

Opera.

I THINK Mr. Cherniavsky

—who has been responsible for the bringing to this country of the Gonsalez Opera Company—will readily admit that he has received magnificent support from Jews. Night after night the preponderance of Jews in the audience was more than obvious, and it would be interesting to learn what this support in bulk has meant in the way of hard cash.

When the booking office opened in Johannesburg at 8.30 on a certain morning some weeks ago, one Jewish lady headed the queue which had been waiting for some time, and within a few minutes had purchased tickets for the first two weeks of the season, amounting to over forty pounds. There was quite a quarrel between this lady and an elderly Jewish gentleman who was keen on securing some of the seats she was buying.

Speaking earnestly, however, I am glad that Jews have helped to place South Africa upon the operatic and musical map. There can be no doubt that the success of the present opera company will influence the coming to South Africa of an operatic company once in two years—also the arrival here of famous artists of the concert platform.

The fact that this revolution—for indeed it may be referred to in this manner—has been accomplished by the courageous spirit of a Jewish impresario—can be recorded as a further feather in our cap.

Honolulu.

Hawaiian Jewry has recently received in its fold the first *Sepher Torah*. A special dedication ceremony was held attended by the leading residents of the island. The hope was expressed that the presentation of the *Sepher Torah* would re-ignite the dying embers of Judaism in Honolulu. It appears that the most miserable neglect of the observance of Judaism has existed in Honolulu since Jewish settlement there. The main problem is that of inter-marriage.

It is rather sad to learn that more than 50 per cent. of the Jewish male members of the community have inter-married with Hawaiian, Portuguese, Chinese and Japanese. It is obvious, therefore, that a new type of Jewish poor whites are being generated. It is to be hoped that the installation of the first *Sepher Torah* will put a stop to this deterioration.

Current Communal Comments

By
'Hamabit'

Greetings.

I note that announcements are appearing in the daily newspapers of our larger cities—and announcements are no doubt appearing in smaller newspapers throughout the country—appealing to Jewish readers to send in their *Rosh Hashonah* greetings. I dare say that large numbers of our people will respond to this invitation and thus perform an annual crime against good taste. The instinct of rushing into print inherent in a certain type of Jew in this country is played upon by this opportunity to blazon forth names and good wishes in non-Jewish papers.

The idea of extending greetings on the sacred occasion of the Jewish New Year is in itself an excellent one. When, therefore, such wishes are published in any Jewish journal, which circulates specifically in Jewish homes, the practice is creditable—and incidentally brings for the struggling Jewish journals a source of income which is extremely welcome.

To insert such greetings, however, in the non-Jewish press, most of which are to-day not too friendly to our people—to use a mild term—is, in my opinion, a kind of sacrilege. Such *Rosh Hashonah* announcements proclaimed boldly in the daily press must bring forth a smirk on the face of the Gentile reader—and perhaps, too, to the faces of the business managers and staffs of the daily newspapers, who rake in a considerable income from this strange and unexpected source.

Kisch.

A resignation which touches South African Jewry in some way is that of Col. Frederick H. Kisch, C.B.E., D.S.O., from his position of political representative of the Zionist Executive in Palestine. It is Kisch who has always been quoted as an example of the few English Jews who gave up the flesh-pots of England for the furtherance of the Jewish cause in Palestine.

It was in 1922, after a distinguished military career, that Col. Kisch resigned from the British Government service in order to throw himself into the national work in Eretz Israel. Following five years of service in India, Col. Kisch

served in France until the end of 1915, and then in Mesopotamia. He was wounded three times, received the D.S.O., the *Croix de Guerre*, became G.S.O.I. to General Sir George MacDonogh, and was recognised as one of the most promising staff officers of his generation. During the Peace Conference he was a member of the British Delegation, and later attached to the British Embassy in Paris. During the session

of the Peace Conference, Colonel Kisch served on the Commission for Polish Affairs, on the Inter-Allied Military Committee, and was entrusted with special missions to Germany, Poland, Upper Silesia and Teschen. It will be remembered that in 1927 Colonel Kisch was one of the first to take up Palestinian citizenship.

There can be no doubt that Palestine will be the poorer by the departure of Colonel Kisch and his charming wife. We in South Africa remember them well, as they both left an indelible impression here during the time they inaugurated a most successful Keren Hayesod Campaign.

Marching On.

I was interested to learn that the Workers' Dramatic Studio ("Ohel") in Palestine produced for the first time the comedy, "Volpone," by Ben Jonson, as modernised by Stephen Zweig. Hebrew culture in the national homeland is thus marching courageously forward, in spite of political disturbances and hosts of fears of all kinds.

"Scoff."

"I took thee to curse mine enemies, and behold, thou hast blessed them."

Numbers, 23-11.

There is a well-known Jewish family in Johannesburg, the head of which is an extremely orthodox gentleman. He is an earnest congregational worker and a regular synagogue attendant. He is one of the few remaining Jews in the Golden City who keeps up the custom of looking out for a stranger after the Sabbath repast. The children of this household, however, are modern young men and women, who deign a tolerant interest in their father's orthodox behaviour.

Two of the bearded gentry were recently enjoying a Sabbath evening meal, and indicated, as it happens, the possession of ravenous appetites.

Said one of the modern children to the other:

"They came to bless, but have remained to scoff."

(For the benefit of overseas readers of this page, it should be mentioned that the word "scoff" in South Africa is a slang term for food.)