

## Letters to the Editor

### The "Herzlia" in Johannesburg

From Mr. S. SAPIRE (Yeoville).

To the Editor of "The Zionist Record."

Sir.—I share the disappointment of your correspondent, Mr. A. Karr, at the disappearance of the "Herzlia." I do not think it would serve any useful purpose to go into the reasons for this state of affairs, but lack of support from the general body of young Zionists was by no means the least contributing factor. After having held several meetings of the organisation at the expense of private members of the committee without any members being enrolled, the organisers felt that there was no room for such an organisation.

A few of us, however, hold a different view, and are prepared to give the organisation another test. A small committee has been formed and your correspondent and any one else interested is invited to send his or her name in to me (P.O. Box 36, Johannesburg), when a meeting will be called and full arrangements made.

A special appeal is made to all those who have been members of the Youth Organisation, and who are now too old for activities in that sphere, to join the new organisation in order to continue and intensify their work for Zionism.

I feel confident that it will be possible to have a very strong organisation in Johannesburg, composed of that class of young Jew upon whom in other countries the major part of Zionist work devolves.

Yours, etc.,

S. Sapiro.

### Hebrew in Matric

From Mr. B. Faerber (Willowdene).

To the Editor of "The Zionist Record."

Sir.—It is regrettable that so few Jewish children avail themselves of the opportunity afforded by the educational authorities in South Africa of taking Hebrew as a subject for the Matriculation examination. At a time such as this, when Jews are being persecuted the world over, we should expect all to realise the significance of their religion and their nationality, and to teach their children or have them taught their own language, in preference to Greek and numerous other foreign languages to which they devote all their energies.

Many allege that these languages are of commercial importance, but I fail to understand how Greek can be of any more use than Hebrew. In view of the fact that nationality is such a determining factor now-a-days, Jewish boys and girls should pursue the study of their own beautiful language and follow up their ancient traditions with more zeal.

Girls, also, should not be excluded from receiving instruction in Hebrew, as they in later years are destined to become mothers of Hebrew children.

Yours, etc.,

B. Faerber.

### Cantors in South Africa

From Rev. P. ROSENBERG (Capetown).

To the Editor of the "Zionist Record."

Sir.—I have read with much interest the various comments in your columns regarding "Cantors as Artists."

I have recently returned from London, where I was a student of Jew's college for some few years. Having come into contact with great scholars and exponents of Jewish thought, having listened to many *Chazonim* of the most important synagogues in London, I have learnt to regard this so-called "acting at the omed" as a farce—nay, truly no better than a cinema performance.

It has been said that every community gets the minister (or let us say, the *Chazan*) it deserves. As long as South African congregations demand "actors," rather than men of "the Book," then they will never be able to give their children a lasting and imperishable memory of divine service.

Should not a sweet and devout intonation of prayers, offered by a man of learning, be sought rather than a boisterous and noisy rendering which jars and leaves no lingering afterthought of God?

South Africa, bring to your Omeds men of morals, of implicit faith—those who can be models for your children and who can, by carrying out their services in a traditional manner, bring back memories of the past, a love for our ancestors and all that they mean to us. Let our *Chazonim* be "God's representatives" in the true sense of the word, and not as South Africa regards them, merely "ships that pass."

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Apart from this, it is time that South African organisations thought fit to protect our *Chazonim* in a more practical manner. There are cases here where *Chazonim* have been employed for many years, and then owing to some whim on the part of the "ruling powers" the *Chazan* fails to sing like a gramophone record and is very kindly asked to abandon his post, regardless of his circumstances and of his future and with no thought of his family. There are quite a few such glaring instances happening before our very eyes! Small wonder then that the *Chazan*, during his term of office, fearing such occurrences, must resort to concerts and business matters in order to put away for a rainy day.

If you want your *chazonim* to be *chazonim*, and your ministers to be ideal ministers, employ them for *life*, at a living wage, and give them a pension when they reach the age of 60. Then their energies will be all for you, because their future will be assured.

This is the method adopted by the United Synagogue of London, and let us hope that the time is not distant when these humane and necessary rules will be adopted in South Africa.

Yours, etc.,

Philip Rosenberg.

### Herr Heinrich Stahl

From Mr. F. MARCUSE (Reitz).

To the Editor of "The Zionist Record."

Sir.—Excuse me for drawing your attention to an error which often appears in your esteemed paper, viz., the name of the President of the Berlin Hebrew Congregation is Herr Heinrich Stahl, not Stern.

I hope you do not mind my correcting you, but this gentleman happens to be indirectly related to me, and I thought it just as well to draw your attention to the error, seeing his name is mentioned so frequently lately.

Yours, etc.,

F. Marcuse.

### "HECHALUTZ" ORGANISATION.

Under the auspices of the Hechalutz a farewell party will be given in honour of Mr. D. Josephson, who is departing for Palestine. The function will take place on Saturday, the 24th inst., at the residence of Mr. D. Fine (27 Upper Page Street, Doornfontein), at 8 p.m.

Brewed Right—Always Bright—CHANDLER'S LAGER