

A Lecture on "Hitler's Anti-Semitism"

Address Before Members of Palestine Club

ON Saturday evening, the Palestine Club met at the residence of Mr. and Mrs. J. Kowarsky, in Elm St., Houghton Estate. Mr. I. J. Hersch, the President, was in the chair, and after Mrs. A. I. Miller, the Hon. Secretary, had read the minutes of the previous meeting, called on Advocate G. Saron to give an address on "Hitler's Anti-Semitism."

Mr. Saron, in the course of his address, stated that in order to understand Hitler and his anti-Semitism the whole German Nazi Movement had to be viewed in the light of the post-war conditions in Germany, when Germany was saddled with war guilt, with severe economic sufferings, and subjected to deep humiliation. It was through those aspects that they should view the rabid form of nationalism which was to-day rampant in Germany.

The lecturer emphasised the fact that the Nazi movement grew stronger as Germany's economic position grew worse. It started in 1919 with a very small number of members, and in 1927, it numbered 17,000; in 1929, 120,000; in 1930, 6,400,000 with 137 seats in the Reichstag; in 1932, 11,700,000; and in the 1933 election the Nazis polled 17,260,000 votes. As the world economic depression increased so did Hitlerism increase. The main adherents of the movement have been drawn from the impoverished middle classes in Germany, the small shopkeepers and artisans, the clerical workers, and later the better class peasants. The number of all these was estimated at 45 per cent. of the total German population. Labour in Germany was not Nazi and the Communists still had a very strong hold on Germany. But Hitler had the workers very much in mind, and he has started a new campaign against the Trade Unions and if successful, the workers will also all be made Nazis.

Young Germany.

Young Germany, before the Nazi advent, were without hope, and it was the youth in Germany that had really pushed forward the Nazi movement. Nationalism in Germany was anti-Jewish, and

Socialism there was anti-Marxian, and the Swastika, the emblem of the Nazi, was the emblem of their so-called pure Aryan blood. There was no systematic programme in Hitlerism except the anti-Semitic policy in it. The Nazis had not a clear cut policy at all, except in so far as it affected Jews. The lecturer quoted from "the 25 points" of the official Nazi programme. One of them was that Jewish influence was inimical to Germany, and most of them were aimed at the Jews. Hitlerism followed the old trick of giving the people a symbol that they could hate instead of giving them an ideal to be loved and followed.

Proceeding, the lecturer quoted from the London *Times* and other papers the opinions held by non-Jews with regard to Nazism. Some of the reasons given for anti-Semitism in Germany were professional jealousy of the Jew, Jewish internationalism and the pacifism of the Jew. Another paper gave as a reason the Jewish prosperity in Germany. It was pointed out that any attempt by the Germans to give a reasoned statement of their attitude towards the Jews fell away. The Jews were also hated for taking the leading part in the arts and literature of the country. But eventually, in searching for the true cause of Hitler's anti-Semitism, one had to go back to the view that one could not find any specific reasons at all. Germany had been foremost in putting forward the theory of the superiority of the Nordic Race. The question: "Why was the Jew made the scapegoat?" remained an enigma as it has been for the last few thousand years.

In the discussion that ensued, Messrs. I. Osrin, L. Cohen, A. I. Miller, H. W. Vorenberg and the Chairman took part. Mr. Osrin strongly advocated boycotting German goods.

Mrs. A. I. Miller, on behalf of those present, congratulated the Chairman on his election as President of the Berea Hebrew Congregation. Dr. Birnbaum proposed a vote of thanks to the lecturer, and Mrs. A. I. Miller thanked the host and hostess on behalf of the meeting.

Irma Stern's Paintings

YESTERDAY afternoon at Lezard's Art Gallery in Johannesburg, Lady Dalrymple opened an exhibition of paintings and drawings by Miss Irma Stern. It is six years since Miss Stern had a few of her drawings shown in Johannesburg, but this is the first time that a really extensive exhibition of her work has been seen.

A few weeks ago Miss Stern exhibited her work in Pretoria and the City Council has bought two pictures entitled, "Kalk Bay Fishing Boats" and a "Pondo Girl." These are to be hung in the new City Hall of the capital. Recently the Capetown municipality purchased a large painting by Miss Stern for presentation to South Africa House in London.

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Fine Yiddish Talkie

"HIS WIFE'S LOVER"

ON Wednesday night a crowded house at the City Hall in Johannesburg greeted the first screening in South Africa of the Yiddish talkie entitled, "His Wife's Lover." This is a comedy drama with Ludwig Satz in the principal role, supported by Lusi Levin and Isidor Keshir. Satz is undoubtedly a highly accomplished actor, as was evidenced by his playing of the dual role of the old husband and the young lover. As his wife, Lusi Levin displayed considerable ability.

The plot of the story is excellently enfolded and the photography and the talking extremely well done. Supporting the main film of the evening, were a number of interesting additional items which pleased the large audience. Among these is the fine singing by Cantor Waldman, at the head of a choir, which rendered "Musano Takef."

"His Wife's Lover" is likely to attract large Jewish audiences wherever this talkie is shown.

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Dr. Landau's Play

Arrival of Copies of "Conflicting Worlds."

THE many admirers throughout South Africa of the literary talent of Chief Rabbi, Dr. J. L. Landau will be interested to learn of the arrival here of copies of his English drama of present-day Jewish life, entitled "Conflicting Worlds."

The play was originally written in Hebrew, but has been finely translated by Mr. D. Mierowsky, who also writes an attractive and informative preface. Copies of this modern problem play (which has been delightfully printed by the Bloch Publishing Company of New York) can be obtained from the Central News Agency, price 8s. 6d.

A review of the work will be published in these columns next week.

Mr. and Mrs. Wolf Hillman

Mr. and Mrs. Wolf Hillman, who recently returned from a visit to Palestine, were the guests at a reception given last night at the Langham Hotel. The function was arranged by the Executive of the S.A. Zionist Federation and the Binyan Corporation, Limited. A report will appear in our next issue.

Fine Metro Concert

IN AID OF THE LADIES' BENEVOLENT SOCIETY.

THE concert held on Sunday evening last at the Metro Theatre can be recorded as one of the finest of its kind held in Johannesburg for many a day. There was a feast of genuine music offered to a crowded audience. Not only were those present assisting in a most worthy cause, but the patrons were entertained with a really remarkable programme. To Mrs. M. Kentridge and Mrs. S. Furman, congratulations must be extended for the efficient manner in which the whole function was organised.

The City Orchestra, conducted by Mr. John Connell, rendered the first and last items and Mr. Archie Parkhouse, the Metro organist, demonstrated the varied qualities of his Wurlitzer organ. Cantor S. Backon and Mr. Sidney Schragger rendered two operatic arias with fine effect. To hear the harmonising of these two gifted voices was a rare treat. Perhaps the outstanding individual performance of the evening was that of Miss Lillian Abbott, who showed herself to be not only a fine artiste, but a polished mimic. The audience roared at the quips she made in her characterisation of a Cape coloured girl. But what really impressed, was her rendition of "Yahrzeit Licht." This she sang with an excellent Yiddish intonation and lament. There were a number of other clever artists whose work added to the enjoyment of the evening.

At the conclusion of the concert, Mr. M. Kentridge, M.P., expressed thanks to all concerned in connection with the function and made special reference to the kindness of the Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer Company for allowing the free use of their theatre.