

McCormack

I WAS one of those who sat in the magnificent Colosseum theatre on Sunday evening last and found myself enraptured by the glorious voice of John McCormack, the celebrated Irish tenor.

It may not be generally known that the genius of this exquisite singer was first discovered by two Jewish ladies. Mrs. Claude Beddington, who whilst staying with her parents at Ballycumber, King's County, in Ireland, in the summer of 1905, was informed by her mother that the foreman of the Athlone Woollen Mills had a son with a lovely tenor voice. Her mother said: "Will you hear the boy sing and then we will see what can be done for him?" Eventually young McCormack came to Mrs. Beddington's house for an audition. The two ladies were thrilled with the voice they heard and realised at once the value of its natural Italian colouring and true tenor quality.

It was largely through the efforts of Mrs. Beddington and her mother that McCormack was able to go to Milan to study with the great Sabatini. McCormack is ever grateful to these two Jewish ladies for their early recognition of the great treasure with which nature had endowed him.

"One Hundred"

AN interesting event will shortly take place in Johannesburg. I refer to the hundredth meeting of the Palestine Club. Some ten years ago Dr. Immanuel Olsvanger, the gifted orator, set out to establish a number of informal cultural groups. Many of these lived for a period and gradually died, but the Palestine Club has remained an active group during all this period. Much credit for this success is due to the valiant work carried out in an unostentatious manner by a few of the original members of the club.

The idea of meeting once a month to listen to a cultural address in intimate home surroundings is an excellent one. I have keenly enjoyed attending many of the gatherings and have often wondered why other groups have not been kept alive in a similar manner.

"A Dirty Innuendo"

THOSE of us who have learned to admire the courage of the President of the Irish Free State — Eamon de Valera — have been painfully affected by the remark attributed to him in a recent cable despatch. Answering the attack levelled against him by his political opponents, the head of the Irish Free State is alleged to have stigmatised the charge that he was of Jewish origin as "a dirty innuendo."

I do not think that many of us are interested as to whether the President of the Irish Free State has, or has not, Jewish blood coursing through his veins. If he has, then he is not the first among the Christians of the world elevated to high office to evade Jewish

Current Communal Comments

By
"Hamabit"

blood relationship. Let us take it for granted, however, that Mr. de Valera is correct when he denies such relationship. To associate such denial, however, with the declaration that it constitutes "a dirty innuendo" is to reflect a frame of mind ill-becoming an idealist and a reputed champion of freedom and democracy.

I am sure there are many Jewish friends of the Irish cause, who could inform Mr. de Valera that there is nothing "dirty" in the "innuendo" of being a Jew or of Jewish origin, except in the minds of racial and religious bigots. I feel that Mr. de Valera, as an enlightened statesman, should have known this and that he owes some explanation not only to the Jews of Ireland, but to the Jews of the world.

Ignorance

A REMARKABLE utterance was made the other day in New York by Mr. Felix Warburg, the great philanthropist. He declared that Jewish young men were trying to take positions in life of the easiest kind and were not working hard at manual labour nor associating themselves with pioneer activities. It seems strange that this Jewish leader should have picked out the moth-eaten argument of the anti-Semites. "The Jews like easy life!" "The Jews cannot do pioneer work!" "The Jew is foreign to agriculture!"

Those people who might sympathise with such distorted philosophy must remember that the Jew is the victim of an ugly heritage, which for centuries has not enabled him to identify himself with the vocations which Mr. Warburg mentions. The Jew had no other choice but to devote himself to specified vocations.

Now he can no longer be stigmatised as a sluggard in manual labour. What of his work in the ICA colonies, on the Canadian prairies, in the semi-tropics of Texas and in the Argentine? Has Mr. Warburg forgotten the greatest pioneering movement of the age — the transforming of deserts and barren soil in Palestine into beautiful colonies? As for industry and labour, there is a vast army of Jewish men and women labouring in many countries under the most trying conditions. It is well known that the clothing industry in America and many other countries has been built up by the sweat of Jewish labour. It is recognised also that the Jews have contributed to the textile industry of Poland. Given the opportunity, Jews become excellent workmen and labourers.

To say, therefore, that the Jew is a stranger to manual labour is not only a groundless indictment, but is an indication of ignorance of Jewish life.

A Queen

IT is not generally known that the Ambassador of Belgium to the United States of America is a Jew by the name of Monsieur S. Paul May.

Incidentally, there is a story prevalent that the new Queen of Belgium is of remote Jewish descent. This royal lady is a daughter of the Swedish monarch, and the Swedish royal family is descended from Bernadotte, one of Napoleon's marshals who was said to have been a Jew.

The story is told that some years ago a Jewish friend of the Swedish king got into conversation with him about the Jews.

"Why is Your Majesty so greatly interested?" was asked of him.

The reply came, "I am a descendant of Bernadotte."

Consistency

NOTHING but a pure and unadulterated Aryanism appears to entitle one to be a part of the New Germany. In order to effect the "happy" result, every vestige of non-Aryanism must be rooted out.

It is for this purpose that the Minister of Agriculture has proscribed the use of Professor Franz Friedman's famous vaccine for immunising cattle against tuberculosis. Dr. Friedman was a Jew, and a prohibition must be placed upon anything that was produced by a Jewish brain. We will therefore soon see in Germany a new breed of cow, the pure and pedigreed Aryan cow.

The consistency of Nazism has, however, been somewhat marred by the National Mourning Day, which was recently proclaimed. Goose-stepping regiments commemorated the occasion by designating the 2,000,000 German dead as national heroes. Inasmuch as many Jews were among the fallen, they, too, would come under the category of national heroes.

The Nazis indeed have a peculiar sense of decency if the dead Jews have become national heroes, while their living kin are not even allowed to breathe freely.

Documentary Evidence.

DURING the height of the spy panic in London in war time, a middle-aged and inoffensive-looking Jewish tourist from New York was dragged from his hotel room and brought before the magistrate on a charge of being a German spy.

"But I am an American citizen!" cried the outraged defendant.

For answer his captors mutely pointed to the hotel register, where their victim had signed his name.

It read: "V. Gates."