

A Gifted Contralto

Interview for the *Zionist Record*
with
Miss Jenny Sonnenberg.

An interesting visitor to Johannesburg is Miss Jenny Sonnenberg, the celebrated singer, who has returned to South Africa after an interval of five years.

Although born in Germany, Miss Sonnenberg has spent most of her life in this country. Whilst still a young girl, she was advised to study at the Royal College of Music owing to the possession of a rich voice. After two years in London, she studied in Paris and then in Berlin. In the latter city, she has now made her permanent home. Miss Sonnenberg began her musical career by spending three years upon the operatic stage, but now concentrates exclusively on concert work. She



[Study by Leon Levson.

appears periodically in recitals in London, Paris, Berlin and Vienna and is appreciated as one of the gifted contraltos of the day.

To a representative of the *Zionist Record* Miss Sonnenberg said:

"I find in Germany—and as a matter of fact in most countries—that the Jews give generous patronage to good music and also have a lot of good music

in their homes; more so than any other people. At my concert in Johannesburg I will be singing some works of a German-Jewish composer by the name of Wolfsohn. This musical writer is the head of the surgical department of the Berlin Jewish hospital, but is a fine musician and a composer of note."

Miss Sonnenberg also indicated that at the concert which she is giving at the German Club, she will be singing works by another Jewish composer—Walter Hirschberg—editor of the *Signale*—one of the leading musical journals in Germany; also songs by Karl Wienne—the Jewish musical director of the Berlin Broadcasting Station.

"I shall also be singing," said Miss Sonnenberg, "at my concerts in Johannesburg, some works of a local composer, E. Lowenhertz. These have not yet been printed, but they are fine songs and Johannesburg should be proud of having resident a composer in its midst."

Asked which Jewish woman singer was making headway upon the operatic stage, Miss Sonnenberg referred to Frieda Leider, who is reaching the top in her profession and is looked upon in Europe as one of the finest of dramatic sopranos. Frieda Leider recently sang with success at Covent Garden. A singer who is making headway on the operatic stage is Kipness, who was recognised as one of the finest baritones in German opera and had also appeared with success at the Metropolitan Opera House in New York.

Miss Sonnenberg, who is the possessor of a splendid contralto voice and is a vocalist of a high standard, will appear at the Selborne Hall at a concert under the auspices of the Johannesburg Musical Society on Tuesday, the 13th inst. She is also giving a concert at the German Club on Thursday, the 22nd inst., and is devoting her programme at this function purely to German *lieder*.

The High Festivals in Germiston.

National Fund Appeal on Yom Kippur.

The Germiston Synagogue was crowded on the High Festivals, and the services were very ably conducted by Rev. Wyscheik and Cantor Zive, whose sweet tenor voice was heard to great advantage in conjunction with a fully trained choir.

During the *Yom Kippur* eve service, after *Kol Nidre*, Rev. Wyscheik preached a special sermon on the holy work of Geulath Haaretz, and was followed by Mr. Zvi Hareven, President of the Zionist Society, who in an ardent appeal full of religious fervour asked the congregants to respond with offerings for the Jewish National Fund. Rev. Wyscheik then made one inclusive *Misheberach*, and donations to a total of well over £75 were promised and subsequently collected by Messrs. N. Segal, H. Benjamin, M. Margolius, I. Kur and Z. Hareven.

In this connection local Zionists are greatly indebted to the Executive and Council of the United Hebrew Institutions and to Rev. Wyscheik for facilitating the appeal and for their support, and to the donors for their generous response.

Special thanks are due for the assistance on the *Bimah* and in the body of the synagogue to the following: Messrs. Benjamin, Segal, Margolius, Senior, Lifschitz, Smith and Tarsy.

On *Simchas Torah*, after the services, Mr. B. Cohen, President of the United Hebrew Institutions and Parnass of the Congregation, invited the community to *Brocho* at his house. Appropriate speeches were made by Rev. Wyscheik, Messrs. B. Cohen, M. L. Goodman, H. Rosen, J. Zinn, I. Dunsy and Zvi Hareven, while Cantor Zive charmingly rendered folk songs.

The health of the office-bearers and members of the Council having been duly proposed and drunk, the function terminated with a hearty vote of thanks to Mr. and Mrs. B. Cohen for their hospitality.

The Yiddish Scientific Institute.

Its Labours and Ideals.

On Sunday next, 11th October, the local branch of the Friends of the Yiddish Scientific Institute are holding their first public meeting, which will take place at the Jewish Guild Hall at 8.15 p.m. Representative members of the community will address the gathering on the manifold labours and ideals of the famous Wilno Institute.

The Yiddish Scientific Institute, which has an international reputation, is strongly supported by eminent Jewish scholars and men of affairs, including Prof. Albert, Dr. Moses Gaster and Dr. Sigmund Freud. Chiefly, its aims are: (1) to collect and preserve material mirroring Jewish life in all ages; (2) rescue from oblivion the products of the collective soul of our people Jewish folk lore, and (3) study scientifically all Jewish problems, material and spiritual, of the past and present.

Towards this end, the Yiddish Scientific Institute, apart from bibliographical, archival and museum work, has issued quite a number of invaluable publications, especially in the historical, psychological and economic fields. Its monthly organ, *Jivo Blatter*, is also well known.

AGED PEOPLE ENTERTAINED.

On *Simchas Torah* evening, the inmates of the Jewish Aged Home in Louisa Street, Doornfontein, were entertained by the Misses Sparks and Goldstein, Mrs. Ashberg, jnr., and the two Misses Leveson, who rendered several musical and vocal items. Humorous Yiddish songs, contributed by Mrs. Faiga, were keenly and thoroughly enjoyed by the appreciative audience.

During the evening refreshments, provided by the committee of the institution, were served, and altogether a happy evening was spent. The thanks of the committee and inmates are due to Miss Sparks and Mrs. Ashberg, who were responsible for this pleasant little function.