

Letters to the Editor

Jewish Museum Urgently Needed

Sir,—With reference to your editorial "History of our Community," published in the "Zionist Record" of August 23, I should like to endorse your remarks, based on the suggestion made by Professor Roth, about the establishment of a Jewish museum in Johannesburg.

The Exhibition during the J.N.F. week at the City Hall has displayed the large variety of valuable museum material available in our town. One thing, however, it has not displayed, namely, that much of it is bound to get lost in the course of time.

The other day a Jewish lecturer in Johannesburg rightly said that a thousand books collected in one library is a thousand times more valuable than a thousand books scattered in a thousand homes. This well applies to Jewish art. Single items distributed all over the town, some of which are not even appreciated by their owners, or their children, might in time land in a junk shop and be of no value to the community. A well-organised museum, however, would be a great educational asset, a source of pride, to the community, and a contribution to the general cultural amenities of Johannesburg.

In view of the forthcoming Diamond Jubilee, might I suggest that some generous soul should make a start for the endowment of such an institution.

Yours, etc.,
ABE LEVIN.
Johannesburg.

Revisionist Delegates to Congress

Sir,—With reference to the election results which have been released for publication by the Central Electoral Board, we wish to advise you that the two Revisionist representatives are to be Chief Rabbi Professor L. I. Rabinowitz and Mr. J. Blumenthal.

This is a result of a pre-election arrangement, and in order to avoid confusion amongst the public, we would urge you please to give this fact the necessary prominence in your press.

With Jewish State greetings,
Yours, etc.,
HARRY HURWITZ,
General Secretary.

New Zionist Organisation,
P.O. Box 4474,
Johannesburg.

(Owing to pressure on space a number of letters have been held over for next week.—Ed. "Z.R.")

Bed Endowment at General Hospital

Rabbi Dr. S. Rappaport will address the Congregation on "A Call to Mercy," at the Friday evening Service at Temple Israel to-day on the occasion of Hospital Sabbath. To-date £130 has been collected by members of the Congregation in order to endow a bed at the General Hospital.

SERVICES' ZIONIST ASSOCIATION

MAJOR J. LIEBMAN, who recently returned from Europe, where he served with the Jewish Brigade, addressed a well attended meeting of ex-servicemen and women, under the auspices of the Services' Zionist Association, at the Coronation Hall on Monday night.

Major Liebman was with the British forces during the invasion of Sicily and Italy, and was one of the few South Africans to second the Jewish Brigade. Negotiations for his transfer took some considerable time, and it was only in March, 1945, that he was able to join them in Italy.

He found the men of the Brigade tough, hardened fellows, full of ambition and a determination to crush the enemy. It should be remembered that many of them had relatives in Germany and were anxious to settle old scores. As a Brigade, he said, they were constantly sent into the "hottest" sectors on the Italian front, and throughout the most hazardous ordeals the men acquitted themselves with honour and distinction, earning the respect and praise of their commanders.

With the end of the war the work of the Brigade began in earnest. Whatever praise their exploits had earned them in the field, these were superseded by their deeds in the rehabilitation of displaced persons whom they sought throughout Europe. From Italy they were moved to the Austrian border, and later into Germany. Their biggest thrill, said Major Liebman, was the day they rode through the streets of Berlin flying the Jewish flag. The joy of the displaced persons at seeing Jewish soldiers again was something never to be forgotten.

From Germany the Brigade was moved to Belgium and Holland, and it was from here that Major Liebman was posted back to the Union. In tribute to the men of the Brigade he said there were no finer men or soldiers. There was only one cause for regret, and that was that they had not been a Division. "Had we been a greater force then we would have had a greater say to-day." He emphasised the fact that when Jews served as individual representatives of their own countries their efforts were overshadowed, but that in the Brigade they had had the unique opportunity of serving as an all-Jewish unit.

Mr. Jack Gonski, chairman of the Association, presided.

Mr. J. Nathan proposed the vote of thanks.

The second of the fortnightly luncheons of the Association will be held at the Coronation Hall at 1 p.m. on September 17.

Mrs. H. Preiss to Visit Palestine

THERE was a happy little function in the offices of the S.A. Zionist Federation last week, when members of the Federation staff gathered to bid farewell to Mrs. H. Preiss, well-known Zionist worker, who is going to Palestine on a brief visit. She left Johannesburg on Tuesday and will be away for about two months. During her stay in Eretz Israel she will make a close study of conditions in that country.

Mrs. Preiss came to South Africa about eight years ago and during this period has rendered sterling service to the Zionist cause in this country. Her work for Youth Aliyah, in particular, and for the Keren Hayesod and the Keren Kayemeth, in general, is known to all.

Tributes to Mrs. Preiss were paid by Mr. Z. Infeld, cultural officer and acting general secretary of the S.A. Zionist Federation; Mr. S. M. Levin, secretary of the Western Province Zionist Council; Mr. S. Caplan, chairman of the Federation's Staff Association; Miss E. Polsky, past chairman of the Staff Association, and Mr. B. L. Kellen, acting secretary of the Keren Hayesod Committee for South Africa.

Mrs. Preiss suitably replied.

DR. SONNABEND ADDRESSES OPHIR MEETING

Dr. H. Sonnabend gave some interesting "Leaves" from his diary at a meeting of the Jewish Arts Association, "Ophir," held at the Carlton Hotel on Saturday night. Mr. C. Gershater presided.

Dr. Sonnabend described his experiences while in charge of cultural activities at a prisoner of war camp, and various interesting encounters in Italy.

During the evening Miss Jean Gluckman gave a beautiful rendering of a number of songs by a young Johannesburg composer, Mr. Arnold Kentridge. Two of the compositions were for the English poems "When I am dead my dearest" and "Feathers of the Willow." The third song was a lullaby, of which both the text and the music were composed by Arnold Kentridge.

At the conclusion of the evening, the Chairman congratulated the composer and his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Morris Kentridge, on a very fine achievement. He also thanked Miss Jean Gluckman for her performance and for the generous number of encores which she gave.

The musical part of the evening was introduced by Mr. Solly Aronowsky.

SIGI WEISSENBERG'S REQUEST RECITAL

Sigi Weissenberg's sure and strong piano playing once more delighted an audience at the Curzon Theatre on September 1. His programme ranged from the 17th century to the moderns and covered various moods and styles.

Opening with a selection of clear, pleasing variations on a Gavotte theme by Rameau in the contrapuntal style, he went on to the "Pathétique" Sonata of Beethoven, which was played with a mature understanding of Beethoven's genius. Weissenberg's legato in the adagio movement was particularly beautiful.

He also played the Chopin Nocturne in B Major with delicacy and charm, contrasting with the brilliant Scherzo No. 1.

Perhaps the highlight of the evening was the artist's performance of Schumann's "Humoresque" in B Flat Major, in which Weissenberg's technique was as superb as his interpretation was satisfying.

The concert concluded with the performance of several moderns and a generous variety of encores.

Weissenberg will give his farewell recital at the Curzon on Sunday night, September 15.

R.M. COMMEMORATION OF POLISH JEWRY

Mass Meeting in Coronation Hall

In order to pay homage to the martyrs of Polish Jewry and to inform the public about the position and prospects of the Jewish community in that country, the Association to Support Free Poland and the Club of Polish Jews are convening a mass meeting on Sunday, September 15, at 8 p.m. at the Coronation Hall.

The speakers will be Mr. Glyn Thomas, Mr. I. Charlash and Mr. M. Szur. Admission is free.

OBITUARY

Mr. Nahum Edelstein (East London)

The death of Nahum Edelstein, who passed away after a long illness, courageously borne, at his home in East London on August 16, at a comparatively early age, came as a deep shock not only to the local community but also to Kingwilliamstown Jewry, of which he was a leading member since his arrival there in 1902. He moved to East London in 1936, taking a keen interest in communal affairs, particularly in Zionist activities.

His bequests include £100 to the Hebrew University and £50 to the local Talmud Torah.

He is survived by his wife, son and three daughters.

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