

An Art Exhibition.

I like the enthusiastic manner in which a group of ladies in Johannesburg are organising an exhibition of objects of Jewish art. Some years ago an exhibition of this nature was held in Cape-town and attracted considerable attention. Regret was expressed at the time that the objects shown could not all have been moved for exhibition in Johannesburg.

I have noticed from time to time various objects of Jewish interest in some Jewish homes here and one hopes the owners will arrange for the inclusion of these in the exhibition which is to be held this month in the home of Mrs. Justice Greenberg.

Outside of the interest of viewing objects of Jewish art, there is an educational value involved. I trust the present activity is but a preliminary to the holding in Johannesburg at an early date of a larger Jewish exhibition. This could be made sufficiently interesting to attract thousands of people to some central building to view the display.

A Coming Leader ?

THE forthcoming Zionist Congress is likely to be one of the most significant ever held. Many problems of importance will have to be tackled and vital decisions taken. Just as in every other political movement in any other part of the world so also in Zionism, there are really few great personalities to-day, and I wonder in what direction the problem of leadership will be finally disposed of.

An outstanding personality, who is likely to play an important part at the next congress is undoubtedly Dr. Chaim Arlossoroff. He is the political member of the Jewish Agency in Jerusalem and his recent speech on the subject of the proposed Legislative Assembly in Palestine marked him out as a genuine statesman.

Arlossoroff, who is still in the early forties, is the scion of a wealthy Russian-Jewish family. He spent his youth in European universities and is fully equipped for a political and diplomatic career. He knows almost as many languages as Sokolow and speaks them fluently. He achieved his high standing in the labour group of the Zionist Organisation through hard work and superior qualifications of leadership.

It may be remembered that when his name was suggested as the diplomat to act as liaison officer between the Zionist Executive in Palestine and the High Commissioner, it was treated with vehement protestations. What—the conventional labour leader to displace the suave, nicely mannered Colonel Kisch! Arlossoroff, however, appears to be making good.

A Jerusalem friend informs me that if I were to see him making his way to the Government House in Jerusalem, it would be difficult to recognise the impulsive, gesticulating labour leader. His attire is perfect and bears the imprint of a London tailor. His manners, although

Current Communal Comments

By
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virile and determined, are in no way out of tune. It is well known that the present High Commissioner in Palestine thinks the world of Arlossoroff. In him the Zionist movement has undoubtedly found a political representative who combines earnest conviction with skill and ability.

A Boy Baritone.

I trust that the remarkable high baritone voice of exceptional quality and power possessed by Ronald Lurie, a ten year old Jewish boy, will not be allowed to deteriorate through lack of opportunity for training. The young lad lives with his parents in Durban, and his teacher, taking advantage of the recent visit of Dr. William Lloyd, a well-known London specialist and laryngological adviser to Caruso for the last 15 years of his life, and other notable singers, including Taeuber, gained an audition for the young boy. Dr. Lloyd declared that for one so young, the lad had a remarkable voice, which for tonal quality, wonderful timbre and volume was really amazing.

If there is no individual wealthy person in the community in South Africa who would offer to act as patron for young Ronald Lurie in his future studies, then I hope the Jewish community in Durban will take upon itself this happy task.

A Jewish Gandhi.

FINDING little response to his plea to the Jewish students of New York to stage mass demonstrations as an expression of solidarity to their fellow students in Poland, a certain Dr. Arthur Kraus—an instructor in philosophy in New York City College—decided he would not throw up his hands in despairing resignation. He determined that if thousands of Jews would not heed his plea, he would accomplish the same object by sacrificing his own life—if need be—and forthwith proceeded to starve himself. As a result, this gentleman has secured wide newspaper popularity as the "Jewish Gandhi" and has incidentally obtained more publicity on the injustice meted out to the Jewish students in Poland than could have been effected by a hundred protest meetings or street parades.

The resemblance with Gandhi, however, does not go very far. Gandhi's approach to death by starvation brought

the powerful British Government to immediate action, because he controls the thoughts and actions of millions of people. Dr. Kraus's approach to death by voluntary hunger merely caused his removal to a hospital and a subjection to forcible feeding. The Polish Government has shown no evidence of concern in his plight and it is hardly likely that even his death would have created more than a passing regret amongst the Jews themselves.

I am afraid that I have to add here that although no mass demonstrations on the part of Jewish students were ever held in New York, Dr. Kraus finally broke his fast. Much as one can admire the zeal that prompted him to such heights of self-sacrifice, nothing but disapproval can be lodged against the introduction of such sensational methods in the interests of any Jewish cause. Human life is too sacred to be consciously destroyed and to starve oneself unnecessarily before the eyes of the world, may be plucky, but it is hardly a creditable performance.

Gandhi's Jewish Associates.

SPEAKING of Mahatma M. K. Gandhi, the famous Indian leader of the "soul-force" idea in every day life and who has now an international reputation for his political actions and peculiar ascetic doings, it may be of interest to record that he numbers some Jews among his closest friends. Many of my readers must remember Gandhi's existence here during the early days of the present century. In his autobiography which largely through the efforts of the Rev. C. F. Andrews, has received a wide circulation among English readers, he tells us how he came into contact with several Jews in the Transvaal, who were later his most prominent European supporters of his Passive-Resistance campaign here. The chief of the latter group was the solicitor, Mr. H. S. L. Polak, now appearing in Privy Council Court cases in London, and whose name is well-known for his part in bringing about Gandhi's political success, ending with the Smuts-Gandhi Agreement of 1913. Another of them was the Johannesburg architect, Mr. Kallenbach, an enthusiastic disciple of Tolstoyan principles, and owner of "Tolstoy Farm" not far away from the Reef. Gandhi speaks well of them and incidentally, in his religious brochures and thoughts, the Indian Mahatma has been greatly affected by the Old Testament ideals of peace and brotherhood among all men.

"It's Mother."

A STORY is at present in circulation in connection with the action of a Jewish girl pupil of a prominent High School in Johannesburg. It appears that she called up the principal of the school and said: "Rose cannot come to school to-day, she is ill."

"Who is that speaking?" asked the principal.

"This is my mother," was the answer.