

"God Would Resign"

If There was a "Jewless Universe"

A DISTINGUISHED British journalist recently addressed the Anglo-Palestinian Club of London on the not quite millennial prospect of "A Jewless World." While we cannot be expected to regard with equanimity the ideal of our extinction, even as a theoretical proposition, there are many crazy fanatics who seem to think that heaven would be at hand under such a dispensation. The lecturer tried to picture this "brave new world" as Jewless. The first result, he declared, if his assumption ever came to pass, is that a lot of anti-Semites would lose "some of their best friends who are Jews." The genus Jew, as the target of their animosity, would be no more!

Similarly, in the new play, "Rain from Heaven," the playwright, S. N. Behrman, points out that if only one Jew were left in Germany, and he contemplated suicide, the Hitlerites would get down on their knees to persuade him to live, so that their programme of hate would not fall to pieces for want of a scapegoat. For lacking Jews, the Nazi ideology would have reached a "showdown;" with the last Jew out of Germany there would be none to blame if the Swastika millennium had not arrived!

An Austrian Jewish author named Bettauer some years ago wrote "The City Without Jews," with much the same idea. But the British journalist who discoursed on this provocative theme took his topic with mock seriousness and rightly pointed out that such a hypothetical Jewless world

"would spell impoverishment in the domain of the mind and the spirit."

One could go a step further, which indeed Hitlerism has sought to do, by trying to expunge all traces of the Jewish past as an influence on present-day "Aryan" culture. Carried to its logical extreme, the Nazi cult would compel God to resign; for even Hitler's Propaganda Minister has not been able to overcome the fact that Judaism gave Monotheism to the world.

Although sixteen million Jews are a mere handful in a world of more than sixteen hundred millions of humans, their impress cannot be eliminated in the already written annals of the past that chronicle the spiritual progress of mankind. As the British lecturer declared: "I am inclined to parody the old saying and exclaim that if there were no Jewish race it would be necessary for the Father of all to create one." Certain it is that if there were no Jews the arts and sciences—indeed the whole range of aspiration of the human spirit—would suffer from pernicious anaemia. True, it would then be a shirtless world; there would be no need for political shirtings, of whatever colour, to signalise the hate of the "enemies of mankind" or of the "inferior" creatures who are non-Nordic. But it would be shirtless for another reason—for the reason that human-kind will have sunk back to the edge of barbarity, with loin cloths and war-clubs as the apparel of the new vogue.

—Reproduced from "American Hebrew."



The late Chief Rabbi Angelo Sacerdoti, of Rome, whose death was reported last week. He was an eminent scholar and communal leader, and played a prominent part in the Union of Italian Jews.

Germiston Women's Zionist League

The annual general meeting of the Women's Zionist League was held at the residence of Mrs. Goldblatt, Prince Street, on Thursday, 14th ult. The minutes of the last annual general meeting were read and confirmed.

The retiring chairlady, Mrs. B. Ordman, reported on the year's work and urged for greater activity in the coming year. The balance sheet was read and adopted.

The meeting was then addressed by Mrs. Reinhold and Mrs. D. Katzen, members of the Women's Zionist Council, both eloquent in their appeal for Zionism. Mrs. Reinhold spoke of the work done by the Council and also that of the W.I.Z.O. Mrs. Katzen spoke of the work done by Jewish women generally, but dwelt particularly on the heroic women pioneers of Palestine.

The election of officers resulted as follows: Chairlady, Mrs. Dunsky; vice-chairlady, Mrs. B. Ordman; treasurer, Mrs. Z. Senior; secretary, Mrs. L. Swan. Committee: Mrs. S. Kramer, Mrs. J. Kramer, Mrs. H. L. Joffe, Mrs. Greenblatt, Mrs. Neifield, Mrs. Zinn, Mrs. Wigdorowitz, sen., and Mrs. Wigdorowitz, jun., Mrs. Rosenberg, Mrs. Ginsberg, Mrs. B. Cohen, Mrs. M. Huftel, Mrs. Osipowitz, Mrs. G. Barris, Mrs. L. Barris, Mrs. Hareven, Mrs. Goldblatt, Mrs. Benjamin, Mrs. S. Kalmek. Mrs. Ginsberg moved a vote of thanks to the speakers, and Mrs. Hareven thanked the hostess for her kind hospitality. Mrs. Reinhold thanked the outgoing executive.

SHIRLEY TEMPLE AT THE COLOSSEUM

Shirley Temple, who was such a favourite in "Little Miss Marker," shown on the Reef recently, will now be seen in a new grand and glorious musical show, "Stand Up and Cheer," at the Colosseum Theatre this week. Warner Baxter, John Boles, and a brilliant cast of screen, radio and stage stars, including Aunt Jemina, James Dunn, Madge Evans and Stepin Fetchit, all bright and cheery, take part in this musical play. The Colosseum Orchestra again adds attractiveness to a fine programme.

"Hechalutz" Organisation

On Sunday, the 3rd inst., the Johannesburg Hechalutz Organisation is organising a farewell in the Hechalutz Hall at 8.15 p.m. in honour of W. Adler, prior to his departure for Palestine. Mr. Adler has undergone Hachshara on the Hechalutz Training Farm, and was one of the first members of the Johannesburg Hechalutz Organisation.

On Sunday, the 10th inst., the semi-annual general meeting will take place at the Hechalutz Hall at 8.15 p.m.

"SING AND LIKE IT" AT THE PLAZA

Zasu Pitts, the well-known screen comedian, has a leading role in "Sing and Like It," which is the attraction at the Plaza Theatre this week. Supported by Edward E. Horton and Ned Sparks, this film is the biggest comedy riot ever produced and Johannesburg film fans would do well not to miss this picture. The supporting programme, including news reels, a comedy short and solos on the Wurlitzer, adds to excellent entertainment.

Cantor Sapir at Jeppes

Cantor Solomon Sapir, who recently arrived from New York on a visit to relatives here, has been invited to officiate this evening (Friday), 1st inst., and tomorrow morning at the Jeppetown Synagogue, Mordaunt Street, Jeppetown.

The cantor will be assisted by Cantor Steinberg's choir from the Berea Hebrew Congregation. An invitation is extended by the Congregation to all interested to attend the services.

A Shilling Day

The Jewish Ladies' Benevolent Society is arranging a Shilling Day to take place on Sunday, the 25th of March next. The objects of the society are to help distressed families, and a special appeal is being made to the public to give freely. Volunteers offering their services to canvassers will be welcomed, and particulars may be had from the honorary secretary (phone 44-5050, or write P.O. Box 4300).

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