

Jewish Social Service in U.S.A.

A New Theatre in Johannesburg

Mrs. Geffen's Interesting Survey

AT a well-attended meeting of the Johannesburg branch of the Union of Jewish Women held on Monday afternoon last at the Jewish Guild, Advocate Mrs. Irene Geffen (who recently returned from the U.S.A., where, as a result of a Carnegie grant, she had conducted important investigations of a social research nature) delivered a most informative address on Jewish social service institutions in America. Mrs. A. Behrman presided.

Previous to Mrs. Geffen's lecture, the hon. secretary (Mrs. D. Meyer) read the minutes of the last meeting, and Mrs. Fels, treasurer, presented a satisfactory financial statement as well as recent activities of the National Council of Women. Mrs. B. Reinhold reported on the fund for the relief of German Jewry.

In the course of her impressions of U.S.A. Jewry, Mrs. Geffen mainly concentrated her remarks on the variety as well as the colossal nature of social work carried on in New York City, particularly the efforts of the National Council of Jewish Women and the sisterhood of the Reform Congregations. She called attention to outstanding Jewish personages, especially male and female judges of the lower courts, who rendered unique social service to their co-religionists.

Proceeding to discuss the issue whether the environment has Judaized New York or Americanised Jewry, the lecturer referred to certain mental attributes which had direct effects on the populace generally.

Detailing the various types of Jewish social reform carried on, the speaker stressed the significant work done in the

children's and domestic relations' courts as well as the labours of child-care agencies, among whose duties was to hand over orphaned children to suitable foster parents.

The Conciliation Court.

MRS. GEFFEN described, among others, at length the manifold activities of the Jewish Board of Guardians of New York, and the National Desertion Bureau, a body which undertakes to locate persons deserting their families and their eventual readjustment to their kith and kin. Both the latter institutions are generally regarded throughout the U.S.A. as model bodies of their kind.

What was considered to be a successful organisation was the Jewish Conciliation Court of America, situated in New York, which, in some ways, corresponded to a rabbinical court, and whose decisions were later on ratified by the civil courts. Devoted principally to cases requiring arbitration, the Conciliation Court was presided over by a rabbi, a lawyer and a business man.

The lecturer also gave an account of the Social Science Conference in Detroit as well as a similar one of New York Jewish women, both of which she attended.

In the speaker's opinion there was little social contact between Jews and Christians in the U.S.A., except in business life. Jews there, too, found it difficult to obtain admission to the older universities.

On behalf of those present, Mrs. B. Reinhold expressed thanks to Mrs. Geffen for the latter's edifying remarks that afternoon.

OPENING OF THE COLOSSEUM

ON Wednesday evening next an event of great importance in the theatrical history of South Africa will take place when General the Rt. Hon. J. C. Smuts will officially open the new Colosseum Theatre in Johannesburg.

The new theatre has the distinction of being the only "island site" in the city of Johannesburg, surrounded as it is by four streets. The magnificently built theatre is a superlative example of modern building art. There is a seating capacity for three thousand people within the building, which has a delightful vestibule and foyer. There is also provision for a large orchestra and a complete stage. Original features in theatre design include staircase halls adjoining the grand foyer. From these halls the grand staircase ascends to the mezzanine promenade and descends to the basement tea room.

The general design of the interior is pure phantasy and the illusion of being in the open air is increased in the design of the proscenium arch as a bridge built of quarried stone. The examination of the sky reveals the constellation of the Southern Hemisphere. The lighting effects are magnificent. Many of them are perfectly new and have not been presented in any other theatre in the world. The designs of the grand foyer, and of the mezzanine promenade, and of the ceiling has also entirely broken away from classical tradition and expressed the modern trend of thought in form and colour.

A Colosseum Symphony Orchestra of selected musicians has been engaged, and at the opening performance there will be a Colosseum Choir of one hundred and fifty voices. The film attraction during the opening week is the "Rome Express"—a Gaumont-British Picture triumph.

Arrival of Yiddish Players

IT is over four years since the Yiddish Theatre Company from overseas has visited Johannesburg, and great interest is therefore being taken in the opening performance on Saturday evening next at the Standard Theatre by the new company of Yiddish players who have just arrived here.

The principal players are Vere Kana-vska and Paul Breitman. They are supported by Naomi Levinthal and Simche Natan of the Vilna Troupe, Manasha Oppenheim of the Azazi Small Arts Theatre, and Miss Hilda Ida, leading lady of the Ludwig Satz Theatre.

The opening performance of this Yiddish Company will open with an operetta "A World of Love." On Monday next "The Eternal Mother" will be shown, to be followed by "Der Gaslen."

A Succoth Concert

The pupils of the La Rochelle Branch of the United Hebrew Schools of Johannesburg, are holding a concert on their Talmud Torah premises, Fourth Street, La Rochelle, on Saturday, October 7, at 8 p.m. (Chalamoed Succoth). A special feature will be that all the items will refer to the Festival of Succoth, and will be accompanied by music and dancing. An enjoyable evening in the true Succoth atmosphere is assured.

A GUIDE TO BEAUTY

HEALTH IS BEAUTY! This is a maxim which should be written in flaming letters in every South African Home.

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