

Genussow

IT WILL be difficult to realise that Manuel Leo Genussow is leaving South Africa. For over thirty years the name of this "soldier" has been associated with almost every angle of Zionist activity. There is hardly a Jewish home in South Africa in which the name of Genussow is not respected. The fire of Herzl still lives in his soul in undying fashion. It might be said of Genussow that though he has been for many years a loyal son of South Africa, his spirit has moved in the land of Zion and his vision has always been focussed upon the hills of Judea.

The sense of personal loss which is being felt by thousands of Zionists throughout the Union will be recompensed somewhat by the fact that he leaves to join his wife and children in Eretz Israel. Although no longer young in years, it may truly be said of Genussow that he goes to Palestine in the spirit of a *chalutz* and that in that country he will no doubt begin a new career in the "front line of trenches."

I do feel that South African Jewry in giving Genussow to Palestine is handing over a rare treasure of gold to our Homeland.

A Confidante

IT MAY not be generally known that the confidante of Mussolini is none other than Signora Sarfatti, a Jewish girl, whose parents are wealthy and distinguished. This lady is the author of "The Life of Benito Mussolini," the only authoritative biography of Italy's Dictator.

When she was in her teens she met Il Duce, who was then a Socialist, and she became a convert to the radical doctrine. She never went to school, but had the greatest teachers, who instructed her privately. Of commanding presence, she has a brilliant mind. She is the editor of a political review and is the woman leader of Fascism. She is married and her husband, who is a lawyer, was a member of the Italian Chamber of Commerce. Margherita elected him. She canvassed the constituency from beginning to end, delivering as many as fifteen speeches a day.

Signora Sarfatti broke with Socialism on the same grounds that induced Mussolini to leave the party. She had two sons, the older of whom, Robert, when only 17 years old, lost his life on the battlefield. She labours unceasingly with Mussolini, and although rarely entering into public controversy is known in Italy as the power behind the throne.

Louise Bramson

I WAS sorry to learn that Dr. Leon Bramson has received news of the passing away of his mother in Kovno. The late Leah Louise Bramson was a remarkable personality of the past generation. She was 88 years old and was the widow of Moishe Bramson, well known in his time as a communal worker and leader of the Lithuanian "Chovevi Zion."

Leah Bramson belonged to a noteworthy Chassidic family and was the

Current Communal Comments

By
'Hamabii'

daughter of Reb Yankel Dokshitsher. She was given a remarkably many-sided (and what was for that period) a fine education. She mastered a number of languages—Hebrew, Yiddish, Russian, German, Polish; she also knew French—and showed particular proficiency in Hebrew—an accomplishment at that time rare among Jewish women. She wrote a pure and lucid Hebrew in the Biblical style.

When in the 'seventies the famous writer, Peretz Smolenskin, came across certain of the late Leah Bramson's Hebrew letters, he was so highly impressed that he published them with an introduction in the "Hashacar." The historian, Professor M. Keyserling, in his well-known book on prominent Jewish women, gives particular attention to those among them who were proficient in Hebrew, and refers especially to Leah Bramson. Her name is likewise mentioned in a similar context in Nehida Remy's book on "The Jewish Woman."

Leah Bramson had the opportunity of meeting many notable personages and she created a domestic environment in which her children developed into important communal workers. Her eldest son, Jacob Bramson, in association with Narciss Levin and Emile Meyerson, founded the "Chovevi Zion" movement in France. Her second son, Leon Bramson, who is now in South Africa, is the leader of the Reconstruction movement. Her third son, Dr. Abraham Bramson, was one of the founders of the "Oze" and was at the head of the Jewish Historico-Ethnographical Society of Russia. All her other children have played worthy parts in communal activities. From the historical point of view, the death of Leah Bramson removes an important link with Jewish life in Kovno of the last century.

Penance

THERE are certain Christian ministers who feel deeply the disgrace to their religion in the present suffering being inflicted on Jews in various parts of the world. In some countries such ministers are calling upon their congregants to do penance and even to fast.

The idea is not a bad one, but I am afraid it will be of very little use. A better idea would be for all churches to resolve henceforth that children should not be taught in Sunday schools that "Jews killed Jesus." The mind of the child is deeply influenced by the seed planted into it. Once a child is told a story of this nature, the Jew becomes a villain and must be hated and feared

throughout life. The average Sunday school teacher does not really intend this result, but the story of the crucifixion leads to the word "Jew" being accepted by millions of children as a term of approbrium.

As the Gentile child grows to manhood, he may have no connection with religion or the church. He may even have gone away from the belief in the deity of Jesus, but the early seed implanted in him of there being something hateful and fearful

about Jews never departs from him. It would be well for the churches to emphasise to children at the Sunday school that Jesus was a Jew and that the crucifixion of his fellow-Jews is still proceeding.

A Million Bottles

THE end of prohibition in America is leading to great activity at the Rishon Le Zion cellars in Palestine. No less than a million bottles of this excellent vintage is on its way to quench the parched throats of the thirsty sons and daughters of Uncle Sam.

It will be recollected that in August, 1932, the whole of Jewish Palestine celebrated the jubilee of Rishon Le Zion, thousands of people going there from all over the country to take part in the celebrations. There was an exhibition held showing the development of the colony in the fifty years of its existence. All the speakers paid tributes to the founder of the colony, Baron Edmond de Rothschild, and the great gathering sent a message of gratitude to him and to his son.

Rishon Le Zion is the first of the Jewish agricultural colonies in Palestine. It was founded in 1882 by a handful of immigrants from Russia, and soon after Baron de Rothschild took them under his charge. It has an enormous wine-cellar, with the most up-to-date machinery and presses, and its wines and brandies are famous.

Schlemiel.

A STURDY young *schnorrer* came begging to Baron Rothschild.

"How is it," asked the latter, "that a healthy young man has to beg? Is there nothing else you can do?"

"I can't do anything else," was the reply, "I am a *schlemiel*."

"There must be something you can do."

"I can play music."

"What instrument?"

"The trombone," replied the *schnorrer*. The baron rang a bell and a servant appeared.

"James," he said, "fetch me my trombone."

"You see," said the *schnorrer*, when the servant had disappeared. "I told you I was a *schlemiel*. I said I can play the trombone and you just happen to have one."

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