

Order  
"Castle  
Beers."

Africa's  
Best  
"Bar  
None."

ALE  
STOUT  
and  
LAGER.

getic support of South Africa's premier charitable fund we wonder why, when the maligned institution goes out of its way to arrange so magnificent a function as that of Tuesday last, those who have criticised it in the past do not come forward and endeavour to make the effort as great a success as it should be. It is the old, old story of cavilling and carping and doing nothing more. Talk and yap! Yap and talk! But when it comes to a real strenuous endeavour on behalf of a charitable fund those who criticise the most carefully hang back lest others might share in the *kudos* attaching to the work done and the success achieved.

A MUNICIPAL ORCHESTRA.

A good deal of comment has been caused locally by the recent publication of a plea for a Johannesburg Municipal Orchestra in a local contemporary. It seems to us that the supreme importance of such a venture and the immense influence that such an institution will exert over the intellectual life of the town can hardly be over-estimated. There can be no doubt that the proposal holds the greatest interest for the very large local Jewish community, which constitutes an important factor in the artistic life and activities of Johannesburg. The general opinion seems to be that no great musical interest or importance can be attached to either the various band concerts or the present municipal organ recitals, and the prevailing attitude of the Jewish community generally towards the organ concerts seems to be one of complete indifference. We must openly confess that anything approximating favourable comment on local municipal music has so far not yet come under our notice and that general conditions, so far as our music is concerned, leaves room for a great deal of improvement. The establishment of a Johannesburg Municipal Orchestra would in reality mean our salvation, both musically and intellectually, and it certainly appears to be inconceivable that our Town Council has not yet fully realised this. Apart from the untold joy that an orchestra will give to the citizens of Johannesburg there is the important consideration of the enlightenment that would be afforded to our students of music, who at present have practically no opportunity of hearing what is greatest and best in musical literature. Of course, an important consideration is the one of finance,

but, without any knowledge of this side of the question, it does seem reasonable to assume that as one South African city—and that a much smaller one—has already boldly faced the position by organising an efficient orchestral body, which has since become one of its greatest assets and strongest attractions, why cannot Johannesburg do the same with even more satisfactory results? Certain it is that the large majority of local music lovers has long since outgrown the organ performances, and it is not surprising when their monotony and very limited musical interest are remembered. The establishment of a local Municipal Orchestra presents an important problem for the consideration of the Council, but it is one of those rare instances in which a bold progressive step will be found to have the whole support not only of the connoisseurs in art but also of the great majority of the general public.

THERE IS NO FEAR.

O God, if we should now forego  
The faith of those who still for us  
Fought to the last against the foe  
And went the roadway tenebrous,  
Those yet to come—would they not  
shame  
At but the mention of our name?

There is no fear. We'll not forego  
The undefeated faith of them  
Who in their fight against the foe  
Gained but the martyr's diadem,  
Unconquered souls unto the last,  
We to their faith will still hold fast.

WHEN THERE WERE RICH  
JEWS.

It is interesting to note from a Jewish magazine that recently reached us that a writer has been looking into the Agadic history of the Talmud, and believes that there were richer men before the Christian era than there are now. We know that Croesus was rich and that there were huge Roman fortunes in the times of the empire. The Talmud stories go back further still. The great corner in corn that Joseph managed was fabulously profitable. Tradition says that Joseph, acting for Pharaoh, got his hands on pretty much all the ready money there was in his day and buried three enormous treasures, one of which was found by Korah, whose fortune, estimated according to the modern standards of value, is rated at £600,000,000. Solomon's stable, with its horses, chariots and horsemen, is said to have represented a sum the modern equivalent of which would be sixty or seventy