

## CHARGES CONCERNING JEWISH ENLISTMENTS REFUTED

Article in The "Forum"

"THE FORUM," in its last issue, deprecates the practice of sending white feathers, which has recently come into operation in South Africa, and says that one of the white feather victims was an ex-service man who lost a foot in 1918 on the Western Front.

The newspaper particularly deplores the fact that members of the Jewish community have been singled out and that there has been correspondence in the press and loose talk alleging that the Jews are not joining up.

Although exact figures are difficult to obtain, the Jews, numbering 4½ per cent. of the European population, constitute 15 per cent. of the forces on the Witwatersrand, nine per cent. in Capetown, and eight per cent. in Durban. Thus the broad allegation that members of the South African Jewish community are failing to respond to their country's call is as ridiculous and unfounded as would be the charge that Irish or Scottish South Africans are holding back. It is, in any case, wrong in principle and harmful to the national cause to single out any particular section of the community for loose-tongued defamation of this kind.

### "The Genuine Refugee"

THE "Natal Witness" takes up cudgels on behalf of the refugees from Germany and points out what a great debt art, science and literature in that country owe them.

The duty of South Africa towards the genuine refugees is to absorb them in the country of their adoption, not only for their usefulness, but as an expression of liberty.

Although the newspaper believes that all enemy sympathisers should be interned, it is incumbent on South Africans to deal justly with the refugees.

"Many patriotic people in their zeal for their cause have demanded the internment of all aliens, regardless of guilt or innocence and forgetful of the few who desire our sympathetic consideration. It is a policy, however, that cannot be accepted if we are to remain the trustees of freedom and liberty."

### Kinross

The £3 13s. 10d. yielded by Mrs. B. Dorfan's box which headed the list in Kinross was accumulated, it is interesting to note, by her small son Samuel, as a birthday gift for her.

### Middelburg (Transvaal)

Mrs. N. Brozin, the hon. secretary of the local branch of the S.A. Jewish Orphanage, has forwarded to that institution the sum of £2, being subscriptions from local members collected by Mrs. M. Birman.

## ZIONIST MASS MEETING IN JOHANNESBURG

To be Held on Wednesday Evening

It is announced by the South African Zionist Federation that a public meeting will be held on Wednesday, June 26, at 8.15 p.m., at the Coronation Hall, corner Claim and Plein Streets, Johannesburg.

Important addresses on the subject of "Palestine at War" will be delivered by Dr. Michael Traub, the distinguished visitor from Palestine, and Mr. N. Kirschner (Chairman of the Zionist Federation).

Admission to the meeting is free and the general public is cordially invited.

## REFUGEE CHILDREN TO BE BROUGHT TO SOUTH AFRICA

THE Union Government has completed a scheme for placing in the Union children to be evacuated from Great Britain and for the adoption by Union nationals of orphans from Allied countries. Details of the scheme are shortly to be published.

It is probable that a National Conference will be convened by the Union Department of Social Welfare, which will appoint a national Advisory Council, with local supervisory committees.

## CAPETOWN ZIONISTS WELCOME RABBI KIRZNER

The usual fortnightly conversazione held by the Dorshei Zion Association in Capetown took the form last Tuesday night of a reception to Rabbi and Mrs. E. W. Kirzner. A very large gathering attended the function, which was held at the Zionist Hall.

Dr. S. E. Kark, Chairman of the Dorshei Zion, presided, and the warm welcome he extended to the Rabbi and Mrs. Kirzner was endorsed by subsequent speakers, namely, Mr. J. Herbst, K.C., on behalf of the Keren Hayesod Committee for the Western Province; Mrs. Mary Segal on behalf of the Bnoth Zion; Mr. N. Traub on behalf of the Mizrachi, and Mrs. S. Weinstein on behalf of the Cape Zionist Youth Executive.

Rabbi Kirzner, after expressing thanks on behalf of his wife and himself, spoke of the dark days through which mankind was passing at present. Only by standing together as one man in the cause of the Empire, of which South Africa was a proud member, he said, would human rights and freedom be restored to man.

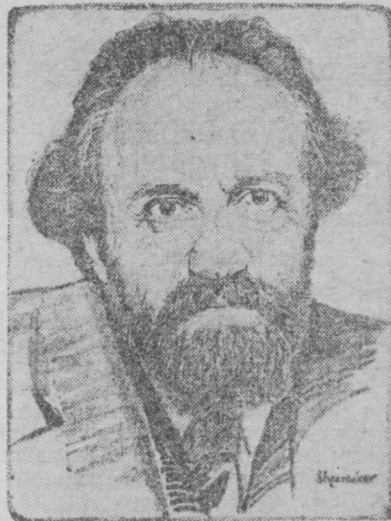
During the evening Miss Rachel Rabinowitz contributed a pianoforte solo and Mr. Harry Rabinowitz a number of Yiddish songs.

## Pietersburg Hebrew Congregation

The Jewish members of the local Botha Regiment attended officially the Friday evening service prior to their leaving on active service. Rev. Levine preached a special sermon.

# A Great Bloch Composition

Fine Symphony Concert Last Tuesday



Ernest Bloch.

The symphony concert held at the City Hall on Tuesday night, which brought the 1940 Music Festival to an end, was undoubtedly one of the most interesting of the series, the first performance of the Bloch Violin Concerto making it a particularly notable musical event.

Considered one of the greatest of living composers, Ernst Bloch conveys an entirely new message in his music, and many of his compositions are characterised by a so-called Jewish trait, revealed either in the form of traditional Jewish themes or in the peculiar "Blochisms."

The violin concerto was completed only a couple of years ago and was first presented in the great cities overseas, with outstanding success, by

Joseph Szigetti. It is a work which deserves to rank among the concertos of the great masters.

At the performance on Tuesday night, the music seemed to breathe a prophetic message — an impression due perhaps to the mood induced in all by the present war. The concerto has passages which express a deep sorrow, but end on a theme of brilliant hopefulness.

Michael Doré acquitted himself very well. Apart from conquering the technical difficulties of the work, he gave a reading both profound and expressive. He seemed to live through the composition. The cadenza in the first movement alone would have created that favourable impression. All in all, it was a fine performance of a great work.

The rest of the programme included the highly descriptive "London Symphony," by Vaughan-Williams, and a lively "Carnaval" overture by Glazounov.

Jerry Schulman conducted, and piloted his orchestra through all the intricacies of the Bloch score and the other works with skill, firmness and brilliance.

Incidentally, an introductory note on the programme warned the audience that, owing to the war situation, future plans for symphony concerts could not be stated yet.

This concluding series of concerts has certainly fulfilled a much-needed musical function, both for the musically-minded audience and for students. That education and culture should not be neglected in any circumstances, and particularly not in time of war, when spiritual nourishment is as essential as material, is axiomatic.

"Musicus."

## SONJA HENIE'S LATEST FILM

Attraction at 20th Century Theatre

Story value and acting performances are counted on in "Everything Happens at Night" more than in any of Sonja Henie's previous five productions. A completely different type of story for the famous skating star and queen of the ice, the screen play is filled with love and laughter, and mysterious danger, too. Ray Milland and Robert Cummings are featured as Sonja's leading men in the attraction, which opens this evening at the 20th Century Theatre.

In this picture Sonja has a part that demands great acting ability. As the daughter of a world-famous peace leader, she aids her father in revealing to the world the sensational inside story of a new international intrigue. Two young newspaper reporters—Ray Milland, from London, and Robert Cummings, from Paris, find romance with Sonja, perilous adventure and a hilarious good time in this exceptionally entertaining production.

## A CARD EVENING

£80 for Mayors' Fund

A card party was organised by Mrs. I. W. Osrin, of Bedford Road, at the homes of Mrs. B. Jankelovitch and Mrs. I. J. Balkin in Young Avenue, Houghton, for the Mayors' National Fund, and a cheque for £80 was handed over to the Fund.

## A MASS MEETING IN DOORNFONTEIN

To be Held on Sunday Evening

At the Apollo Theatre, Beit Street, Doornfontein, on Sunday, the 23rd inst., at 8.15 p.m., a mass meeting will be held under the auspices of the S.A. Jewish Board of Deputies.

The subject will be, "Tasks Facing South African Jewry To-day." The speakers are Mr. Maurice Franks, K.C. (President of the Board), Mr. G. Saron (General Secretary of the Board), and Mr. A. Ovedoff (Country Representative—who will speak in Yiddish).

There will be no collection and all members of the Jewish public in Doornfontein and district are cordially invited to attend.

## Hospitality to Soldiers

Residents of Johannesburg who would like to entertain one or more soldiers at weekends are invited to communicate with the Hospitality Secretary, Toc H Headquarters, by letter or telephone. The address is P.O. Box 3624, Johannesburg. Telephone 33-0551 (9 a.m. to 1 p.m.).