

OUT OF THE ORDINARY.

By Rozilda.

Isador Epstein.

HEAD OF A FAMOUS SCHOOL OF MUSIC.

Mr. Isador Epstein, the eminent London musician and head of the Isidore Epstein Modern Pianoforte School, arrived in South Africa last week on a health visit. He intends to stay for three or four months and will go to Johannesburg and spend some time on the High Veld, thus escaping the wet and cold English winter. It was not Mr. Epstein's intention to play professionally during this health holiday, but he has been prevailed upon by Mr. W. J. Pickerill to appear with the Cape Town Orchestra on Thursday night, October 24th, when he will play the Beethoven C Minor Concerto, a work of which his fine interpretation has been commended by the best musical critics in London.

Traditional Artist.

Mr. Epstein fulfils the traditional conception of a musician. He has long thick iron-grey hair brushed back from a broad forehead, regular features and a rather unusual type of Jewish face for a man of Russian extraction. His attire is quite conventional except for his large artist's tie which combined with his black hat and his walking stick suggest the Bohemian, the artist, the man of temperament.

A Musical Family.

Isador Epstein comes from a musical family. His father was a famous cantor at a Synagogue in the City of London which stood on the site of the present Great St. Helens. A brother of his came to South Africa about eighteen years ago and founded a college of music in Johannesburg. This brother is now a singer in London and has a tremendous connection. Another brother, who was also at one time in South Africa, is very successful on the variety stage.

His father was a Russian, his mother Polish and he himself was born at the Hague. He studied music in England and afterwards in Berlin. As a youth he won several scholarships, including the open free scholarship at the Royal College of Music, of which he became an Associate. He is also an Associate of the London Philharmonic Society and is interested in many other musical societies. He studied under most distinguished masters, including Chevalier Emil Bach and Arthur Friedheim, both of whom were pupils of Liszt. He completed his studies in Berlin under the world-famous pianist, Busoni.

Paved with Successes.

His early professional career was paved with many successes. At the Queen's Hall, London, he made his debut at a promenade concert in 1907 and scored so great a triumph that he was re-engaged for four successive seasons.

He toured the provinces and performed with the leading provincial orchestras and later appeared at the

Queen's Hall Symphony Concerts. He has had the honour of performing before Her Majesty the Queen of Spain, H.R.H. Princess Henry of Battenberg and at Cumberland Lodge to Princess Christian.

Complimentary Press Notices.

At this period of his career his reputation was extremely high and he was continually gaining more and more recognition. His press notices were highly complimentary. London seemed to acclaim him not only as a coming man but as a man who had arrived.

"The Times," severe and un-hysterical in its criticisms, called him "an artist of very imaginative temperament" and spoke of his "poetical way of playing Brahms' Scherzo and the so-called Moonlight Sonata of Beethoven." "In the latter piece," said "The Times," "the lights were turned out, an entirely unnecessary device with such romantic playing as his. He should leave such effects to musicians less able to convey the poetry of music through their fingers alone."

The reserved "Morning Post" stated: "He can command a touch that is delicate and fluent, but the alternative is an amount of force which is simply astonishing." The "Daily Telegraph" exclaimed enthusiastically: "We ask no better interpretations than were vouchsafed by the pianist. . . . But after all new tributes are unnecessary."

A Famous School.

Unfortunately Mr. Isador Epstein was not able to fulfil the fine promise of the beginning of his career. A nervous breakdown and subsequent ill-health compelled him to leave the concert platform for a less strenuous life.

He opened a school to which the lustre of his name immediately gave a certain status. Mere reputation alone, however, could not succeed in maintaining a high standard of tuition: a real ability to teach, combined with his own natural talent, made of his school one of the finest in London. His pupils received a thorough training, for no detail seemed to be overlooked in the instruction given. His young students play with ease, lack of diffidence and intelligence. Mr. Epstein seems able to inculcate by precept and example a feeling for beauty of tone and a right conception for rhythm and phrasing.

It is interesting to learn that young Isidore Goodman, a notice of whose concert appears in this issue, played before Epstein in London. The artist-master declares the South African boy to be a very promising young pianist and feels sure that he should go far. It is interesting to learn, too, that Goodman's mother received her first piano lessons from Isador Epstein.

Mr. Epstein finds Cape Town altogether delightful. The flowers in Adderley Street held him spell-bound, as did the sellers. He has not yet become accustomed to our black races. He tells me of a funny little experience.

"After theatre the other night we went and had coffee. It was fairly late when I returned to the hotel. Walking down the corridor towards my room I was suddenly confronted by a creature in a snow-white cap and apron with a pitch-black face. I laugh now, but I was terribly startled at the time."

Mr. Epstein called upon the Rev. A. P. Bender, who received him graciously and is acquainted with his sister's husband, Professor Abel Wolf, Professor of Psychology at the University of London. Mr. Epstein

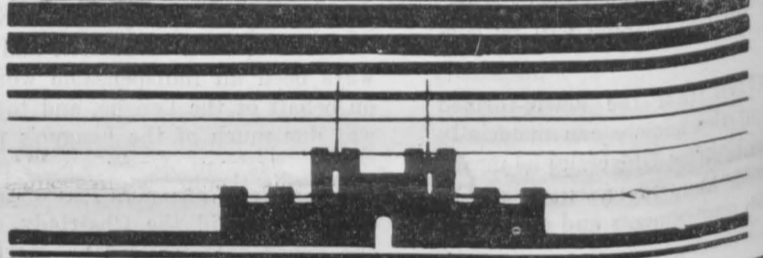
tells me that Professor Wolf is an expert on Spinoza, about whom he has written some books. He has also contributed articles to the latest edition of the Encyclopædia Britannica.

Mr. Isador Epstein has already made the acquaintance of a number of Cape Town Jewish people and says that he is charmed with their hospitality. During the week-end he was taken on a long drive round the Peninsula. He considers the scenery to be equal in beauty to that of the Riviera.

There is a possibility that Epstein may appear again, either with the Orchestra or in a recital. It is to be hoped that Cape Town music lovers will have another opportunity of hearing this fine Jewish musician.

ROZILDA.

CASTLE LAGER



Don't say Whisky, say
"JOHNNIE WALKER," it's
just as easy and much
safer.

JOHNNIE WALKER

"JOHNNIE WALKER"
please. The old saying
which never fails to bring
Complete Satisfaction.

DEMPERS & CO.

Antique Furniture, Finest Glassware, Silver, Brass
and Copperware.

The Choicest Selection of Wedding Presents in Cape Town

An inspection is invited.

28-30, Church Street, Cape Town.

(opposite "Cape Times.")

S.A. JEWISH CHRONICLE.

Send 12/6 for a year's Subscription.

POST FREE.