Opening Ceremony.

(From Our Capetown Correspondent).

THE Hebrew Congregations of the Western Province were well represented at the official opening of the Beth Din held at the Talmud Torah Hall yesterday morning. Mr. M. Rosen, President of the United Council of Hebrew Congregations, presided and at the outset introduced the gentlemen comprising the Beth Din. These were Rev. A. P. Bender, who was the Honorary President, Rev. Ch. Mirvish, as *Av Beth Din* and the following as the *Dayanim*:— Rabbi Kramer, Rev. Schlomov, Rev. Strelitz and Mr. Morgenstern.

Mr. Rosen said that this was a unique and memorable day and much hard work had been done in order to establish the Beth Din. The first Beth Din in Capetown had to be an institution to which the Jewish community could look with pride and respect and had to command support and confidence. Mr. Rosen went on to pay a tribute to the inestimable qualities of the members of the Beth Din.

Rev. Bender, who then spoke, also stressed the need for the confidence of the Jewish public to be

placed in the Beth Din in order to ensure its success. Naturally, success also depended on the Beth Din's constitution and work. He assured the gathering that the members of the Beth Din would attempt to carry out their tasks in the old world Jewish spirit of tolerance, fairmindedness and justice, and would always retain an open mind and if necessary would consult business and legal men.

Rabbi Mirvish said that day was in the nature of a festival. He emphasised the fact that the Beth Din could help to keep Jewish life on a high level and the support of those in whose interests it was established had to be obtained if it was to be effective.

Adv. Morris Alexander, K.C., M.P., spoke of the Beth Din's handicap in having behind it no authority recognised by the Law of the country, and suggested that all who came before it should first sign a document binding themselves to its decisions. He expressed the confidence of the Jewish community's support if the Beth Din dealt fairly and without prejudice upon all matters which came before it.

After short addresses were delivered by Rabbi Kramer, Rev. Schlomov, Rev. Strelitz and Mr. Morgenstern, the function was closed.

Bialik's 60th Anniversary Celebrated

A PALESTINE CLUB FUNCTION.

ON Saturday evening at the residence of Mrs. H. Jaff, in Observatory Avenue, the monthly meeting of the Palestine Club (under the chairmanship of Mr. I. J. Hersch), was held.

The minutes of the previous meeting held last month, was read by the Honorary Secretary, Mrs. A. I. Miller.

Mr. D. Mierowsky, in the course of an illuminating address on Bialik said that Chaim Nachman Bialik presented in himself a unique and remarkable phenomenon, not only in Jewish history but perhaps in the annals of general history. No one like him had received such universal recognition and affection that fell to the share of Bialik. Bialik, whose only merit lay in his poems, had received extraordinary recognition. He had no opponents anywhere. On his 50th birthday, 400 articles had been written about him and there was no doubt that by now there were over 1,000 articles on Bialik in Hebrew alone. His works were translated in almost every language, even in Japanese. When they had such a flood of articles about one man there was bound to be quite a lot of nonsense to be found in them, and it was also very dif-

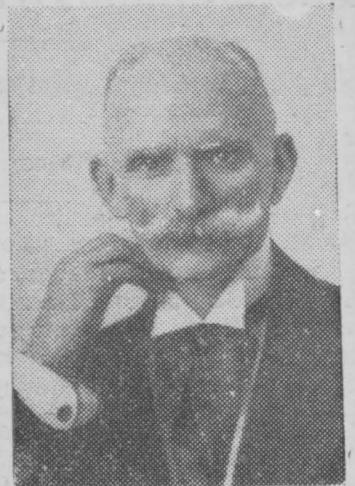
ficult to say anything new about Bialik. Therefore, one had recourse to invention and exaggeration, which was foolish. Bialik was a great Jewish poet, the greatest Jewish poet they had ever had. Bialik's poems were not the result of mere cogitation but of deep feeling and emotion, and not a single poem was written by him simply for the sake of writing.

In order to understand and appreciate Bialik's poems it was absolutely essential that one familiarised oneself with the life of Bialik. He proceeded, therefore, to give them a short account of the life of Bialik and to read some extracts from his poetry in Yiddish and English.

Selections from Bialik's works were read by the lecturer and Miss Frieda Sack. Mr. M. D. Hersch proposed a vote of thanks to the lecturer, and Mr. L. Braudo a similar compliment to the hostess.

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A "CRAZY" PROGRAMME AT THE METRO.

Many laughs are offered to patrons of the Metro Theatre this week to whom will be presented Buster Keaton in his latest comedy "Parlour, Bedroom and Bath." The comedy is full of crazy situations of a most enjoyable and laughable character. Buster Keaton is assisted by Charles Greenwood and Reginald Denny. Besides the main feature, the programme is full of interesting items, including a color tone revue.

MR. ISADOR EPSTEIN.

Mr. Isador Epstein has been specially engaged to play his own compositions at the first vocal recital of Miss Rose Paget-Pratt. This will be held on Tuesday evening, the 14th inst., at the Grand National Hotel. The brilliant pianist will render a group of his own compositions during the evening and this should prove of special interest.

Obituary.

Mrs. F. Green (Bloemfontein).

The death occurred on Saturday, the 28th ult., at her residence in Bloemfontein of Mrs. Fanny Green, wife of Mr. Harry Green, Chairman of the Chevra Kadisha. The deceased, who was only 48 years of age, came to South Africa in 1900 from Leeds, England, where she was born. After residing in Capetown for seven years, she came to live in Bloemfontein upon her marriage.

Mrs. Green was an accomplished musician and deeply interested in art. She played an active part in local charitable work and was an esteemed member of the Bloemfontein Jewish Benevolent Society. She leaves a husband, a married daughter, Mrs. Albert Abelson, an aged mother and three brothers to mourn her loss. The funeral was attended by a large gathering of relatives and friends. Prayers at the graveside were rendered by Rev. Mr. Hadassin.