

# from NEAR and FAR BY BEN DOR

## Yiddish Play In Cape Town

MR. A. E. BARNETT, a brother-in-law of the late Morris Alexander, M.P., who is at present in Cape Town, is financing the production of a play which will be performed there in December. The play will be "Morning Star," a poignant story of New York East Side Yiddish life, and it will be performed at the Hofmeyr Theatre.

Mr. Barnett's son, David, aged 26, will star in this play. He has had much acting experience in England, and has already appeared in Cape Town in a play produced by Cyril Chosack, the gifted Cape Town Jewish producer. David Barnett has just completed playing Absolon in the Johannesburg Reps.' production of "The Witch."

## A Pilot In Haganah's Air Force

UNDER this heading, "The Wanderer," in the "Cape Argus," devotes a few paragraphs to Hugo Alperstein, of Kingwilliamstown, who went to Palestine to join the settlement of Maayan Baruch, and is now a member of the Haganah Air Force based at Tel Aviv.

"The Wanderer" states that Hugo, who is the son of a former town councillor, was a pilot in 24 S.A.A.F. Bomber Squadron. During the war he met a Palestine girl in Cairo, and on his arrival in Palestine they were married. At Maayan Baruch he became a field worker and she a nurse. To-day Alperstein's wife has joined the equivalent of the W.A.A.F. and is also stationed at Tel Aviv.

## "The Youngest Performer"

Ten-year-old Deborah Hadany played a movement from a Mozart piano concert with the Philharmonic Orchestra in Durban re-



cently. She is the youngest performer ever to have appeared with the Orchestra, and was accorded a most enthusiastic reception, a musical future of distinction being predicted for her.

Her parents are Mr. and Mrs. H. Hadany, well-known Zionist and communal workers of Durban.

## Prayers In Gaelic

AN interesting account of a conversation between Dr. James McDonald, the distinguished American who recent-

ly visited South Africa, and newspaper columnist M. Z. Frank, appears in Mr. Frank's column in the "National Jewish Post". He writes:—

His father used to say his prayers in Gaelic, he told me. "He was sure the Lord could only understand that language—Gaelic, not Hebrew," he smiled.

I wondered why the Jews in Palestine have made a greater success of reviving Hebrew than the Irish have in reviving Gaelic, despite the fact that the Irish had two distinct advantages: one, there were still whole sections of Western Ireland where the peasantry never ceased using Gaelic; two, the Irish, for 25 years, have had a government sponsoring the revival of their national tongue. When De Valera came to New York, he wore a red circle in his lapel as a sign he could be addressed in Gaelic.

In Palestine, Jews don't have to wear insignia to show they can speak Hebrew; it is taken for granted. I offered the following explanation. The Jews did not find in Palestine an established language and civilisation as English entrenched itself in Ireland before the Irish Free State came into being; there were many scholars among the pioneers who went to Palestine; Hebrew was a necessary and logical unifying language for Jews who came from various parts of the world speaking differing languages.

Dr. McDonald's explanations were: the Jews in Palestine had great leadership in the Hebraic rebirth; the Jews had no government in Palestine, so that Hebrew became the expression of Jewish national self-assertion.

## Weizmann Refused Peerage

IN his column in the "Cape Times," "The Man on the Spot" makes reference to Dr. Weizmann's election as President of Israel. He recalls that General Smuts acclaimed Weizmann as "the uncrowned king of Zionism."

Reminding his readers of Weizmann's scientific assistance to the Allies during both wars, the columnist states that Lloyd George offered him a peerage, but Weizmann refused it. "But he accepts the presidency, humbly, of the State of Israel which he did so much to bring into being."

The accompanying photograph of Dr. Weizmann is captioned "... refused a peerage, but accepts a presidency."

## Breaking The Glass

ANOTHER explanation for the traditional custom of breaking a glass at a marriage ceremony is that it is done as a memorial of the destruction of the Temple. This explanation is based on the injunction that we remember the calamity on "the day of chiefest joy".

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## MOSMARKS tasty MATZOS

# Romance of a Name

By

N. Pearlroth

## LIFSCHITZ

This request name was sent in by Mr. Lifschitz, 149 President Street, Johannesburg

THIS family name variously spelled Lifschitz, Lipschitz, Liebschütz ranks with the top names in Jewry. It is of geographical origin and three different towns in Europe claim the honour of having given rise to it. One is Leobschutz in Silesia, the other is Liebschitz in Thuringia and the third is Liebeschitz in Czechoslovakia.

The first man to bear this family name was Rabbi Moses Lipschitz who occupied the rabbinical post of the important city of Brzesch Litewski in Poland in the latter part of the 16th century. His son and successor in the rabbinical office, Benjamin Beinisch Lipschitz, married the daughter of Saul Wahl, whom legend has clothed in veritable royal purple. Saul is reputed to have been elected King of Poland for one

night while the Polish gentry were unable to agree upon a candidate.

Regardless of this myth, Saul is a real historical figure who was befriended by Polish kings and was the most powerful Jew of his age. One of his descendants was Rabbi Gedaljah Lipschitz of Ostrog, who is known as the patriarch of the Polish branch of the family. From Gedaljah down to the present day there was no generation in which the family was not represented by at least one Rabbi bearing the name.

Among the family colligations is Elijah of Wilno, the immortal Gaon whose son Abrahah married the daughter of Rabbi Noah Lipschitz. A famous historian has suggested that the family pedigree deserves to be embossed in letters of gold.