



Book Review.

"THE EXPULSION OF JEWS FROM SPAIN," by Valeriu Marcu.

Publishers, like most people have a dread of the unknown. They will publish books on well-known themes rather than on some new aspect of life. Thus the books that appear on Jewish subjects are practically all on the same hackneyed themes.

The Spanish Inquisition is a good line, and the writer who, like the fat boy in Pickwick, wants to make your flesh creep, will always find ready victims. To-day the Spanish epoch in Jewish history has a certain topicality owing to its sinister similarity to the Third Reich in Germany. The view, which is often expressed, that in Spain the Jew had a remedy in the adoption of Christianity is really not true, for the force of the Inquisition was levelled chiefly against the Marannos—the very men who had adopted the remedy of conversion.

Another point of similarity that emerges is that in Spain, as in some modern countries, the most determined Jew-baiters were themselves of Jewish origin. And to look at the same subject from a different angle, the fanatic pursuit of racial purity, which was the pretext for the inquisitors as it is for the Nazis, was fully approved by the rabbis who, for instance, approved the facial mutilation of Jewish women who had Christian men friends, "that these Jewesses might lose their attraction for lovers."

The book is well-written and might be recommended as a refresher for a tragic period of Jewish history. We might grant the publishers that the elements have been woven into a history that will be absorbing to the student, but as to the implications which will appeal strongly to anyone alive to European events of the past few years, we hardly see the need of making these implications explicit by historical parallels. J.S.

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עונג שבת

A MELAVAH MALKAH will be held at the ZIONIST HALL, on SATURDAY, 21st March, at 8.15 p.m., with the participation of CANTOR S. KUGEL.

Music and Refreshments.

Zionist Conversazione.

The fortnightly conversazione took place in the Zionist Hall on Tuesday night.

Mr. J. WEINREICH was in the chair.

Mr. D. GETZ gave a very interesting and thought-provoking lecture on "Agriculture or Industry—the elements of a rational policy for the Jewish National Home." Zionism, he said, was not a static movement; changing conditions made a change in outlook essential and a re-orientation of policy was required. As far as he was concerned he had entirely abandoned the idea of Palestine as a spiritual centre, and regarded it solely as a place of refuge for persecuted Jews. If built up on a sound and rational policy there was no other place in the world to compare with it from this aspect.

As regards settlement on the land, it was generally agreed after very thorough investigation by experts that the maximum to which we could look forward to would be about 65,000 families. The root of the bad relations between the Jews and the Arabs was the land question—the Arab saw no prospect of finding any other occupation once he was driven off the land. For the money it cost to settle one Jewish family on the land, three could be settled in industry and the question arose whether it was worth our while to concentrate on the buying and selling of land. Ownership of land went with political power, and if political power rested in the Arab majority they would take the first step to redistribute the available land. The increase in political power, said Mr. Getz, was most important and this depended on the increase in immigration. To overcome the resistance of the Arabs to Jewish immigration, the opportunity must be provided for a large Jewish industrial population. This does not mean that the raw material must be produced in Palestine, but depends on whether the Jews have the technical skill for the promotion of industry, and on the availability of markets. The Jews had contributed all over the world to industry and it was not practical or desirable to change them from an urban to a rural people. All the elements for successful industry existed in Palestine. It was worth while to sacrifice the curious passion of the Jews for land, as land, which they showed only in Palestine for the sake of creating opportunities for vast masses of our people to make their home in Palestine.

We could come to an agreement with the Arabs by showing them that we understood their difficulties and that of the Mandatory power; a reconsideration of the whole Zionist policy was required.

A discussion followed in which Mr. Charloff, Mrs. Ch. Cohen, Mr. M. Kentridge, M.P., Mr. Kotlowitz and Mr. B. L. Rubik participated.

Mr. Getz replied.

Miss Judith Goodman, a pupil of Miss Kessel, rendered a pianoforte solo.

Cape Jewish Orphanage.

THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

of Members and Donors will be held in the Orphanage Dining Hall, Montrose Avenue, Oranjezicht, on this coming Sunday, 22nd March, 1936, at 10.30 a.m. sharp.

It is hoped that as this year is the twenty-fifth anniversary of the Home, all Orphanage friends and supporters will make an earnest endeavour to attend this twenty-fifth annual meeting.

E. H. KLOOT, Organising Secretary.

POALE-ZION—ZEIRE-ZION.

GRAND VARIETY CONCERT

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RALPH KOORLAND.
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הסתדרות עברית

Mr. I. HICKMAN will deliver a Lecture on "THE AGGADAH IN ISRAEL," on Monday, 23rd inst., at 8.30 p.m. at the ZIONIST HALL.

ALL WELCOME.

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