

there is the decision which has to be taken regarding the proposal to import to this country a rabbi capable of occupying the position that was so ably filled by the late Dayan Friedman.

It is generally admitted that this subject is a very thorny one and even the council of the United Hebrew Congregation itself is divided in its opinions on the matter. While, speaking generally, everybody is in favour of a Federation of Synagogues of the Witwatersrand, there is a distinct difference of opinion as to whether or not the community is in a position to import another rabbi.

The more orthodox members of the community are very anxious to see the establishment of a "Beth Din" which shall regularly function as a recognised rabbinical court. Whether it is their idea that members of the Jewish community will take even their secular differences to this tribunal for decision we do not know, although there are not wanting those who are of opinion that by the establishment of this recognised "Beth Din" there will be many less Jewish cases appearing in the ordinary law courts.

We are afraid that we cannot entirely agree with this aspect because, although a large number of our people hail from Eastern Europe, there are a large proportion of them who have lived so long in this country and have become so susceptible to their surroundings that they no longer have that respect for ecclesiastical tribunals that they have for the ordinary law courts.

Even at the present time we have a sort of "Beth Din" presided over by a recognised Rabbi who possesses the "Hatarath Haroah" and who is assisted in his decisions by "Dayanim" whom he himself appoints and regarding whose ability there seems to be little doubt. Why then should we go to the expense of importing a rabbi from Eastern Europe whose knowledge of either of the two languages of this country would be rudimentary and whose ignorance of the conditions of life in South Africa would be of considerable disservice to him—and to us?

We are entirely in agreement with the movement to federate the synagogues, although to all intents and purposes such bodies are already federated under the aegis of the South African Jewish Board of Deputies which is controlled by practically the same officials who direct the leading Jewish congregations. But we cannot see the necessity for the importation of this proposed rabbi since his services would only be made use of by so small a section of the community as to make his influence of little consequence and entirely out of proportion to the cost to the community. At the present time, what with the calls from overseas and the claims of local communal institutions, the Jewish Witwatersrand has as much as it can do to meet its financial obligations, and we consider that it would be in the highest degree inadvisable to incur further liabilities—more particularly as they are unnecessary.

Sailor, sailor, home from the sea,
What do the sad waves say?
Have they a message for you or me,
Crooning from day to day?
Is it the same on sea as on land,
Do you all the ills abjure?
"Yes, all we sailors understand,
"Wood's Great Peppermint Cure."

Obituary.

THE LATE MR. JOSEPH BARNETT.

It is with considerable regret that we have to record the death of the late Mr. Joseph Barnett, who passed away on Sunday last. The deceased gentleman had been connected with the theatrical world from his very early youth and during the entire period was singularly popular amongst a large circle. He will be remembered as being connected with the old Hyman management before the acquirement of the Empire by the African Theatres, Limited. For some five years Mr. Barnett was Assistant Manager in London and it is only two years ago since he returned to Johannesburg to occupy the position of Circuit Manager.

The funeral took place on Monday afternoon when there was a large attendance of representatives of Johannesburg theatres and bioscopes, practically every manager of any Johannesburg place of amusement being present. In addition to prominent members of the Jewish community there were in attendance various members of the Theatres management, including Mr. W. F. White, general manager; Messrs. G. D. McCraw, A. H. Hinton, P. Lezard, J. Isaacs, L. Melnan, M. Alexander, J. Stodel, H. Mathews, W. P. Skinner, J. Senior, J. Longley, H. Green, M. Davis, J. Goldstone and L. B. Schneider.

The theatre orchestras were represented by Messrs. N. Schneider, S. Millar and N. Proper. Associates of Mr. Barnett in the old "Empire days" who were also present were Messrs. Edgar Hyman, Albert Hyman and I. Rosenthal.

Among the artists at the graveside were Messrs. Herschel Henlere, M. Dragor, Fyne and Hurley, Alphonse Berg, Fred Curran, B. Southwood, Mesdames Gerrard and Zena, and "Zambo." Others present were: Rev. M. L. Harris, Councillor M. J. Harris, Messrs. L. Harris, M. J. Green, M.P.C., A. M. Abraham, R. A. Nelson, Geo. Black, W. H. Green, H. Siegenberg, L. Bernard, D. Holmes, M. Kemp, A. A. Frank, M. B. Chissick, I. Friedlander, J. Bloom, H. Sonnenfeld, H. Marks, W. J. Gouws, G. W. Poultney, A. W. Humphreys, A. J. Townie, R. J. Wilson, G. Burrell, and G. Campbell.

We tender to the widow of the deceased gentleman as well as other relatives the expressions of our sincere condolence.

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THE LATE MRS. DAINOW.

We exceedingly regret to learn of the death of the late Mrs. Sarah Dainow, widow of the late Rev. Israel Dainow and mother of Mr. David Dainow, Editor and Business Manager of our contemporary the "Zionist Record." The deceased lady, who was well and favourably known amongst a large circle of friends in London, passed away on Saturday, June 5th. On hearing the news the Executive of the S.A. Zionist Federation passed a vote of condolence, and we feel sure that the rest of the community will join us in our expressions of sympathy with Mr. David Dainow and other members of the family.