

AMALGAMATION OF JEWISH YOUTH ACTIVITY

(Concluded from previous page.)

efforts on behalf of Young Israel in the Province. Both suitably responded.

At 4.30 the final of the oratorical contest for the Sapire shield was held. The competing societies were Eastern Districts (Messrs. S. and L. Oschry), Germiston Young Israel (Messrs. D. Dunsky and A. Colman) and Pietersburg Young Israel Society (Messrs. S. Hirschmann and G. Susser). The judges were Miss Rose M. Franks and Messrs. D. M. Schlosberg and S. E. Levine, and Mr. A. Radus, the convener of the oratorical contest, presided. The result was a tie between Germiston and Easterns, and Mr. D. Dunsky was declared the best speaker. The chairman proposed a hearty vote of thanks to the judges.

Conference thereupon concluded with the singing of "Hatikvah."

At the Young Isreal Conference

IMPRESSIONS OF AN OUTSIDE OBSERVER

IT has been said that the Jewish genius finds expression in the spoken word; that the prophets, in their fiery, uncompromising eloquence, were characteristic of the essence of Judaism. It was such a fiery, uncompromising eloquence (of necessity on a much lesser scale, for our local young Jews are no prophets) which informed the various speakers at the recent Transvaal Young Israel Conference. Dogmatism is the venial fault of youth; when it is allied to intelligence, sincerity and a real command of words, it must prove, at the least, an inspiration and a fair hope for the future of Judaism.

These young people feel Zionism, live Zionism. To them it is not a detached, emasculated interest in the "Jewish Problem." It is the present and vital focus of their lives. Their attitude was, to my mind, best formulated when, during an unavoidable interval, they burst spontaneously into Hebrew song. At first a small group diffidently started a chorus. Within a few minutes, the entire hall was filled with the sound of healthy, exuberant voices singing songs which they loved. It was an effect entirely unpremeditated, and for that reason the more moving and convincing. It was the ardent cry of a creative, fighting Israel; and incidentally it provided an excellent model for adults attempting to vocalise the Hatikvah.

These young Jews are not, however, seeking fulfilment of their national heritage alone. They are not merely practical patriots, who desire to secure and to hold their promised land. They are, most of them, Jews who have a loving comprehension of what their religious tradition means. Never were they more moved than when called upon to make the maintenance of their "religious heritage" one of their main platforms; never was such fervour displayed as when the chosen speakers of the somewhat bombastically named oratorical contest declaimed on the Synagogue and the Yeshiva. And at the end of the day's proceedings, these assertive, pugnacious Hebrews, these fighting legionaries of Israel gathered quietly together and *daavened Mincha*.

I came to the conference as a species of "gate crasher." I anticipated amusement and, perhaps, boredom. Instead I found that my attention was held and my wondering admiration aroused.

I seemed to see, as in a pleasing vision, the traditional, acquisitively formed nose of the Jew lose its significance as a characteristic feature; I saw in its place a chin, strong and to be respected. I saw, indeed, a Jew who would not plead for justice, but who would claim what was his as of right.

I left with the knowledge that if this small detachment of Jewish youth, removed so far from the goal of its ambitions, was capable of so profound a love of Jewish traditions, and of so definite an intention to pluck the fullest flower of its heritage, then there could be no fear that the structure rising upon the foundation of Zionism would not reach to immortality.

R.M.F.

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TOM WALLS AT THE COLOSSEUM.

England's great comedian, Tom Walls, is appearing in a refreshingly humorous film production at the Colosseum this week, entitled "The Blarney Stone." The story tells of a happy-go-lucky Irishman—always in trouble and in and out of love. Tom Walls has a great part.

The splendid Colosseum Orchestra and a Micky Mouse film are further additions to an attractive programme.

WELDON'S LADIES' JOURNAL.

The January number of the Weldon's Ladies' Journal is a useful issue containing interesting articles, and special contributions by well known writers. A free pattern of an evening dress and coatee, also a gratis transfer of love birds is given away with this issue. Copies can be obtained from the Central News Agency and its branches. Price 10d. per copy.

Obituary

Mr. S. SONNENFELD (Johannesburg).

The death occurred on Tuesday of last week of a well-known Johannesburg pioneer in the person of Mr. Solomon Sonnenfeld. He was seventy-nine years old and celebrated his Golden Wedding in November.

Mr. Sonnenfeld arrived in South Africa in 1873 and joined his brother in business in Capetown. In 1883 he married Miss Hanchen Lipinsky, in Hull, Yorkshire, and brought his bride out to South Africa. They trekked to Kimberley in the 'eighties and later to Barberton, and arrived on the Rand in 1887.

Since then they have lived in Johannesburg. Mr. Sonnenfeld assisted in forming the Witwatersrand Old Hebrew Congregation in 1887. He was one of the first members of the Stock Exchange and a past president of the Jewish Helping Hand and Burial Society.

He is survived by his wife, a son, Mr. Harry Sonnenfeld, and two daughters, Mrs. Louis Stein and Mrs. Philip Morris.

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