

IT IS WHISPERED

THAT everyone should sign our petition.

THAT Hebrew for the Matriculation will be a doubtful benefit if no opportunity is accorded for its study.

THAT what the *Rand Daily Mail* could do for the Black Peril agitation can surely be done for the recognition of a language.

THAT we trust all our readers will not only sign their own names but obtain other signatures.

THAT copies of the petition may be obtained on application to our offices.

THAT next Sunday sees the opening of the Home for the Aged Jewish poor.

THAT few institutions are more worthy of support.

THAT in stating that Dr. Landau's appointment for life deferred the possibility of amalgamation, the *Sunday Times* was beyond the mark.

THAT amalgamation is nearer than many people think.

THAT we all know the benefits of security of tenure.

THAT the appointment has given satisfaction to many of the leading members of the Old Synagogue.

THAT we make the foregoing remarks upon the best authority.

THAT the letter in the *London Jewish Chronicle* above the *nom de plume* of "Zulu" has attracted some attention locally.

THAT we appreciate the attention accorded to our remarks and their consequent quotation.

THAT letters for publication are sometimes written in newspaper offices.

THAT, according to Reuter, the Chief Rabbinate Nomination Committee has selected only three candidates.

THAT it is possible that one of these may refuse to stand.

THAT, judging by the accuracy of previous Reuter cables on the subject, it would be as well to wait until the receipt of mail advices.

THAT the Kosher Kitchen does not receive the support to which it is entitled.

THAT the gentleman who described the institution of eating Kosher as the pivot of local Judaism gave utterance to a greater truth than he probably thought of at the time.

THAT synagogue going is a necessary complement to Judaism, but so is Kosher eating.

THAT consequently it is up to the synagogues to support the Kosher Kitchen.

THAT the local dailies did not publish a cable of great interest to Jews.

THAT we deal with the consideration of the Portuguese Government in another column.

PROGRESS IN CHEDERA.—During the last few months, 400 dunan (100 acres) of land in Chedera have been planted with almond and olive trees, and 150 dunan with orange trees, the latter being planted mainly by the "Agudath Netaim." This year's winter seed promises a good harvest. The wheat plantations have suffered only in a few places owing to excessive rain, and the barley is developing very satisfactorily. A great deal of oats has also been cultivated in Chedera during recent years, and the yield this year should be particularly gratifying both in quality and quantity. The number of Jewish agriculturists in Chedera has greatly risen in the last few months. Six months ago there were merely 30 Jewish labourers, but now the various plantations employ about 70 Ashkenasic, and 40 Yemenite labourers. A general dining hall for workmen was opened recently, to which a small library has been added. The teacher of the local school organised a Hebrew evening course for the workmen last winter, and it was very well attended. It is proposed to build small dwellings for the newly arrived Yemenite families, who will thus become a permanent and valuable element in the population of Chedera. The Colony, on the whole, is making considerable progress, both in an economic and agricultural direction. The health conditions of this settlement, which was severely afflicted with malaria at first, are now quite satisfactory.



JOHN LAWSON AT THE BIJOU.

Those of our readers who remember Mr. John Lawson, the eminent actor, having given a short season in Johannesburg a few months ago will be glad to learn that this talented artiste has now opened another season at the above cozy Bioscope Theatre, where he is drawing nightly big crowds to admire him in his wonderful character studies and delineations. Mr. Lawson, supported by his full company, has staged "The Shield of David" during the first portion of this week, followed by "The Affinity" (or "The Open Door"), which will be played till the end of this week. The former is a powerful and thrilling drama, full of emotion, intrigue and stirring, exciting scenes, and the rapt attention which the vast audiences are paying to the progress and unfolding of the play is ample proof and testimony to the skill of the chief actor, Mr. John Lawson, who understands like few artistes how to hold his hearers in an invisible grip. As our readers know, Mr. Lawson's chief object is to hold up the standard of Jewish characters and to show our race in the best light, that light in which it is, alas! shown so rarely, and indeed the pieces which he has selected so far are well chosen to achieve that object. "The Shield of David" is no exception to the task which this talented actor has set himself, and here we see a highly placed Jew, who holds a most responsible position, take his own life rather than betray his adopted country. We have no intention to divulge the plot of this fine drama, and can only advise our readers to pay an early visit to the Bijou to admire the effects of our co-religionist (in the play) and to witness his nightly triumphs. Mr. Lawson is supported by Miss Lucille Sidney (the Earl's daughter), Miss Maisie Hanbury (a divorced woman), and Messrs. Ludlow, Stafford and Brown, the *ensemble* leaving nothing to be desired.

THE REST OF THE EVENING

is taken up by the show of some excellent Bioscope pictures, such as "The Devil, the Servant and the Man," "The Great Diamond Robbery," "Brave, Braver, Bravest," "Aunt Miranda's Cat," "Under Mexican Skies" and others, indeed an excellent variety to suit the taste of all and to enable one and all to spend a most enjoyable evening. The management of the Bijou deserve the thanks of the whole public, and in particular of the community to which this paper caters, for giving them another opportunity to admire so excellent an artiste as Mr. John Lawson undoubtedly is.

THE EMPIRE.

We have often stated that the excellence of the programme, presented "at present" at the Empire, has never been excelled, but then we could not read the future. Today we have to pay the management of the above popular hall the sincere compliment again, that they are placing before their patrons a fare which the most fastidious must acknowledge as being of an unprecedented all-round excellence, although the programme consists of the maximum number of 15 items, and yet there is no weak or slow "turn" among the whole lot. That is certainly a remarkable achievement, and one of which the energetic management of the Empire may justly be proud. The theatre is comfortably heated, so that there is positively nothing to mar a full evening's undiminished pleasure and enjoyment. Victor and Louis, a pair of comedians and new arrivals, are straightaway putting the audience into the best of humour, and they are, so to speak, supported therein by our old friend Miss Sadge May. Then follow three great favourites, namely, Miss Dorothy Belmore, Edis and Lupino and Reg Bolton. In all three instances the artistes have changed their programme. Miss Belmore sings some other songs in which she displays her really fine soprano in its full beauty, and is again supported from "this" side of the footlights by her "assistant," which, including the dialogue, causes enormous amusement. Reg. Bolton is this week putting on "Inky's Music Lesson," which is a very funny production, and causes great merriment.

MISS FLORENCE ESDAILE.

is another new-comer, and is styled an operatic comedienne. Her best effort is a potpourri of several well-known operas which was finely sung, bringing her a hearty and appreciative applause. The third of the new-comers is Harry May Memsley, a caricaturist and child impersonator and—we might add—a society entertainer, for his performance is decidedly clever. His sketching is a wonderful piece of "craftsmanship," and finds the undivided admiration of the audience. Both this portion and the imitation of children, which, by the way, must be exceedingly trying for his voice, are fully appreciated and enthusiastically applauded. Miss Lil Hawthorne's engagement is fast draw-