

A Street Collection.

IT has always been the proud boast of the Jewish community in this country that it consistently looks after its own poor. For this reason I was sorry to learn of the holding in Capetown recently of a street collection in aid of the local Jewish Board of Guardians. I feel sure that the majority of my co-religionists in the Mother City must have regretted the arranging of this street collection.

Whilst it is true that Jews contribute towards the charity chests of non-Jewish philanthropic organisations in the Mother City, there is no reason at all why Gentiles should be asked to contribute towards the support of poverty-stricken Jews.

The holding of the street collection in question was in the way of a public acknowledgment that the Jewish community in a certain locality is unable to support its own poor. I cannot believe this is the case, especially of the Jewish community in Capetown, which has always demonstrated a generous philanthropic spirit.

Can I express the hope that the street collection in Capetown in aid of the Board of Guardians, may be recorded the first and last of its kind.

Idelsohn.

OF interest to lovers of Jewish culture is the announcement that the tenth volume of "Thesaurus of Hebrew Oriental Melodies," by Dr. A. Z. Idelsohn, is finally off the press. This learned gentleman—who by the way has close connections with South Africa, for his parents, brothers and sisters reside in Johannesburg—is professor of Jewish Liturgy and Music at the Hebrew Union College in Cincinnati. He is undoubtedly the world's greatest authority on the history and development of Jewish music.

Thirty years ago, Prof. Idelsohn resolved that in view of the constant changes which are taking place in Jewish life the world over, particularly in modern times, it is highly advisable that all the available material of Jewish music be collected and thus preserved from extinction. This resolution resulted in the collection of five thousand melodies which has been embodied into the "Thesaurus"—the ten volumes of which represent a storehouse of Jewish music, unearthed, polished and classified by loving and industrious hands.

The English-speaking world came to realise Dr. Idelsohn's amazing knowledge of Jewish music in 1929 when he published his "Jewish Music and Its Historical Development." This was the first work of its kind in any language

Current Communal Comments

By
'Hamabit'

and recently the Moses Mendelssohn Foundation of Berlin obtained the author's permission to have it translated into German. It is interesting to note that the last five volumes of the "Thesaurus" were published through a subsidy granted by the Council of American Learned Societies, a non-Jewish organisation, whose directors realised immediately that Dr. Idelsohn's matchless contribution to Jewish music should be saved from oblivion.

Is it not rather strange to recollect—as I must—that when Prof. Idelsohn was in South Africa a few years ago—on a visit to his parents—very little public notice was taken of this gifted literary personality by the Jewish Community here?

Dr. F. Bodner.

A new literary quarterly has recently appeared in Capetown. The publication is of particular interest to us in that it publishes an article by Dr. F. Bodner on "Germany Awake! Judah Perish!" The writer, who is a member of the teaching faculty of the University of Capetown calls attention to the dangers of the Nazis. He further adds that the Hitlerite movement is likely to decay as rapidly as it grew. Should the Nazis, however, by some absurd trick of fate, achieve power, then terrorism will undoubtedly be committed and a serious situation will arise not only for Germany but for humanity at large.

I am rather glad that Dr. Bodner has presented this essay, for I hear that at the University of Capetown, there is a professor who quite openly espouses the Hitler cause.

The Conqueror.

IT may not be generally known that General Sir John Monash, Commander of the Australian Forces, has been established as the true conqueror of both Hindenburg and Ludendorff through a verdict of the Parliamentary Court of Inquiry in the German Reichstag after the war. The German leaders testified that Germany's "Black Day" was August 8th, when the Australians, commanded by Sir John, broke

the German lines near Peronne, driving a hole twelve miles wide into the German front. In Hindenburg's "Out of My Life" and Ludendorff's "My War Memories," they both reiterate that it was that "break-through" which decided the war and finally caused them to abandon all hopes of victory. "On August 8th, even the Kaiser realised that the fate of the German nation had been decided and the war could no longer be won."

For the proud military caste of German it was a bitter pill to swallow, when they realised that the author of Germany's "Black Day" was Sir John Monash, a Melbourne business man, and a non-professional soldier — and a Jew.

Sir John Monash reached the highest rank in the forces from the British Dominions, that of Lieutenant-General. He first landed in Egypt as a colonel in 1914. Before the war he had been an engineer and served as an officer in the Australian military forces. Subsequently he took part in the operations in the Dardanelles, arriving in France as a Brigadier-general, in 1916, was given command of and trained the 3rd Australian Division in England as major-general and accompanied his division to France. He achieved renown for his works in the battle of Messines in June, 1917, in which his division played a prominent part, and in April, 1918, when General Sir William Birdwood was transferred from the Australian Corps to take command of the Fifth Army at a most critical period of the war, Sir John Monash was promoted to the rank of lieutenant-general and placed in command of the Australian forces on the western front. He led his men from victory to victory in the days from August 8th, when the British Army advanced and drove back the enemy, until the close of the war, receiving many distinctions, both from the British and foreign armies, for his successful leadership.

Advice is Cheap ?

MR. GOLDBERG went to see a solicitor in Johannesburg recently to ask him for some advice.

"What can I do," he asked, "to a boy who threw a stone and broke one of my windows?"

"You can make his father pay for the damage," answered the solicitor.

"Good!" cried Mr. Goldberg triumphantly, "then perhaps you will hand over to me half a guinea right away. It was your son who did it."

"Certainly," answered the solicitor unperturbed. "I shall be delighted to make restitution. My fee is one guinea, so as soon as you pay me half a guinea, we shall call it quits."