

Bialik, the Modern Jewish Prophet.

Mr. SAMUEL LECTURES TO THE YOUTH.

A description of Bialik as a character who had filled a legendary role in Jewish history and for that reason had gained a strange and almost mystic reputation, was given by Mr. Maurice Samuel in a lecture on Wednesday night under the auspices of the Youth organisations. It was this legendary role which was not created for him but into which he slipped, said Mr. Samuel, that distinguished Bialik from the other modern Hebrew poets, such as Tchernichowsky and Shneur, who were quite possibly greater poets than he in certain respects.

From the literary point of view the Jews were living in difficult times to-day. Jewish life lacked homogeneity. Its motions were so rapid, its varieties so bewildering and its tendencies so divergent that it was seemingly impossible for a writer to grasp the totality of the spirit of the Jewish people. But Bialik had grasped it.

He loved the Jewish people in an intimate, friendly and *hamish* way. But he also had the advantage of hating the Jews intensely—hating, in fact, the very things about them that he loved. Out of this duality of love and hate there sprang a synthesis, a desire to see them move forward, and he rose above both his love and his hate when he made war on God. This was most apparent in his poems, "The Dead of the Wilderness" and "The City of Slaughter."

Bialik's affection for Jewish life was responsible for some of the most charming intimate lyrics in the Hebrew language, such as "The Songs of the People" and "Lazar Mendel Hamelamed." He knew Jewish life of the exile and particularly of the East European village, intimately; it was part and parcel of him, yet it also awakened his first revolt. He rebelled against the lying, the indecent, schnorring element in the Jews, and he said as bitter things about the Jews as any prophet of the past. But he spoke as one of and with the people, and one felt that when he thrashed them with the flail of his words, he thrashed himself at the same time. His overwhelming love for his people breathed through it all.

Another aspect of Bialik's spirit of revolt was that he would not permit destiny, as far as the Jews were concerned, rule simply as ordained. For centuries the Jews had accepted the exile as their destiny believing that eventually a Messiah would be sent by God. But the revolt which stormed through Bialik, refusing to wait for a Messiah, straining to break the exile and to return to Palestine at once, lifted him above the singers of small Jewish joys and sorrows and put him among the great liberators of the world. This revolt was most marked in his poem, "The Dead of the Wilderness."

There were other Hebrew poets who also revolted, but their revolt was not significant for Jewry as was Bialik's. Tchernichowsky's revolt, for instance, was actually more of a lament than a revolt, whilst the revolt of Shneur was too intellectualised—he was too conscious of being a poet. Bialik, on the other hand, was not conscious of being a poet at all. He wrote because he could not help it. He never wrote for the sake

(Continued on Second Column.)

Improvement in Cape Tramways Finances.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT AT ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF SHAREHOLDERS.

"While an improvement in general business conditions has been slow during the year," said the Chairman of the Cape Electric Tramways, Ltd., in his speech delivered to the Annual General Meeting of shareholders on Wednesday morning, "during the past five months there have been distinct indications of a gradual return to better times at both Cape Town and Port Elizabeth. Mainly owing to the ten days' stoppage through the strike in December last, the total revenue for the period under review was slightly less than for the previous twelve months. The net results, however, show an improvement over the earlier period. This has been brought about by the exercise wherever possible of economies in the working of the business. Since the close of the financial year, there has been an improvement in the monthly profits as compared with the corresponding months of the previous year.

"The expenditure on track maintenance required to keep the Cape Town Company's tracks in proper condition, has increased and will continue to increase owing to the fact that some of the tracks, particularly on the Gardens and branch lines, have reached the stage when they should be re-laid.

"While provision for this expenditure has been made in the annual accounts, your Board hesitates to spend large sums of money on track renewals when there is a prospect of negotiations with the City Council for the ultimate conversion of the Gardens and other branch tramway routes to trackless trams being brought to a satisfactory issue.

"The adoption of this new system, however, will necessitate the provision of new funds and naturally your Board does not feel justified in writing off a portion of the Company's capital invested in tramways and putting fresh capital into trackless trams unless arrangements are made with the Council whereby an adequate return on such additional capital investment can reasonably be assured."

The Directors in their report recommend the payment of a dividend of 2½ per cent. in South African currency. They also refer to the sale of certain of its investments during the earlier part of the year. "I may add," said the Chairman, "that at the time this was done, the market conditions were very unfavourable to borrowers—a condition of affairs which is totally different to-day.

"At the present time it is practically impossible to find any profitable avenue for the investment of our accumulated funds."

(Continued from First Column.)

of writing. There was a sort of compulsion from above which forced him to write. That explained why he had not written during the last few years. He did not want to. He had had something to say and he had said it. It did not matter to him whether the people revolted or not—he had played the part of the prophet, he would not play the part of the people too. To-day he was absorbed in Herculean labours. He was doing a great deal of scholarship and also publishing work. His poems had been the last and not the first thing with him.

Jewish Graduands. UNIVERSITY GRADUATION CEREMONY.

Degrees were conferred on the following Jewish students at the University Graduation Ceremony yesterday morning:—

PH.D.—I. Schrire (subject of thesis: The influence of the Gonads on protein metabolism).

H. A. Shapiro (subject of thesis: Studies in the calcium metabolism of the Amphibian).

M.A., English.—Miss P. Salber (1st class Honours). History: E. M. Berman (1st class Honours).

M.Sc., Pure Science:—Zoology: S. S. Alexander (1st class Honours).

B.A.—J. Bobrov, Miss S. Cohen, Miss M. Ettman, M. Kerbel, S. M. Levin, Miss C. Margolis, L. B. Mervis, Miss A. B. Sutton, M. Wolozinsky and D. Zagier.

B.Sc. (Pure Science).—B. D. Kark (distinction in Pure Mathematics), Miss S. A. Newmark, F. Sebba (distinction in Chemistry).

B.Sc. in Engineering: Civil: S. P. Cohen.

Electrical: L. Diskin, N. Jacobson, R. A. Nell.

B.Sc. in Applied and Industrial Chemistry—A. Orlek, S. Rabinowitz, E. C. Shiffman.

LL.B.—E. Chanock, B. Levenstein, A. J. Volks, P. Yutar.

M.B., CH.B.—V. L. Asherson, Miss S. C. Gavron, J. Heselson (distinction in final professional examination and degree with Honours). E. N. Kaminsky, P. Klein, W. Klein, J. Kleinman, S. R. Levy, A. Mankowitz, J. W. S. Millar, J. Rubin, I. Sagor, M. Swabsky.

B. Com.—B. L. Bergman, Max Cohen, J. Levien.

Certificates and Diplomas.

Secondary Teacher's Certificate:

Afrikaans and English media.—Miss S. Cohen, I. J. B. Liebenberg.

Teachers' Licentiate in Music:

Piano.—Miss E. Aronowitz, Miss R. Nochomowitz.

Diploma in Speech Training: Miss C. Harris, Miss S. Sadman.

Class Medals.

Applied Mathematics: Course I: S. Wyner.

Chemistry: Course I A and I B.—R. Yamey.

Constitutional History and Law: Course

II: Miss A. B. Sutton. Course I: Miss C. Margolis.

Physics: Course I B: L. Berk. Course II: J. L. B. Cooper.

Roman Dutch Law: Course II.—S. N. Herman.

Pure Mathematics: Course II.—J. B. L. Cooper.

Zoology: Course I A and B.—L. Berk.

Faculty of Commerce: Law: Part II.—J. Levien.

Faculty of Medicine: Bacteriology.—S. Stein.

Pathology.—N. Shapiro.

Scholarships.

M.Sc.—Maynard (£60 p.a. for three years) (restricted).—S. S. Alexander.

First Year—Medicine: University Council (£25 for one year). Order of merit.—J. H. Friedman, L. Berk.

(Continued on Page 884.)