

NEWS IN BRIEF.

U.S.A. PROFESSOR IMPRESSED BY PALESTINE.

Jerusalem.

Professor Oru Sherman Morgan, of the American Board of Economic Warfare, addressed a group of scientists at the Daniel Sieff Institute in Rehovoth, after a 12,000 kilometres tour of Middle East countries. Describing his impressions of Palestine, he mentioned the high crop yield of land as compared to neighbouring countries and the great local activity in contrast with slowness of other parts of the Middle East. Farmers, he found, were scientifically guided. He was impressed by the co-operation among Palestine's scientists—whom he described as "top notch"—and lauded the achievements and programme of the Hebrew University. Professor Morgan had visited Trans-Jordan, Palestine, Syria, the Lebanon and Iraq. He expects to return to Washington by mid-January.

HEBREW UNIVERSITY GRADUATES

Jerusalem.

Among the 79 graduates who were awarded M.A. and M.Sc. degrees at the Hebrew University on December 23rd, there were ten soldiers and one A.T.S. auxiliary in uniforms of the British Army.

NEW CHEMICAL PRODUCTS.

Jerusalem.

Chemically pure ethyl chloride is now being manufactured by the chemical laboratory "Arnon" in Jerusalem. The first experiments were made in the Hebrew University in Jerusalem, and many difficulties in the production processes, in which local climatic conditions played a part, had to be overcome. The quality of the local product is at least equal to the imported article, and the quantity produced will make export possible after local requirements have been fully covered.

Liver extract, largely used in medicine for injections, was hitherto imported from abroad. Now "Palmed"—Palestine Medical Co. Ltd. of Tel-Aviv—is preparing this product locally under the name of "Hepalmed Injections."

"LAND FOR ISRAEL'S REFUGEES."

Jerusalem.

Tnuva has announced its intention to redeem 1,000 dunams of land for labour colonisation as part of the "Land for

Israel's Refugees" project in 1942/43. A committee has been set up to decide the distribution per settlement of the £P10,000 needed for the land and the method of collecting the share of each of the existing Keren Hayesod villages for this purpose.

PALESTINE FOLK OPERA.

Jerusalem.

The Palestine Folk Opera is preparing the premiere of Offenbach's "La Belle Helene," Puccini's "La Boheme" and Bizet's "Carmen," all of these in Hebrew. They also plan to stage the first Palestinian Hebrew opera ever composed, "Gad the Watchman," by Marc Lavry, who will conduct his own work. A group of friends have raised £P500 for costumes, scenery, scores, etc., in Tel-Aviv, and hope to reach £P2,000. There are 12 soloists, 30 members of the choir, and 30 orchestra musicians among the personnel. The staff is organised on co-operative lines.

PALESTINE ORCHESTRA HUBERMAN PRIZE.

Jerusalem.

The Huberman Prize arranged by the Management of the Palestine Orchestra on the occasion of the violinist's 60th birthday, has been awarded to Alexander Boscowitch of Tel-Aviv for a concerto for violin and orchestra. Issai Dobrowen conducted a work by this composer in the Orchestra's 1937/38 season. Three further composers were given honourable mention.

Two gala symphony concerts will be given in Beirut by the Palestine Orchestra for the first time since 1937.

HABIMAH AND OHEL.

Jerusalem.

The Habimah Theatre has presented Ashman's "This Earth" 60 times within 85 days. It is preparing for production "The Russian People" by Constantine Semenov and "The Enemy Approaches" by Leonid Leonovnov, Soviet dramatists.

"King Lear" was revived in its Hebrew version by the "Ohel" Labour Theatre Guild at a performance marking the fifteenth anniversary of its productions. "King Solomon and Asmodai the Cobbler" by S. Groneman, the revival of "The Good Soldier Schweik" and "Herod and Miriam" attracted large audiences.

A dramatisation of John Steinbeck's "The Moon is Down," under the title "Invasion," will be one of the next plays to be produced by Ohel.

JEWISH CO-OPERATIVE SOCIETIES PURCHASE DEFENCE BONDS.

Jerusalem.

Jewish co-operative societies in Palestine have purchased Palestine Savings Certificate and 3% Defence Bonds amounting to £P28,000. The societies actually had pledged £P25,000, and exceeded their quota by £P3,000.

WAX-MATCHES MADE IN PALESTINE.

Jerusalem.

Locally made wax-matches have been very favourably received on the market. The factory is at Bait-Vegan (Jerusalem) and is producing 2,000 to 3,000 boxes daily, but this quantity is not enough to meet the demands even of Jerusalem and neighbourhood. The first machine, constructed by Palestine engineers, is quite original, not copying any foreign models, but the results are excellent. Wax matches can be produced with very little foreign material. It is reported that the great "Nur" match factory is also to start soon the production of wax matches.

WINTER CLOTHING FOR JEWISH SOLDIERS' FAMILIES.

Jerusalem.

The Jewish national institutions are to distribute winter clothing to the families of Jewish soldiers and Settlement Police at a discount of 50% off the regular prices. In urgent cases the Central Jewish Soldiers' Welfare Committee will give the clothing free.

UTILISATION OF CITRUS PEELINGS.

Jerusalem.

A U.S. patent for the utilisation of orange and other citrus fruit peelings has been granted to Mr. B. Rosenthal of Rehovoth. Whereas formerly pectin and essential oils only were obtained from citrus peelings, the new patent provides also for the obtaining of ethyl alcohol, butyl alcohol, acetone and acetic acid.

POLISH RABBI BAYONETTED.

Kuibyshev.

Reports reaching Kuibyshev state that the Rabbi of the Polish town of Vengrov, the son of the Sokolover Rabbi, was killed by the Nazis while cleaning the streets of Vengrov because he intervened on behalf of a little boy whom the Nazis were forcing to clean the streets. The officer ordered a soldier to stab the Rabbi with his bayonet.

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