

# LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

## Revisionists and Their Free Criticism

Sir,—Instead of explaining my allegations about the disruption among the Johannesburg Revisionists based on clear statements made by himself, Mr. Couzin in last week's "Zionist Record" enters into a whole lot of irrelevant remarks about "Weizmannists," "old" Zionists and "new" Zionists. He boasts that "we Revisionists think and express ourselves" and that this is a clear sign that "our Movement is healthy." Yet at the very beginning of his letter he expresses profound shock at the manner in which I am supposed to have secured copies of a "confidential letter." I concede to him the point that there are possibilities for free criticism in the N.Z.O. in "confidential letters" between Mr. Couzin and Mr. Blumenthal!

I read copies of the letters most carefully. Mr. Couzin and Mr. Blumenthal are slinging mud at each other. According to Mr. Couzin this was confidential—why then does it boast about free criticism?

Nor can I understand the distinction which he draws between criticism of an individual and criticism of a Movement. Mr. Couzin did not criticise Mr. Blumenthal's tie or collar, or colour of hat when he spoke about "a long tale of unavailing efforts," about "palsied defeatism," "heart-breaking discouragement" and "paralysed effortlessness." He spoke about the Revisionist Movement and about nothing else.

I have not taken the paragraph out of its context. It all occurs in paragraph 10 of Mr. Couzin's own letter (incidentally the letters are not marked "confidential," and I am not guilty of any dishonourable acts in having quoted them.)

The main points which I made in my letter were these: 1. That according to normal public standards when a leading personality of a movement resigns, a statement to that effect is published in the organ of that movement. It is not necessary to give all the reasons which might be "confidential," but the fact must be divulged. If this is not divulged then the followers are kept in ignorance.

2. That the letters indicate that the Johannesburg Revisionist "movement" is altogether rotten from within. Mr. Couzin is at liberty to submit these letters to any impartial judge and ask him whether he would gain any other impression.

Under the circumstances it is quite useless for Mr. Couzin or any other Revisionist to proclaim from the roof-tops that "the N.Z.O. is healthy," that "we are determined," etc.

Furthermore it is the height of "Chutzpah" for this organisation to masquerade as an alternative to the Zionist Movement. (In some case they go even further than that and give people the impression that they were the Zionist Movement.) Two solitary hands went up in support of Mr. Couzin's Revisionist motion at the Congress of the S.A. Jewish Board of Deputies—so much for their following in South Africa! There isn't a much bigger following in England. In liberated Europe there is similarly very little heard of Revisionists, although most Jewish parties have come back to life in Poland, France, Belgium, Roumania, etc.

In America the Revisionists are hardly ever heard of, and in Palestine they seldom if ever gain a seat on any of the elections to village and town councils. So it is about time that the pretence is stopped and failure is admitted.

In England the Commonwealth Party, which failed in the recent Parliamentary elections, is calling a conference to discuss the "dissolution of the party." The Revisionists should do the same.

Mr. Couzin has the courage to kiss Mr. Blumenthal's rod—the rod that spanked him good and proper. He and his friends might also have the courage to do a job of Zionist work, instead of wasting their time on their so-called "Movement."

Yours, etc.,  
HAYODEA.

Johannesburg.

## Youth Dance at H.O.D. Hall

Sir,—Whatever the demeanour of most people in their private lives, it stands to the credit of Jewish organisations that they strictly observed the self-imposed ban on the holding of dances in aid of Jewish charities.

I need not emphasise how very much it is out of keeping in view of the terrible tragedy that people should label their personal enjoyment with the excuses that they are doing so for a "good cause."

I was therefore shocked to notice in a Jewish newspaper that 300 young people "packed the H.O.D." Hall on Saturday the 4th, and "that the spirit throughout the evening was very gay."

I want to ask the Committee of the H.O.D., a very public spirited body, whether they intend to break this rule which was established during the war and which could be abandoned only by authoritative Jewish organisations.

Yours, etc.,  
LEIB BERMAN.

Johannesburg.

## REMARKABLE PROGRESS IN FIVE YEARS

AWAY up in the north-eastern corner of Palestine, in the area known as Metzudat Ussishkin, a group of 23 pioneers, with three children, established the co-operative small-holders' settlement of Shaar Yashuv five years ago. They belonged to the General Zionist A movement.

To-day, on the fifth anniversary, the village has 100 inhabitants, of whom 40 are children. Forty dunams are under fish-ponds, 45 dunams have been planted with fruit trees. A complement of 40 families will be concluded shortly with the addition of ten families of Jewish Settlement police. It is intended in due course to enlarge the village to 60-70 families.

## JWA Function Venue Changed

The function which was to have been held at the home of Mrs. Banks on Wednesday, August 22, by the Observatory Curve Branch of the Women's Section of the JWA, will now be held at the home of Mrs. S. Bacher, 48 Urania Street, Observatory.

## Orchestral Concert

BEETHOVEN'S "Overture-Corionus" and his "Violin Concerto in D Major" were beautifully rendered at an orchestral concert presented by the South African Friends of the Soviet Union at the City Hall on Saturday night. The concert was arranged by Solly Aronowsky under the baton of Herman Herz.

Bram Verhoef gave his customary polished performance and was heard to good advantage, especially in the Beethoven Concerto. Jayne Sussmann, who has a lovely voice, was in excellent form for "Aria-Rosina's Cavatina," but unfortunately her voice was often drowned by the heavy tones of the Orchestra.

Other features of the programme were "Kamarinskaja — A Russian Dance" and Mozart's "Symphony in C Major."

## More Survivors in Bavaria

THE following is a further list of Jews, mostly from Poland, found near Munich. They are published in the following order, surname, first name, date of birth, town of origin:

Abramowicz, Heniek (1920), Rzesnia; Ajzenberg, Israel (1904), Plonski; Ajzeman, Israel (1924), Bendzin; Alperowicz, Chaim (1910), Crazanow, Giendzno; Alperowicz, Ignac (1913), Giendzno; Amiel, Jacob (1920), Bialystok; Bajler, Leon (1914), Lodz; Bojm, Jankel (1926), Krasnik; Baumgarten, Josef (1925), Bendzin; Bejrachowicz, Israel (1900), Skidel; Bekerman, Majer (1926), Bialystok; Berkowicz, Herz (1927), Grojec; Berkowicz, Michel (1912), Wilanow; Berebejezwk, Moniek (1922), Grodno; Berkowicz, Pina (1906), Radom; Berman, Szlama (1927), Zambrow; Biezuner, Moszek (1917), Bendzin; Bolelawski, David (1912), Lodz; Borowik, Leon (1914), Lodz; Bryk, Josef (1912), Anapol; Brezizinski, Israel (1915), Lencaye; Buckier, Leib (1915), Kolo; Buda, Josef (1929), Siedradz; Bursztin, Owieser (1918), Goworowo; Czeinski, Aron (1913), Jenrzejow; Condorf, Chaim (1920), Kolo; Cukier, Majer (1914), Przytyk; Cwerner, Wolf (1901), Paris; Cypon, Israel (1919), Krakow Makow.

## Orphanage in Kowno

The Jewish Orphanage in Kowno is managed by Mrs. Solomon. Among the inmates of the Orphanage are Golda Milner; Tamar Ratnow; Nura Soloweiczik; Rivka Levin; Melech Vioker and Shilomo Matusevich.

The well-known actresses Dina Levin and Z. Jaroslovska returned to Kowno.

It is also reported that the well-known Kowno doctors, Chaim Finkelstein, Lev Feldstein and Kronozon, are alive and were found in concentration camps.

## DISTINGUISHED ARTISTS TO APPEAR AT BENONI CONCERT

CANTOR I. ALTER, Mr. Bruno, Raiken, Lena Morrison, Nellie Wissema and Taubie Kushlik will appear at a concert to be held at the small Town Hall, Benoni, on Sunday, August 19.

Mesdames G. Cassen, J. J. Fine and Maisie Flink, will be the accompanists.

The concert promises to be an outstanding musical event in Benoni. It was arranged by the Benoni Women's Zionist League in aid of the J.N.F.

## BRAINS TRUST EVENING IN PRETORIA

Under the auspices of the Pretoria Women's Zionist League, a Brains Trust combined with a Quiz Evening will take place at the Jewish Memorial Hall, Beatrix Street, Pretoria, on Wednesday, August 22, 1945, at 8.15 p.m. sharp.

The entrance fee is 3s. 6d., and proceeds will go towards the J.N.F. Drive.

Five local organisations have entered competitive teams for the Quiz. Refreshments will be provided. Questions from the audience are welcome. Prominent speakers are taking part.

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## J.N.F. CAMPAIGN RECEPTION

at the

## CORONATION HALL

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 22nd, at 8 p.m.

Speakers:

MR. MOSHE BAUMGARTEN

(J.N.F. Delegate from Palestine)

DR. ELLEN HELLMAN

and

MR. ALEXANDER LEWIN

(In Yiddish)

Chairman:

MR. L. BERGER

CANTOR S. MANDEL

and

MR. Y. FINE

will render items

UNITED HEBREW CONGREGATION OF JOHANNESBURG

## OVERFLOW SERVICES AT SIVE HALL

The Internal Management Committee of the Yeoville Synagogue will be in attendance at the **Sive Hall**, Hunter Street, on Wednesday evening the 22nd inst. from 8 p.m. to 10 p.m. for the sale of tickets for the above Services.

The sittings will continue on Sunday morning the 26th inst. from 9.30 a.m. to 12 noon, and thereafter every Wednesday evening and Sunday morning at the above times.

N.B. Enrolment of members and sale of seats in the Synagogue cannot be dealt with at these sittings. In these cases application is to be made at the Secretary's Office, Smit Street.