

Contrition

ON Sunday evening every Jewish place of worship throughout South Africa will hold services which mark the climax to ten days of penitence. If I were asked to define the outstanding characteristic of Yom Kippur, it would undoubtedly be the simplicity with which this holiest of days is enshrouded. Stripped of all pomp and grandeur its very naturalness and lack of adornment are more illuminating than any dazzling external effects.

With us the democracy of atoning is of significance. All Jews are on one level on this day, be they rich or poor, great or insignificant, educated or ignorant. Atoning is a privilege which all alike can share. If we have set up barriers of inequality between man and man, we are all equal on this day, for the feeling of contrition is open to all.

I always feel that Yom Kippur is above all a human institution, recognising as it does the fallibility of man, and that "to err is human." Contrary to the thundering denunciations of some cults Judaism does not countenance irretrievability. Even the person who is a "kofer b'ikar" and has wandered far from the fold is invited to retrace his steps on Yom Kippur and take his place in the ranks of his people.

The occasion acts as a sort of spiritual signpost and points out the direction in which we—and all Israel—should travel in the year that has just opened for us.

Sports

IN answer to my question whether there exists a Jewish cricket club in this country, I received a letter from a Rhodesian reader who tells me that there is a purely Jewish cricket team in Bulawayo.

The team is called "The Nomads Cricket Club" and has been in existence for several years. The club has played a number of friendly matches with non-Jewish teams and has gained the highest respect in Rhodesian sporting circles. Amongst others, the club has had fixtures against the Bulawayo Rovers and the Bulawayo Postals.

I have heard also of an interesting match which this club played recently against a team entitled "The Old Crocks." The latter contained amongst its players the elders of the Congregation headed by Rev. M. I. Cohen and Mr. S. S. Grossberg, who is the treasurer of the Congregation. In this way fathers and sons have met on the sporting field. Curiously enough the younger generation were beaten and the scores weighed heavily against them.

I consider this kind of meeting as really admirable. It serves to cement a closer contact between young and old. May I commend such meetings to our sports organisations throughout the country.

Forestry

A GROUP of men entered this country a few weeks ago on an interesting mission. They were the overseas delegates to the Empire Forestry conferences now being held in this country.

Among this group is an interesting personality in Mr. I. Boas, of Australia. This gentleman, who has been prominent in

Current Communal Comments

By
"Hamabit"

forestry research work and has been a leader of the movement in the Commonwealth, is a well-known Jewish communal worker in Australia and was for some time President of the St. Kilda Hebrew Congregation in Victoria, Melbourne.

The forestry delegates were recently entertained by the acting Governor-General at the Government House in Pretoria and met the Prime Minister and the leading members of the Cabinet. They are now visiting various parts of the country to study the forestry conditions here. It is to be hoped that before he leaves South Africa, the Australian Jewish communal worker will be enabled to visit some of our own synagogues and communal institutions.

A Journalist

THE "grand old man" of Jewish journalism to-day is undoubtedly Mr. Ab. Cahan, editor-in-chief of "Jewish Daily Forward," of New York. This great controversial figure in Jewish life has reached the age of seventy-five. He is certainly one of the most important and significant personalities produced by immigrant America.

Copies of the "Forward" reach this country each week and are read by quite a number of people. This does not mean that the readers here are all Socialistically inclined; it just means that the newspaper is a fine product attracting readers outside of the Socialist fold.

Ab Cahan is also known as a writer of English and his book on his own life, published some years ago, made a furore in the literary world. At the age of seventy-five Cahan is still as active and as enthusiastic as he was twenty-five years ago. He directs the policy of the "Forward" with an iron hand.

It is interesting to observe that this great Socialist is one of the most relentless opponents of the Soviet Union. Years ago, Cahan was a bitter opponent of Zionism, but during the last decade—and chiefly as a result of a visit to Eretz Israel—he has shown a somewhat sympathetic attitude towards Jewish labour in Palestine. The progress in this direction gained his admiration, although he is still opposed to the idea of a national Jewish revival.

A Policeman

WE have all heard about the occurrence in New York recently of riots before the sailing of the ss. "Bremen" when the Nazi flag was torn from the ship's mast.

A friend in America writes me of a strange incident in connection with these disturbances. One of the policemen on duty at the dock at the time was a certain Mathew Soloman. When the Nazi flag was being torn down, this Jewish guardian of

the law fought so valiantly in defence of Germany's honour that he lies now mortally wounded at the point of death.

A strange incident, indeed!

In the turgid condition of Nazi political mentality, I would not be surprised if we learnt that the German Ambassador in Washington has lodged a protest with President Roosevelt against the "contamination" engendered in the defence of the Nazi flag by a Jewish policeman.

Menuhin

IT was pleasant indeed to be a member of the enormous audience at the Colosseum Theatre on Sunday evening when Yehudi Menuhin made his first public appearance in South Africa.

I could not help but observe that the audience was largely made up of Jewish patrons. Apart from the desire to hear a great performer, whose art has been acclaimed by the world, there was of course an underlying feeling of pride in the fact that we had produced so remarkable a genius.

The name of "Yehudi" pronounces a pride of ancestry and the manner in which the boy's father proudly announced himself to newspaper reporters as "Moshe" Menuhin, was a further indication of this commendable spirit of loyalty.

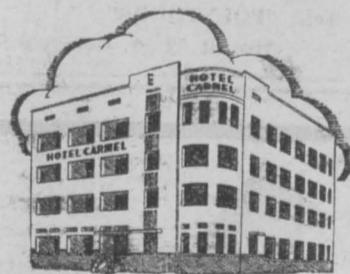
A Seasonable Illness

THE inhabitants of Vienna who can afford it usually retire to one of the summer resorts around Vienna for their summer vacation.

A Viennese Jewish lady went to Slazkammergut to engage lodgings for the season. She found what she wanted, and was concluding the terms with the landlady, when she added: "I understand that the people here are a little inclined to anti-Semitism, I, therefore, inform you that we are Jews."

To this the landlady replied:

"Oh, everything is all right; we are only anti-Semitic in the winter, but not in the summer."



Mr. and Mrs. Woolf Smith and son
of

HOTEL CARMEL DURBAN

wish all their relatives, friends
and clients a Happy and
Prosperous New Year and well
over the Fast.