

Broadcasting

NOW that big projects are "in the air" with reference to broadcasting in South Africa, I hope we shall see the introduction of an occasional Jewish programme. Only recently an interesting programme of Jewish music was heard over the British Broadcasting station at Daventry. This was much appreciated by the millions of listeners.

I hear that for the first time in radio history in America, a Jewish dramatic programme was presented a few nights ago. Called the "Jewish Theatre of the Air," the programme was heard over nine stations of the American broadcasting system. It was directed by Joseph Buloff, the director of New York's famous Yiddish Art Theatre, and he was supported by a galaxy of artists. The repertory contained excerpts from the work of such writers as Pinsky, Sholom Asch, Sholom Aleichem and others.

I see no reason why an occasional lecture of Jewish interest or a Jewish musical programme should not be heard "over the air" in South Africa. Such an innovation would be appreciated by the many thousands of radio set owners.

Peretz

IT is just twenty years ago since the passing of that great Yiddish writer, Isaac Loeb Peretz. He was an interesting person indeed, combining the gifts of the poet, the short story writer and the man of affairs. In thousands of homes his books are to be found, not only in the original Hebrew and Yiddish, but also translations in English and other languages. When Peretz died one hundred thousand people attended his funeral in Warsaw.

One of the reasons why Peretz was popular was because he interested himself in the plain hard-working people—the men, women and children among whom he lived and whose life and struggles are so well described in his wonderful stories. His greatest creation was undoubtedly Bonche Schweig, which is the story of a poor fellow for whom the angels had planned a special reward.

Peretz made a fine study of Chassidic life and in his stories he gave the deeper meaning underlying the ideas upon which Chassidim is based. I feel sure that wherever there are Jews who speak Yiddish or Hebrew, the name of Peretz will always be revered.

Epstein Again

ISEE that Jacob Epstein, the celebrated sculptor, is again bringing down upon himself tremendous criticism in connection with a new work. The Epstein exhibition was opened in London in mail week and much attention was drawn to "Behold the Man!"—a sculptural piece. The treatment and conception is entirely unusual and never previously known in sculpture.

Although the new work has called forth the most bitter criticism, all agree that the Epstein exhibition is an extremely interesting one. In fact, it shows him at the height of his strange and sensitive powers.

One critic maintains that there are intervals in which Epstein forgets that he is a

Current Communal Comments

By
"Hamabit"

great artist but "no one should allow his latest effigy to keep him or her from going to the exhibition. They will also find there an Epstein at his best, as an artist in a series of busts at which he has never excelled."

It appears that Epstein has shown in his latest works a revelation of character and feeling and a craftsmanship of supreme excellence. One of the most admired of male heads at the exhibition is that of "Dr. Chaim Weizmann."

Medicine

AN interesting little book just published is one dealing with Talmudic medicine. The author is Dr. J. Snowman, a well-known London communal worker and a deep student of Jewish lore. The author takes the reader through the entire field of Talmudic medicine ranging roughly from 200 C.E. to 600 C.E. It is interesting to find how superstition and science figured side by side in those days. Thus baldness is "an act of God." The case is reported of a man who trod on a serpent and immediately became bald through nervous shock.

Protagonists of "raceology" may be interested in Rabbi Ishmael's dictum that "the children of Israel are like boxwood, neither black nor white." The idea that shouting might burst the listener's eardrum was a scientific belief of these ancient doctors, whilst modern tooth paste advertisements have their precursor in the rabbinic statement that the vigour of a man depends upon the "ivory castles."

Interesting, too, is the definition of the insane as "one who walks out alone at night, or spends the night in a cemetery, or tears his garments, or destroys what is given to him."

Incidentally there is rather a frank statement in the Mishna that the "best among physicians is destined for Gehenna." Those interested in "faith cures" will like this.

An Israelite

THERE is an old gentleman in Manchester (England) who has just celebrated his ninetieth birthday. He is Gustav Behrens—the senior magistrate of the Lancashire metropolis. Head of the firm of Sir Jacob Behrens and Sons, Mr. Behrens, who has often been described as Manchester's "grand old man" of commerce, will always be remembered—apart from the commercial side of his career—as the founder of the Hallé Concerts Society, upon the death of Sir Charles Hallé.

These concerts, which have attained world renown, recall to me the famous "civil war" which once waged in Man-

chester over the appointment of Dr. Hans Richter to the conductorship of the Hallé Orchestra. Bitter feelings were aroused by the proposal to appoint a foreign conductor to Manchester. At the height of the dispute as to whether Sir Frederic Cowen, or Dr. Hans Richter should be selected, a well-known Jewish personage was asked whether he was a "Cowenite" or a "Richterite," to which he replied: "I am an Israelite." This was one way of getting out of an awkward situation.

War Profits

THERE is an old accusation that the Great War was made by the Jews, who also made the Peace. An interesting side-light on this accusation occurred recently when the American Senate Committee made public the names of citizens of that country who had earned a million dollars or more during the years of the War. This was in connection with the investigations of the munitions industry.

The list contains one hundred and eighty-one American war-time millionaires, yet there are only six Jewish names. This piece of evidence, together with the fact that Jews actually suffered more from the War than any other people, both during the years of fighting and during its aftermath, should make this particular anti-Semitic accusation ridiculous for all time.

Such is Life!

A MEMBER of a very wealthy family had died and a certain Jew, hearing of the death, decided to attend the funeral.

For some time he stood and regarded the long procession, the magnificent hearse, and the expensive and elaborate ritual. He was obviously impressed by the costliness of it all.

Finally, he turned away, shaking his head.

"How some people live!"

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