

## Successful Hebrew Concert.

### INTERESTING PROGRAMME.

There was a large audience at the Hebrew concert held on Sunday night, 1st November, in the Zionist Hall under the auspices of the Cape Board of Jewish Education, in celebration of the sixtieth birthdays of the Hebrew poets, Jacob Cohen and Jacob Fichman.

Dr. A. Birnbaum in his opening remarks stated that these times were most suitable for drawing the attention of a Jewish audience to works of the two great poets, Jacob Cohen and Jacob Fichman, who each in his own way serves as the mouthpiece of both Jewish suffering and Jewish hopes and aspirations. He went on to give in brief the essential differences between the two renowned poets that were based on a difference in their outlook on life.

While Fichman took notice of every minute detail and did not "despise the day of small things," for he knew well and believed that even by climbing slowly and cautiously you will eventually reach the peak, Cohen clamoured for the ultimate aim, for the glory that must come like a miracle in its entirety.

With this concert the Board of Jewish Education attempted to introduce something new and hoped to receive the assistance of the public for future similar enterprises.

Cantor M. Katzin, accompanied by Mr. Sher, gave a beautiful rendering of "A Mother's Elegy" by Jacob Cohen, and received a fine ovation. Miss Freda Astrinsky recited poems by Jacob Fichman with excellent effect.

Excerpts from "The Messiah" by Handel were sung by Boris Rome, Sigrid Walender, Harry Rabinowitz and Beatrice Berwick, to the accompaniment of an orchestra conducted by Professor H. Plaut. The words were the original Hebrew adapted by Dr. Birnbaum with the assistance of Miss Sarah Gordon, and the performance was beautiful and impressive.

Mr. B. L. Rubik gave a short address in Yiddish on the life and work of the two poets. Fichman, he said, represented the revolt of youth against the yoke of the Galuth and the desire to place humanity as a whole above the individual. Cohen combined the suffering of the individual with that of humanity in general and represented a synthesis of both. He was the bridge between Bialik and Tchernichowsky. Both Cohen and Fichman symbolised the new Judaism, which must, however, be founded on the old, if it was to fill the needs of Jewry in a free Jewish life.

After the interval an extract from the play "Meeting the Messiah," by Jacob Cohen, was staged. Mr. I. Shalit was the producer and Mr. Z. Lison took the part of the Messiah. Others who participated were Miss F. Rabinowitz, Miss Gelcer, Mr. Wolman, Mr. Bank, Mr. Baroda and Mr. Goodman. The production and acting were outstanding and a profound impression was created.

Great credit is due to the Board of Jewish Education and to the Director, Dr. A. Birnbaum, for introducing and organising this cultural Hebrew concert and it is

(Continue in Third Column).

## Ben-Gurion and Evacuation.

The Editor,

"S.A. Jewish Chronicle."

Sir,—According to the latest report Ben-Gurion has demanded the adoption of the Nordau Plan for transferring the uprooted millions of Jews from Europe to Palestine and quotes the Greco-Turkish Repatriation Scheme as a precedent.

Now, if this is not a "malicious Revisionist invention," we have the peculiar position that the leader of the Mapai has adopted the Revisionist programme holubolus and after the complete fiasco of the army-scheme has turned to the Nordau Plan, which is nothing else but "Evacuation" with a vengeance. As to the moral aspect of it, I leave it to the patentees of this patent medicine to assert their proprietary rights. I am afraid, however, that we are in the position of the simpleton in the famous story: "With you, Rabbi, it is a question of parnosse, but this fool takes it seriously. . ."

Nobody can tell the number of the uprooted in the inferno that is Europe to-day, but it is only too obvious that their first requirements after the end of the war and for quite a long while, will be medicine and food, and to indulge in fantasies about "waste land thirsting for cultivation" sounds somewhat like offering a stone, even though a holy stone, to a man who asks for bread. And where is the guarantee that the uprooted in Europe will so easily take root in Palestine? Is there not a risk of falling into Scylla in trying to avoid Charybdis? But there is still a more serious aspect to the question. Ben-Gurion by virtue of his position, lends an official character to his demands for evacuation. Now, has he got a mandate from Polish Jewry for such a scheme? Shortly before the war, Polish Jewry has, to say the least of it, condemned the evacuation scheme root and branch. In Warsaw 85 per cent. of the Jewish votes were cast in favour of the "Bund" and only 15 per cent. for all the other parties combined, and though in the rest of Poland the landslide was not so great, the majority of the "Bund" against all parties combined was more than two to one. This was a catastrophe from the point of view of Zionism (perhaps not from the point of view of Yishuvism) greater than ten White Papers combined. This is all the more poignant, if we bear in mind that for quite a long time Gruenbaum was regarded, even by anti-Zionists, as the uncrowned king of Polish Jewry. Stupid and dishonest Bundists interpreted this phenomenon in a manner best suited to their party interests, but sensible and honest Zionists could not fail to see in it a very significant pointer, namely, an utter and unequivocal condemnation of evacuation and the "one-million-too-many" theory. These are facts, and no amount of casuistry can be of any avail. The principle of transfer in any shape or form reeks too much of Nazism and is too palpably scandalous and impracticable to merit any consideration. Mr. Ben-Gurion is fully entitled to a different opinion, but nobody has the right in face of the clear verdict of Polish

(Continue in Third Column).

## "LINES OF COMMUNICATION."

(Continued from Previous Page).

cess, and elicited a letter from the Chief of M.I., Pretoria, congratulating the producer on his effort, which he described as "a splendid piece of work." The second edition was being prepared a couple of weeks ago, and this promises to eclipse the first number. A feature of the mag. is an "open letter" written by the producer himself and addressed "To Airmen." He will have a similar feature in every issue addressed to another group. Recently the producer of this desert journal wrote an article, which appeared down here, on a visit he paid to Palestine, and, in my exchanges, I noticed it was reproduced in full in the "Canadian Jewish Times," Toronto.

\* \* \* \* \*

### Roll of Honour.

*Wounded or Injured.*—Cpl. Frank Rosslyn Bradlow, Gnr. David Henry Kirstein

*Prisoners of War.*—Pte. Ernest Fingleson, Pte. Aron Mill.

*Prisoners of War Broadcasted by Vatican.*  
L/Cpl. Isidore Stein, Gnr. Z. Shevel,  
Pte. Joseph Gluckman.

(Continued from Second Column).

Jewry on evacuation, to make demands for such a monstrous scheme in its name. There is our old maxim, "Do not do unto others what you would not have others do unto you," and it only requires a moment's thought to realise what our reaction would have been, had we, God forbid, been placed in such a position, to a suggestion of evacuation for and on our behalf. And if we would have condemned it as preposterous in our own case, we dare not tolerate such acts on behalf of tortured and dumb-smitten Polish Jewry which is drowning in its own blood.

The suggestion that Polish Jewry is less rooted in Poland than Jews in any other country on the globe is too outrageous. It is stabbing Polish Jewry in the heart and playing right into the hands of the Endeks and their ilk who have as their motto "Jews to Palestine."—I am, etc.,

B. L. RUBIK.

(Continued from First Column.)

generally hoped that this will be the forerunner of others to come. The valuable assistance of Mr. L. Burman in the arrangements and the capable way in which he acted as compere is also worthy of great praise. Thanks are also due to the Chug Ivri Lanoar, in particular Miss Ruth Naumov, for their ready co-operation.

## The Old Brandy Store Ltd.

(Under New Management).

Established 1848.

A Large Selection of Wines, Brandies and Liqueurs stocked.

We deliver throughout the Peninsula.

The only store for Mac's Royal Cape Brandy.

73, Harrington Street, Cape Town.

Phone 2-1974.

Under the management of Philip Sher.