

Among the German Refugees

IT is Monday evening in Johannesburg, and we are climbing the stairs of the Jewish Guild, for we are going to stay for a while with a few of the refugees from Germany, who have lately arrived here. The occasion is a social organised to make them feel "at home" in a new world whither Hitlerist persecution has led them.

The guests and their hosts are in the hall ranged cabaret-fashion against the walls. We go from table to table, introducing ourselves to the new-comers, chatting with them, questioning, touching, perhaps, on memories filled with pain. They have suffered much, these sad-eyed Jews who have escaped from the holocaust of modern Germany. Here, for instance, is a doctor who comes from Berlin—a venerable man who jests with us over the ironic turn of his fortunes. In Berlin he was rich; he had a large practice, his patients came from the leading families of the city. But here in Johannesburg he is little known, and he struggles along, eking out meanwhile only the bare necessities to sustain life.

And here is a man who, in Hamburg, had a well-paid position on the staff of a large commercial house. He has been here only a few weeks, and is searching for employment. The Nazis robbed him of his work in Germany, disqualifying him on the score of his race. Sitting down at the table with him, we mention Feuchtwanger's new book, "The Oppermanns," which he has read in the German original, and he tells us of just such scenes as Feuchtwanger has described. "The vivid story of the great writer is accurate," he says. "Even in the minute details Feuchtwanger has not exaggerated. Affairs are, in the Germany of to-day, in just such a state as the book describes."

Referring to the Jewish Guild, he adds: "It is so very touching—the way in which the Guild is trying to help us. They have made us honorary members here, they have placed at our disposal every facility of their organisation. They have even done more than this; they have given us the use of a special office, through which we get into touch with possible sources of employment."

Gratitude for all the Guild has done is everywhere shown by these Jews who now, many of them advanced in years, have to begin their lives anew.

There are, of course, many young people, too, eager to "make good" in a new land.

Vivid impressions are stamped indelibly on our minds as we speak to these people who have crossed the angry seas of racial oppression to this haven, where they might take heart and rest. Storm-tossed and buffeted by the cruel billows of hatred, they have been driven from the safety of their own waters to the four corners of the earth. Throughout the world, these Jews have been dispersed, puppets moving to the music of a sarcastic and inexorable fate. Let us hope that where they have gone—to the countries of Europe, to England and America and Palestine, and to this, our own land—they will find at last a haven of refuge and the young shoots of a new life.

E. B.

Rabbi Hirsch on "The Jews"

Address to Pretoria Rotarians.

THE alleged antagonism of the Semitic spirit of the Jew to Christian civilisation is imaginary and fantastic; it is a figment of Mr. Belloc's brain."

The above remarks were uttered by Rabbi W. Hirsch, B.A., in the course of an address on "The Jews," at the Pretoria Rotary Club luncheon on the 1st inst.

Rabbi Hirsch asked what truth there was in the assertion that the Jews are of an inferior race to the Aryans.

"Let us not forget," he continued, "that the Cross was carried to the Gentiles on Jewish shoulders, and the blood which stained it was Jewish blood. The Apostles who founded the Church were Jews and its first members were recruited in the synagogue.

"The New Testament is rooted in the Old as a tree is rooted in the soil, and the figures who move in it and teach the lessons of the suffering servant were not Aryans but Jews. For 2,000 years the souls of Christendom were kept alive by the ideal bequeathed to them by the sons of Judah, yet the Jews are said to be incapable of idealism!

"There was a revolution in Russia in 1917 and one in Germany in 1918. As there are Jews in both countries, the blame naturally goes to the Jews. But there were recently revolutions also in Portugal and Spain, where Jews have not lived since the expulsion in 1492.

"What then has happened to the Aryans? Have they all become so docile and submissive, yielding to every form of government till the Jews come and tell them to revolt? The suggestion is more insulting to the Aryan than to the Jew.

"The truth of the matter is that the Jew, like the non-Jew, neither more nor less, is affected by the modern spirit, with its temper of interrogation and challenge, and opposition to inequalities. To hold the Jews responsible for this spirit would be to credit them with an importance which the Jews themselves would not dare to claim."

EASTERN DISTRICTS JUDEAN SOCIETY.

The above Society is holding its monthly Club Night on Saturday evening, the 10th inst., at the Eastern Districts Communal Hall, cor. Marshall and Browning Streets, Jeppe, at 8 p.m. Several attractive dances have been arranged, as well as a free novelty dance, and handsome prizes will be awarded. An enjoyable evening is assured to all who attend.

On Sunday evening, the 11th inst., Adv. Gustav Saron will deliver a lecture to members of the above Society at the Communal Hall. The subject of Adv. Saron's address will be "Achad Ha'am," and all interested are cordially invited to be present.

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Women's World Day of Prayer

Services in Yeoville.

ON February 16, special services, organised by women, will take place throughout the world. This year, the day will be devoted to prayers for peace. A special service will be held on Friday evening, February 16, at the Yeoville Synagogue, at 6 p.m. The sermon will be delivered by the Rev. A. T. Shrook. All Jewish women who are interested are kindly invited to attend.

"FAREWELL TO ARMS" AT THE COLOSSEUM.

Ernest Hemingway's powerful novel "Farewell to Arms," has been produced on a lavish scale and is the attraction at the Colosseum Theatre this week. The leading roles are portrayed by two well-known stars in filmdom in the persons of Helen Hayes and Gary Cooper. No expense has been spared in the production of this fine romance, which is having the effect of moving deeply all Colosseum patrons. The Symphony Orchestra continues to attract music lovers, who are pleased with the variety of the programme supplied.

DECLASSED JEWS IN RUSSIA.

An appeal has been made by the Chief Rabbi, Dr. J. L. Landau, and Rabbi I. Kossowski, for assistance on the part of Jews here to Rabbi I. Solowetzick in connection with assisting the declasped Jews of Russia. Recently the Rabbi came here for the purpose of the mission to assist a certain section of Russian Jews, who were formerly business men, and some who had acted in spiritual capacities as rabbis, cantors and schochetim.

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