

## In and Around the Town.

100, St. George's Street,  
Thursday.

### CARDS AND GAMBLING.

Is there a wave of gambling in the community? Is card playing on the increase? I ask these questions because during the week several people have expressed themselves to me very forcibly on these points. They complain that wherever they go, to private functions or public affairs, card playing predominates over all else, and the gambling spirit is much in evidence. No matter whether the game played be poker, solo or bridge, the artistry of the game is subordinated to mercenary motives. The lust for gain is, in most cases, the sole reason for spending hours on end at the tables. Yes, there is a wave of gambling, I am assured, and, whilst not agreeing that this is so or that the position is any worse than it has been for years, I must say that there are ample grounds for the assertion. I cannot see any harm in taking a hand at bridge or any other card game, when all that is at stake is a modest sum which ensures that monetary gain is the last consideration. After a day's toil in the city, a harmless game of cards is restful and congenial after the many vicissitudes of the day.

### A FETISH WITH SOME.

No, there is no harm there. The evil lies where a business is made of the game. And with some people it is a fetish. Ordinary forms of entertainment have lost their appeal. They want the excitement of the green baize tables. They have no time for musical evenings, *conversations* and the more elevating means of spending their evenings. Instead one finds "mine host and hostess" arranging numerous tables around which sit men and women with tense and strained expressions, sitting through the evening, with hardly a break, worked up, I should imagine, to a high state of nervous tension. There is an unnatural quietness, only broken at the end of a game, when there is a lively and often heated "post mortem" on the methods of play and the errors of omission and commission of the various participants. It must assuredly be a nerve-racking business to say the least! And this goes on night after night. Even at public functions, dances, weddings, and other domestic affairs, the ubiquitous pack of cards makes its appearance. The truth is that many would not think it worth while to attend unless they had their game of cards arranged for them.

### THE GREEN BAIZE SHRINE.

A surprising, and really regrettable, feature is the number of women who worship at the green baize shrine. One can understand an hour or two of bridge or even poker, with a small stake just to add a little zest to the game, but when they indulge in excessive play until the early hours of the morning, then one begins to wonder. Nor is it only at night that card playing is indulged in. I heard the other day of an invitation being extended by a hostess for an afternoon "poker seance." And the stakes were not small! Surely one can offer no excuse for card playing in the day! It would seem that there are women who have been bitten so deeply by the card bug, that they begrudge any time away from the playing tables. They only long for the touch of the pasteboard and the counter. What an example for the

younger generation! What an incentive to them to follow in their footsteps, to become, in their own turn, inveterate card players, blasé gamblers who cannot exist without the fifty-two or five card game and a green baize table!

### BERNHARDS BARON'S BENEFICENCE.

I have often referred in these notes to the large sums of money given to non-Jewish charities, hospitals, etc., by that most generous person, Mr. Bernhard Baron, the head of the well-known firm of Carreras, tobacco and cigarette manufacturers. I now hear that he has given £10,000 to the Centenary Fund of the Royal Sussex County Hospital, at Brighton. The object of the fund is to provide accommodation for nurses and a general extension of the activities of the hospital. Mr. Baron has given over a million pounds to various philanthropic institutions. Recently he gave £25,000 to the London Hospital, a gift which followed a previous donation of £10,000. Recently Lord Reading opened at Brighton, a convalescent home for girl employees of Mr. Baron's firm. Would that we, in South Africa, had such generous givers. How easy life would be for the administrators of the various charitable organisations! And there are some very wealthy Jews in South Africa who could easily emulate Mr. Baron's example.

### GENEROUS AMERICAN JEWS.

Not only do English Jews contribute handsomely to non-Jewish causes, but many an American fund has benefited by the munificence of citizens of the Jewish faith. The news comes from New York, per the efficient Jewish Telegraphic Agency Mail Service, that among the largest contributors to the building fund drives being conducted separately by the Presbyterian Hospital of New York, N.J., and the Orange Memorial Hospital of Orange, N.J., are Mr. Louis Bamberger and Mr. Felix Fuld. To the 850,000 dollars building fund drive of the Presbyterian Hospital, Mr. Fuld subscribed 25,000 dollars and Mr. Bamberger 15,000 dollars. To the two million building fund drive of the Orange Memorial Hospital, Mr. Bamberger subscribed 25,000 dollars and Mr. Fuld a like amount. These are but a few instances where Jews have been free givers to non-Jewish institutions, and is sufficient answer to those who have often made the assertion that Jews never give anything outside their own faith.

### A PRETTY WEDDING.

Miss Esther Cohen made a very pretty bride when, on Monday evening, she was married to Mr. Fred Lazarus at the Gardens Synagogue. There was a large number present to witness the ceremony, and the wedding party made a charming study beneath the *chupa*. The bride, who is a daughter of Mr. and Mrs. S. Cohen, was given away by her father. Her gown was of white georgette, heavily sequined, with the flair effect and scalloped hems. Her veil, of Brussels lace, was arranged fan-wise over a coronet of orange blossoms. She carried a sheath of white roses. She was attended by two bridesmaids—Miss Minnie Cohen, her sister, and Miss Minnie Rubinstein, her cousin, both of whom were positively captivating. The former's pretty gown was of bois de rose chenille with georgette embossed, while the latter's toilette was of jade green chenille georgette. Both were caught up in

hoops at the side. Each bridesmaid wore a black picture hat and carried a beautiful bouquet of sweet peas. The bride's mother wore a stately gown of black georgette with silver beading and carried a bouquet of pink roses, whilst Mrs. Lazarus, the mother of the bridegroom was also attired in black georgette, her bouquet being of red roses. There were two pretty little flower girls, both dressed in mauve and lemon georgette, and each carrying a posy of flowers. They were Rhoda Rubinstein and Lily Lipman, cousins of the bride. In the wedding group were Mrs. A. Lipman, who wore an attractive gown of peach georgette, trimmed with silver beads, Mrs. A. Butchen in bois de rose with sequins, and Mrs. Rubinstein in a very effective gown of rose pink, heavily beaded, and with deep panels.

### THE RECEPTION.

Following the marriage ceremony, a reception and dance was held at the Goede Trouw Hall, and here there was a large gathering, assembled to add their congratulations to the parties concerned in the happy event. The wedding party, with relatives and intimate friends, were accommodated at a long table at the top of the hall, the bridal pair sitting beneath a huge silver wedding bell and in front of a wedding cake of huge dimensions. The guests sat at long tables, which had been tastefully decorated, and overhead streamers of old gold and black created a festive atmosphere. The principal toast—that of the bride and bridegroom—was proposed by Mr. L. Gradner, to which the bridegroom suitably responded. Mr. A. Lipman proposed the health of the *unterfuhrers*, and Mr. S. Cohen replied. After the speech-making, dancing was indulged in and was vigorously kept up until twelve o'clock, Messrs. Zabow and Moller's band providing excellent music. Mention must be made of the fact that Miss Bessie Stein, the well-known singer, rendered songs, during the interval, in her usual charming manner, and her efforts were vociferously received. The happy couple left for a tour of the Western Province, and the bride's travelling outfit was a three-piece costume of gold and brown gras romaine, with hat to match. The *chupa* bearers were Messrs. Eli Brin, Charlie Lazarus, Hymie Kantor and Bernie Gradner, whilst Mr. Charlie Lazarus was best man and was assisted in his duties by Mr. Markie Cohen. The bridegroom's presents to the bridesmaids and flower girls took the form of gold slave bangles to Miss Minnie Cohen, Rhoda Rubinstein and Lily Lipman, and a gold wristlet watch to Miss Minnie Rubinstein.

### MISS JENNY SONNENBERG.

News of old favourites is always welcome, and I was particularly interested to hear of the success which Miss Jenny Sonnenberg is achieving overseas. This popular South African artist has often delighted local audiences with her exquisite singing, and just recently, at Paris, she gave one of her many concerts, which was

attended by a very large number of music lovers. That particular concert was given in conjunction with Mr. Adolphe Hallis, the well-known pianist. It was a most successful concert and the Paris audience were charmed with Miss Sonnenberg's fine renderings of such composers as Adela Maddison, Handel, Chausson and Hugo Wolf. Paris, at least the artistic section, has taken to Miss Sonnenberg, and her popularity is well earned, for there is no doubt that she is a leader in her profession.

### JEWS IN CIVIC LIFE.

In South Africa the Jewish community is well represented in the various council chambers, be it Senate, Assembly, Provincial or Municipal bodies. They have justified their presence and have benefited the general community with their experience, sagacity and knowledge. It is not only in South Africa, however, where Jews figure largely in civic bodies. Most European and American cities have their Jewish councillors, but I think that Amsterdam can boast of the largest number of Jews on their City Council. Not of one party, though, for even Jews have their political views and convictions. At the recent elections in Amsterdam, no less than thirteen

(Continued on Page 588.)

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### IN AND AROUND THE TOWN.

(Continued from Page 587.)

Jews were returned out of a total of forty-five members. Eight were returned as social democrats, one liberal, one free democrat, one neutral and two Communists.

#### AN ANCIENT REBELLION.

The rebellion of Korah and his followers against Moses, with his extravagant claim and denial of class distinction is referred to in this week's "Sedra." The claim is put forward in Numbers 16, verse 3: ". . . And they gathered themselves together against Moses and against Aaron, and said unto them: ye take too much upon you, seeing all the congregation are holy, every one of them, and the Lord is among them. Wherefore then lift ye up yourselves above the congregation of the Lord?" They failed to understand that in spite of all being equals leadership must be recognised. The rebellion ended with an earthquake and with tremendous loss of life. Even the sceptic amongst us must admit that no community can exist when there are rebellious spirits in it. It inevitably ends in disaster. Korah and his followers perished but unfortunately the spirit of Korah did not die. We still see the Moses and Aarons of to-day pleading with the mischievous amongst us for "the right spirit and the uplifting of humanity."

#### UNITY AMONGST OURSELVES.

Their answer, however, is "Lo Na'alah—we will not go up," on which the Rabbis aptly remark that by saying "we will not go up" they prophesied their future, viz., the negative of going up, and it resulted in their going down. An equally unfortunate inheritance that we have from that event is what we read in the same chapter, verse 22: ". . . Shall one man sin and wilt thou be wroth with all the congregation?" For centuries and centuries non-Jews, although admirers of the "Bible," mistranslated this verse by omitting the question mark at the end, and translating it literally "one man sins and the whole nation must be blamed." When any fault with an individual Jew could be found the whole nation was blamed. This evil inheritance will not leave us, as long as we do not eradicate the first evil inheritance, the spirit of Korah and his followers. Unity amongst ourselves will gain us admiration from others.

#### OF INTEREST TO STUDENTS.

It will be of interest to South African Jewish students to know that the Executive Committee of the Union of Associations of Jewish Students in France elected at a recent conference at Nancy has published a manifesto to Jewry and to Jewish students appealing for assistance in the formation of the Union, which it describes as the first step towards the creation of a strong union of all the Jewish students in France. Jews of France and elsewhere are asked to do all they can to help the new Union, and their aims, crystallised in the concluding part of their appeal "that the hard necessity and the material sufferings of the Jewish students leave us no time for hesitation," should arrest the attention of Jewish students organisations in this country. The Union's programme, which is entirely non-political, includes equality for both Jewish languages, orientation towards the creative forces of the Jewish people and fraternal relations to all the other associations of students and of youth.

#### PALESTINIAN FOOTBALLERS.

I have often wondered why an invitation has not been extended to the efficient Palestine football teams now touring America to pay a visit to South Africa. I feel sure that every

large centre in this country can produce a "soccer" eleven solely composed of Jewish youths, who would give a good account of themselves, when matched against the tourists. But matches could also be arranged with non-Jewish teams, who would be only too pleased to match their prowess against the Palestinians. I hardly think guarantees would be required as is the case with other touring teams, although I am unaware of the nature of the arrangements in regard to the American tour. At any rate I learn that Maccabee Hagibor, the Palestine football team, headed by Dr. Weinsberg and Messrs. A. Yellin and Peli, and consisting of twenty-two picked men were given a great reception when they arrived in New York just recently. The reception was organised by a committee consisting of a number of prominent American Jews and sportsmen with Sir Esme Howard, the British Ambassador at Washington, as hon. chairman. The Maccabee Hagibor will play against a number of American teams throughout the States and also against the Hakoah, another Palestinian team, which has been in America for some time.

#### MODERN HOTEL IN HAIFA.

There is hardly a town or village in South Africa that has not its Jewish controlled hotels, and they are usually run on up-to-date lines and evoke praise from all who use their hospitable precincts. Jews invariably make a success in this particular line of business, and I am not surprised, therefore, to learn that an up-to-date and modern hotel has just been completed on Mount Carmel, by a Jew who has a great experience in these matters. He is Mr. George Barsky, who already controls the Allenby Hotel in Jerusalem and the Palatin Hotel in Tel-Aviv, and is well known to tourists of the Holy Land. The Mount Carmel Hotel is beautifully located in sylvan surroundings, with an ideal panorama of Haifa, the Bay of Acre and the hills of Galilee. There is a roof-garden where symphony and jazz orchestras will play every evening. This feature should appeal to local inhabitants as to visitors to Palestine, who will appreciate Mr. Barsky's up-to-dateness.

#### THE JOHANNESBURG ORPHANAGE.

The South African Jewish Orphanage (Johannesburg) has just issued its report for the year ended 31st March, and subscribers and all those interested in this important communal organisation will be pleased to notice the steady progress that has been made in every department in the period reviewed. The gratitude of the whole community is due to the indefatigable committee and to the able staff, for the manner in which they have conducted the affairs of the Institution. A satisfactory feature of the year's working is that whilst the revenue constitutes a record, there is a large decrease in the expenditure compared with any previous year. The Committee have not been wholly occupied in raising funds, but other equally important phases of work have been successfully dealt with. A larger number of children have been placed in employment, whilst there is an increase in the number of children who have become self-supporting. Progress is also indicated by the fact that an additional girls' hostel has been established. In every direction supporters will be able to note excellent work done by those responsible for the administration of the Institution, and yet the Committee notice signs of weakening in the support received from subscribers. If the rate of progress is to be maintained, then it is essential that this weakening must be remedied.

MR. GOSSIP.