

# In and Around the Town.

58, Burg Street,  
Thursday.

## UNSCIENTIFIC EXPERIMENTS.

Chief Rabbi Herzog, dealing with that part of Professor Ude's statement in which he urged the abandonment of Shechita, asked whether Christian theologians present would agree to abandon certain Christian rites which they regarded as divinely ordained, because of unscientific experiments. There is no doubt the opponents of Shechita are entirely unscientific in their anti-Shechita arguments.

## THE CATHOLIC VIEW.

Shechita was supported at the debate by a Catholic medical man, who took part in the discussion. He quoted a number of scientific authorities to show that Shechita was far the most humane method known for slaughtering animals. His view was that a Christian could not be an opponent of Shechita, and he urged Christian authorities to examine the passage in St. Matthew referred to by Chief Rabbi Herzog, which would show that believers in Christ could not join in an agitation to prohibit Shechita. And still the war is waged against the Jewish method of slaughter by the anti-Shechitanists. It is indeed a battle royal, and the attempts to prohibit Shechita must be resisted with all the strength of world Jewry.

## TALMUD TORAH BALL.

The second Communal Ball is that in aid of that deserving institution, the United Hebrew Schools, and will be held on Wednesday next, 10th inst. I am told that the tickets have not been taken up in the manner that had been anticipated, seeing how the Committee of the Institution is urgently in need of funds to enable it to satisfactorily fulfil its duty to the community. Many people, I am told, have returned their tickets for certain reasons, but there can be no reason to justify support being withheld from an important Jewish Institution such as the Talmud Torah. If those who have acted as indicated will reflect a little they must see how entirely ridiculous it is to visit their displeasure on the Institution. Is the school to suffer because they have a particular grievance—not against the school? They will, or should be the first to reproach themselves, if, through their action, the function, upon which much depends, proves a failure. There is still time to rectify matters. The Committee looks to the community to support them in their mission of imparting religious knowledge and Hebrew instruction to our boys and girls. They can do this by purchasing tickets for Wednesday's Ball.

## WHAT IS A JEW?

Because to the majority of the Jews of America, the use of the word "Jew" or "Jewish," as a qualifying adjective in either a laudatory or derogatory sense, is both incorrect and highly offensive, the anti-Defamation League of the Independent Order B'nai B'rith

some time ago made public a series of rules for the proper use of these two words. They are very interesting and worthy, I think, of reproduction. I might mention that the anti-Defamation League was organised in 1918 to defend the good name of the Jews in public print, on the stage and the screen.

## OBJECTIONABLE ADJECTIVES.

The word "Jew" is a noun, and should never be used as an adjective or verb. To speak of "Jew girls" or "Jew stores" is both objection-

able and vulgar. The word "Jew" is a noun; "Jewish" is the adjective. The use of the word "Jew" as a verb—"To Jew down"—is a slang survival of the mediæval term of opprobrium, alluded to above, and should be avoided altogether.

The word "Hebrew" should not be used instead of "Jew." As a noun, it connotes rather the Jewish people of the distant past, as "the ancient Hebrews." It is used also as an adjective—"the Hebrew language," "Hebrew literature," etc.,

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## SCOUTS AND GUIDES AT THE SYNAGOGUE.

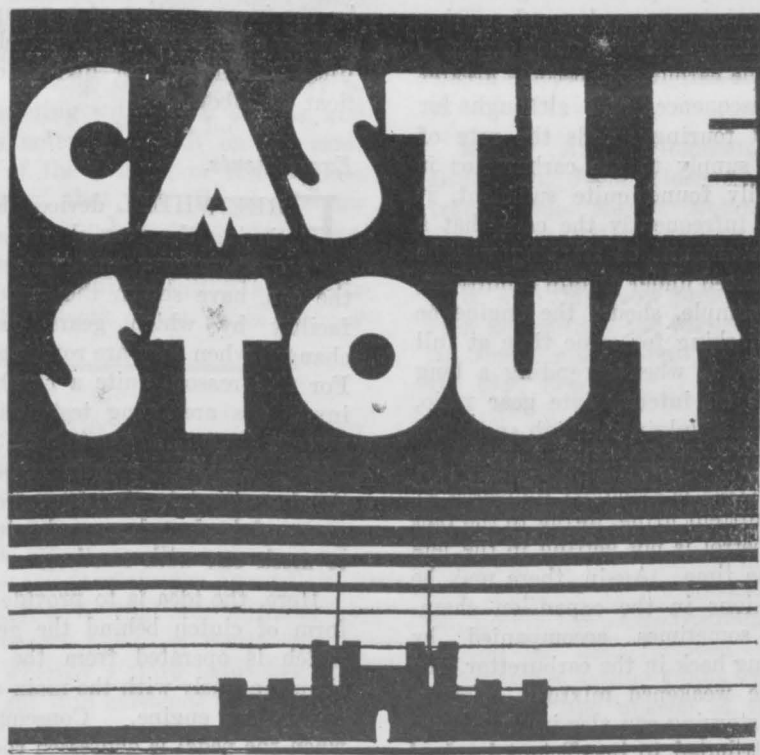
A large gathering of spick and span Scouts and smart-looking Girl Guides, Brownies and Wolf-cubs, accompanied by their officers and leaders, filled the front benches of the Great Synagogue at the children's service last Saturday afternoon. Although it was a solemn occasion, being the final service before the departure of the Jewish contingent to-morrow for the Jamboree near Birkenhead, Cheshire, the service was a very cheerful one. Many bright young faces smiled broadly at the allusions to the grown-up attitude towards Scouts and Guides, which were made in the Rev. A. P. Bender's apt address, and but for the fact that they were in a Synagogue many of the young folk would have laughed out loud. Synagogue honours were bestowed upon the four youthful adventurers and at the conclusion of the sermon they received Mr. Bender's blessing. A number of interested grown-ups were also present.

## THE CHERNIAVSKY BROS.

Within a few weeks we shall once more hear the Cherniavsky Brothers at the City Hall. For nearly twenty years they have been coming periodically to South Africa, and they have always drawn full houses. At first they came as little boys, dressed in velvet suits, with lace collars and silk blouses. Later they came as youths, who seemed suddenly to have grown up. To-day they come as mature men of the world, as cultured players. They will no doubt delight their audiences both individually and in concert. They are assured of a warm welcome.

## THE SHECHITA CONTROVERSY.

In another part of this issue a report is published of the vitriolic outburst of Professor Ude against the Jewish method of slaughtering animals for human consumption. In view of this, it is interesting to re-debate briefly what occurred at a public debate held recently in Vienna on the question of Shechita between Professor Ude and Chief Rabbi Herzog. Professor Ude, speaking from the point of view of a Christian, urged the Jews to "abandon the inhuman method of Shechita in the same way as they had abandoned other of their ancient inhuman religious commandments." Chief Rabbi Herzog, in putting his side of the question, pertinently asked how a Shechita seeing that Christ himself, as it was written in St. Matthew, "ate of the flesh of the paschal lamb which had been killed according to Jewish ritual at the Passover before he was taken to be crucified." The debate was by way of being a remarkable affair, and I think this is the first ever arranged for debating this problem.



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**IN AND AROUND THE TOWN.**

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but as such it has a historical rather than a religious connotation; one cannot say "the Hebrew religion," but "the Jewish religion."

**WHEN NOT OBJECTIONABLE.**

The words "Jew" and "Jewish" can never be objectionable when applied to the whole body of Israel or to whole classes within the body, as, for instance, "Jewish wives," "Jewish children," "Jewish young men," and the like.

There can be no objection to the use of the words "Jew" or "Jewish" when contrast is being made with other religions. "Jews observe Passover and Christians, Easter"; "Jews are less susceptible to tuberculosis than other races"; these two are perfectly fair and proper subjects of public comment.

The application of the word "Jew" or "Jewish" to any individual is to be avoided unless from the context it is necessary to call attention to his religion; in other words, unless the facts have some relation to his being a Jew or to his Jewishness. This rule should apply equally whether the word is used in scandalous or discreditable connection, or when it is used in connection with some praiseworthy or honourable act or achievement. Thus, if a Jew is convicted of a crime he should not be called a "Jewish criminal," and on the other hand, if a Jew makes a great medical or other scientific discovery, he should not be called a great "Jewish physician," or an eminent "Jewish scientist." In neither case had the man's Jewishness any connection with his conduct or with the disgrace or honour which the conduct entailed.

**SELF-RELIANCE.**

In this week's Sedra, Numbers, Chapter 13, verses 32-33, we read: "And they spread an evil report of the land which they had spied out, unto the children of Israel, saying: 'The land, through which we have passed to spy it out, is a land that eateth up the inhabitants thereof; and all the people that we saw in it are men of great stature . . . and we were in our own sight as grasshoppers, and so we were in their sight.'"

Self-reliance is the most important quality in any nation. He who lacks confidence in himself cannot hope to inspire confidence in others. Because the spies sent out by Moses were "as grasshoppers in their own sight," they were "as grasshoppers in the sight of the Canaanites." We to-day, as a nation, unfortunately labour under the same difficulty. We often hear Jews say, when discussing Zionism: "How ridiculous! How possibly could Jews manage to govern a country?" And yet we expect full recognition from other countries! Israel must regain her self-reliance before the nations can be expected to recognise her power. Surely a people which has produced leaders in every sphere of life for other nations can produce leaders for itself.

**East Rand Jewry.**

**COMMUNAL NOTES.**

**BENONI.**

As reported in this journal last week, the Jewish Cultural Society has been revived. On 22nd June a Mock Parliament was held. Dr. C. B. Shapiro, the "Prime Minister," moved that "100,000 Jews be settled on the land in South Africa." The discussion on both sides ("Government" and "Opposition") was very keen. Messrs. J. Sugarman, B. Abrahamsohn, and I. Funaroff spoke extremely well. The "gallery" enjoyed the proceedings throughout. It is hoped to hold another "Session" soon, when the Prime Minister will move that "Palestine become a British Dominion."

The Junior Circle of the above Society has also been active of late. Recently Cantor S. Backon entertained the members with Yiddish reading. The gifted Cantor has promised to deliver a lecture on Jewish folk music in the near future.

**GERMISTON.**

Germiston Hebrew Congregation is going to build a new synagogue. Recently a meeting was held, over which Mr. I. Steinberg presided. The Jews of Germiston decided that they want a new synagogue. A special committee was elected, which is now proceeding with the collection of funds without any delay. The local Congregation's Jewish Women's Committee is to hold a grand fete in aid of the synagogue funds. Good luck, Germiston!

**BRAKPAN.**

The Brakpan Women's Zionist League is going strong. Last month they collected £67 in aid of the "Land of Promise" Fete.

On the 15th June a function under the auspices of the above League was held at the residence of Mrs. A. Joffe. Advocate J. Gering lectured on "Zionism To-day," while Miss T. Cohen (delegate to Zionist Conference) gave a resume of the work of the Conference. Mrs. I. Connaek, the Chairlady, thanked the speakers in a few well-chosen words.

On this occasion a sum of £6 6s. was collected for "Kfar Yeladim."

**GENERAL.**

The Benoni Chevra Gemorrah held their annual "Siyum" recently.

The combined Brakpan Young Israel and Maccabean Societies held a successful dance on the 22nd June.

The Reuben Brainin Campaign in Benoni is proceeding well.

We hear that the H.O.D. in Springs has been very active of late. East Rand, please copy!

The efforts of the various Young Israel Societies on the East Rand (as elsewhere) to raise enough money to send a Jewish scholar overseas are extremely laudable.

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