

**ART AND MUSIC IN JOHANNESBURG**

**"THE FROG" AT THE EMPIRE**

THE spirit of Edgar Wallace, king of thriller writers, still lives, and the admiring circle of his public is to-day as large as ever. This was clearly evidenced by the large audiences at all performances of "The Frog" at the new Empire Theatre, Johannesburg, during the week.

The drama has been adapted by Ian Hay from Edgar Wallace's novel "The Fellowship of a Frog." The adapter has done his work well. The play is true to the book and almost all the dialogue is taken directly from the book. The play, like all Edgar Wallace wrote, is superb "stage," and it was excellently portrayed by the London West End Company now touring South Africa.

Eliot Makeham, who played Detective Sergeant Elk — beloved figure of Edgar Wallace admirers — gave what was probably the best performance of the evening, sending the audience into roars of laughter with his droll comments on conditions and events, and revealing himself as the chief brain behind the tracking down of the Frog.

Gyles Isham shone equally as well as Inspector Richard Gordon. He was ably supported by Judy Kelly, the feminine lead, who portrayed Stella Bennett. The part of Philo Johnson fell to John Counsell, who handled it with the deft characterisation it demands. Pamela Brown was well cast in the role of Lola Bassano, and Henry Crocker gave a fine character performance in the part of old Ezra Maitland. Harry Clifford made a most convincing Joshua Broad.

A word should be said about the technical side of the production. The scenes — of which there are no less than 17—were excellent, and the lighting effects were particularly good. Swift changes were made by means of the new revolving stage, the only one of its kind, I believe, in South Africa.

The thanks of the entire theatre-loving public are undoubtedly due to African Consolidated Theatres for bringing such fine "theatre" to South Africa. E.B.

**DELIGHTFUL S.A.B.C. CONCERT**

AN appreciative audience attending the 45th symphony concert by the S.A. Broadcasting Corporation's symphony orchestra, at the Jewish Guild Hall last week, proved that Johannesburg still enjoys classical music.

The orchestra, under the conductorship of Mr. J. Schulman, is a fine musical combination, and by its tone and balanced precision, achieved remarkable results. There was a certainty throughout the performance, and the smoothness of the concerted effort deserved the resounding applause that the audience was not slow in giving.

The programme opened with the overture "Lustpiel," by Eric Westberg. This beautiful piece of work is fashioned with a surety of touch and deftness of orchestration. Mr. Schulman's skillful interpretation of the overture was most enjoyable.

The light, tripping dance tune which is the first theme of the Swedish rhapsody, "Midsommarvaka," Op. 10

by Hugo Alfen, next delighted the audience. In this presentation the harp was freely employed on reaching the climax.

Symphony No. 2 in F Major (Kurt Atterburg) was well presented. The graceful diatonic melody of the first subject must have been easily carried in the memory by all those who could appreciate dignified music. J.M.B.

**SYMPHONY SOCIETY'S FINE CONCERT**

JOHANNESBURG music lovers crowded the Wanderers Hall on Thursday last to attend the first of the new season's concerts of the Johannesburg Symphony Society. The orchestra, augmented by 15 new players, and under the able leadership of Joseph Traunek, opened its 1937 season with an outstanding programme.

The concert began with Bach's Brandenburg Concerto No. 3 in G, and continued with Mozart's Haffner Serenade. The wind section was rather weak, and this was inclined to make these numbers sound a trifle heavy. But the strings more than counterbalanced this defect, and gave a performance worthy in every respect of these masters. The third movement especially of the Mozart had all the exacting delicacy and control so essential to acquire that quality of fastidiousness, a characteristic of the true classical school.

But it was in the rendering of Beethoven's Fifth Symphony that Mr. Traunek best exhibited his accomplished musicianship. The grandeur of the work was brought out to utmost advantage. The orchestra was sensitive to his every command, and from tempestuous passion to deepest tenderness the full significance of the music was communicated to the enthusiastic audience.

Mr. Traunek and the orchestra are indeed to be commended for reaching so high a standard. The prolonged applause that greeted the end of each number was in itself a sign of the success of the society's efforts. Beginning in such an auspicious manner, musical Johannesburg can look forward eagerly to future concerts by this orchestra. H.F.

**Germiston**

An interesting and highly successful lecture was arranged by the Germiston Women's Zionist League at the residence of Mrs. I. Dunsky on the 27 ult. The speaker was Dr. D. Katzen who delivered a most eloquent address on the claim which the Jews had to Palestine from the historical, economic and humanitarian points of view.

The proceedings opened with a presentation made by Mrs. D. Goldblatt on behalf of the Germiston Women's Zionist League and the Germiston District Women's Benevolent Society to Mrs. Z. Hareven on the occasion of her visit to Eretz Israel. Mrs. Hareven has rendered excellent service to the Zionist cause in Germiston.

Mrs. Hareven suitably responded.

Miss Sonnenberg delighted those present with her recitation. Thereafter Mrs. N. Ginsberg proposed a vote of thanks to the speaker and artist, and Mrs. Swon thanked the hostess.

**JOHANNESBURG WOMEN'S ZIONIST LEAGUE**

Kensington and Belgravia Branches.

Under the joint auspices of these branches a literary afternoon will be held at the residence of Mrs. M. Sandler, 63 Op de Bergen Street, Kensington, on Wednesday, the 17th inst. at 3 p.m.

Mr. Ehud Ben Yehuda will be the speaker and he has chosen for his subject the romantic theme of "Two Jewish Heroines — Sarah and Deborah." This function is taking place during the Hebrew month, and Mr. I. Dunsky will also address the gathering on an appropriate theme.

With two such outstanding lecturers there should be a very large audience and every one interested is assured of a hearty welcome.

**Hillbrow Branch.**—The monthly meeting of the branch is due to take place at the residence of Mrs. Balkin, 41 Harrow Road, Berea, on the 16th inst., at 3 p.m.

Mr. A. Abrahamson, the speaker, is also to show a number of interesting lantern slides on the life of the working women in Eretz Israel. Mrs. Melzer will submit the news bulletin.

**A New Hebrew School**

Readers will observe from an announcement which appears elsewhere in this issue that Mr. M. Lazar, the well-known Hebrew teacher, has opened a private Hebrew school in Yeoville. The school will be known as the "Tarbut Hebrew School," and complete Hebrew tuition will be offered.

**GERMISTON H.O.**

The annual general meeting Max Langermann Lodge, Order of David, was held at the gogue class rooms, Germiston 28th ult. The following officers were elected: President, J. L. vice-president, N. Oerlow; T. Saffer; secretary, A. S. B. Master of Ceremonies, K. Inner Guardian, H. Sher; d the S.A. Jewish Board of J. L. Sacke; Grand Lodge gates: A. Weiss, J. G. J. Liknaitzsky and K. trustees: J. Lever, A. Zion Hersch. Management Comm Kaplan, A. Weiss, M. Janet, even, J. Olswang, S. Dorfan, J. Goldstein, H. Neifeld Weiner.

The retiring president, Bro. even, expressed his gratified the loyal support extended to the brethren during his term and hoped that the incoming would be equally supported their term of office. During ceedings Bro. Rev. I. Goss as the members and outlined the value of the work carried on Order and urged the necessity tending the cultural progress brotherhood.

The meeting closed with a vote of thanks to the retiring dent, officers and committee work carried out during the p

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