

United Hebrew Schools of Johannesburg

Some New Developments.

Matriculation Classes and Continuation Courses.

(Communicated.)

A very important departure in the history of the United Hebrew Schools of Johannesburg is to be made at the beginning of 1932 when a department for Higher Hebrew Studies will be opened in the premises of the Hebrew High School, Wolmarans Street. This new institute of Higher Studies is being founded in the conviction that the large Jewish population of Johannesburg requires a modern Jewish institution in which the Jewish youth as well as adults may have an opportunity of acquiring a thorough knowledge of various branches of Jewish learning. It is contemplated to contain five different departments, but in the meantime it will consist of the following two departments:—

1. *Department of High Schools and University Examinations:* This department is designed for boys and girls who propose to include Hebrew as a subject for their Matriculation and University examinations. The inclusion of Hebrew by the Universities of South Africa as an acknowledged subject for various examinations is a rare prerogative granted to our community, and our failure to make full use of it is unpardonable.

Educationally a knowledge of Hebrew is not less important than a knowledge of Greek or French. Modern civilisation is built upon the basis of Hebraic and Hellenic cultures, and a full appreciation of this civilisation is just as impossible without the understanding of the one as of the other.

But apart from educational and other considerations the inclusion of Hebrew in our children's school curriculum must become a matter of national dignity with us. Any self-respecting Jew cannot disregard the claims of his own language when he has this unique opportunity of including it in the ordinary public school curriculum.

The Council of the United Hebrew Schools of Johannesburg believe that if Hebrew has so far not come to its own in our public school curriculum, it is only that no adequate provision has so far been made for preparing students for the various examinations. They are now about to open this new department which will be under the personal supervision of Mr. D. Mierowsky, Director of the South African Board of Jewish Education. Students attending these classes will receive not only an excellent preparation for the various examinations but a very extensive knowledge of things Jewish in general. This class will be held three times weekly.

2. *Department of Extension Courses:* This department is designed for pupils who have just left school and who are desirous of further continuing their studies. The greatest drawback of our present education system consists in the fact that practically all our children leave school soon after the age of *Barmitzvah*. There is no doubt that there are large numbers of Jewish parents in the city eager to give their children an opportunity for continuing their studies and perfecting their knowledge of things Jewish.

It is for the purpose of meeting their demand that the Council of the United Hebrew Schools is opening this second department which will include on its staff Dr. J. Birnbaum, Rabbi I. M. Gervis and Rev. A. T. Shrock, B.A. The courses in this department will be held three times weekly and will include a systematic study of Hebrew grammar, of the more advanced portions of the Bible, of selected readings in the Talmud and of modern Hebrew literature, as well as a study of Jewish history. Included in this course will be regular monthly lectures by Chief Rabbi, Professor Dr. J. L. Landau, on Jewish Ethics and Philosophy which will be open to non-students as well as to students, and which are mainly intended for adults desiring to deepen their knowledge of things Jewish.

The new departments are to be opened early in February, 1932, but the further progress of the contemplated scheme will

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depend upon the extent of the enrolment. All those who are interested in the scheme and are desirous to get further information on the subject and should apply to Mr Ch. Porter, Secretary, United Hebrew Schools of Johannesburg, Cor. Claim and Wolmarans Streets.

Annual Prize Distribution.

The Annual Prize Distribution and Speech Day of the United Hebrew Schools will take place on Sunday next at 10 a.m. at the H.O.D. Hall. A very interesting and varied programme in the form of songs, recitations, dialogues, etc., has been provided, and it is hoped that large numbers of Jewish parents and others interested in Jewish education will attend this function so as to become acquainted with the work done by this largest network of schools in the country.

CHANUKAH SERVICES.

Special Chanukah Services will be held both at the Yeoville Synagogue, Hunter Street, and the Park Synagogue, Wolmarans Street, on Sunday, the 6th inst., at 5.30 p.m. Chief Rabbi Dr. J. L. Landau will preach at the Park Synagogue, and the service will be conducted by Chief Cantor Inspektor, assisted by a full choir. The members of the S.A. Jewish Ex-Service League will be in attendance at the Park Synagogue.

At the Yeoville Synagogue the Rev. A. T. Shrock, B.A., will preach, and Cantor N. Lopato will conduct the service, assisted by his choir. Parents are earnestly requested to bring their children to these services, as a special feature of the evening will be a Children's Service. A cordial invitation is extended to the public to attend.

Rev. S. Steinberg will conduct the service at the Berea Synagogue, assisted by his choir, and is due to commence at 5 p.m.

FAMOUS DRAMA AT PALLADIUM.

Madame X, perhaps the greatest drama of mother love the world has known, is booked for the Palladium Theatre this week. This Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer version of the famous old play features Ruth Chatterton in the title role, supported by Lewis Stone and a perfect cast. Ruth Chatterton, the ill-fated heroine, is superb. Rising to heights of dramatic emotion and depths of despair by turn, she gives a performance that is literally a revelation as to what can be done by an artist through this new medium of the screen.

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