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The Jew In Music

Professor Kirby's Informative Address

ON Monday, 9th inst., Professor P. R. Kirby (head of the Department of Music, University of Witwatersrand) delivered an informative and fascinating lecture on "The Jew in Music" to the Students' Jewish Association. Mr. A. Teeger presided over a large attendance of members and their friends.

That the Jew is at once national and cosmopolitan in his art, despite his race-consciousness and dispersal among the peoples of the world, was the assertion made by Prof. Kirby in the course of his remarks. Jewish art, he declared was a product of the history of the race and was the result of the strong influence of religion in his make up.

The Jew had attained the position of great importance in the fields of literature and music, being largely due to the fact that the Mosaic prohibition of images had tended to divert the attention of the ancient Hebrews from the graphic arts. Persecution, which had imposed nomadic habits upon Jewish existence, had also had a great deal to do with the development of the arts among Jews.

The Jews were intensely national, yet circumstances had compelled them to live

surrounded by peoples of different race and culture. They took an active part in the art-lives of the nations in which they found themselves, and the art of the Jew was frequently, therefore, assimilated to that of the French, the English, or the Germans. Always, however, he brought something of his own race-consciousness to the people among whom he lived.

In our generation, and, more especially owing to the strong contemporary Zionist movement, another tendency was in evidence, namely, an inclination to revert to an art essentially Jewish in outlook and spirit. Particularly, Prof. Kirby instanced the work of Bloch the composer of the Israel Symphony, an artist who was deliberately and magnetically attached to the cause of the Jewish nationality.

Mendelssohn, another Jew, and one of the great musical lyricists, was an example of Jewish cosmopolitanism. So also was Bizet. The lecture, which aroused the gramophone excerpts from the works of keenest interest, was illustrated by the composers.

Miss Joan Freed moved a vote of thanks to the lecturer.

Salisbury News

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

On the 1st inst., Miss Dora Klug was married to Mr. Solly Joffe, of Johannesburg. The unterfuhrers were the parents of the bride and bridegroom, and the bridesmaids were Miss Pearl Klug, sister of the bride, Miss Monica Lover and Miss Joyce Favish, of Bulawayo. A large number of guests were entertained to a reception at the Guild Hall.

A week later, on the 8th inst., the marriage of Miss Edna Mellor, only daughter of Mrs. Mellor, and Mr. Dave Lewis, only son of Mr. Sam Lewis, both of Salisbury, was solemnised. The unterfuhrers were Mr. S. Mellor, brother of the bride, and Mrs. Mellor, and Mr. and Mrs. Sam Lewis. The bridesmaids were Miss Lily Lewis, sister of the bridegroom, Miss Nita Mande, and Miss Bertha Myers, cousin of the bride. The reception was held at the Lounge tea room.

An enjoyable evening was spent at the Guild Hall on the 2nd inst., when the Habonim and Habonoth gave an entertaining concert. Considering the short time the Habonim movement has been in existence in Salisbury, great strides have been made. Thanks are due to the Rosh, Mr. L. Harris, and to those hard workers behind the scenes, Miss D. Lessem, Mr. Lassman and Mr. George Birsan, for the success of the entertainment. Mrs. Gerfunkel accompanied all the musical items.

The concert ended with the presentation of a shield kindly donated by Mr. I. Lasovsky, president of the Salisbury Hebrew Congregation, to be competed for by the Habonim of the Salisbury and Bulawayo communities. It was rather pleasing to us that the first time this shield was competed for, the Gedud Bialik, of Salisbury, was the winner.

The Rev. M. Konviser, the new Minister to the Salisbury congregation, then made a stirring appeal to the parents to give their children the opportunity of finding their heritage, and how essential it was for the children to take advantage of the educational facilities to make them conscious of their past, and to enable them to grow up in an atmosphere of making them proud and upstanding stalwarts of Israel.

Habonim Activities

Orange Free State.—The third birthday of the Habonim movement in this province will be celebrated during the last week-end of October. Various festivities will be held in honour of the event. It is hoped to have a special synagogue service for Habonim on the Friday evening, to inaugurate the week-end.

Harrismith has become interested in the Habonim movement, and a Gedud has been established there for the first time.

Natal.—Several members of the Durban Gedudim paid an official visit to Maritzburg recently. An interesting programme of Habonim work was arranged for the occasion. The boys and girls, who were present, gained much valuable knowledge from this combined meeting of the Natal Gedudim.

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