

"Horses"

THERE are several of our co-religionists amongst well-known owners of race horses in this country. It has always been the practice with these folk to "scratch" any of their horses which were put down for racing on a day like *Yom Kippur*.

I was, therefore, rather surprised to note that at the Turffontein races held on the previous Monday (which was a Bank Holiday and also happened to be *Yom Kippur*) horses belonging to two of the newer owners of the Jewish persuasion, were included in the events. This is a great pity indeed and such action has been commented upon unfavourably even by sections of the non-Jewish sporting public.

I would earnestly advise any race horse owners, who happen to be members of our faith, to keep up the tradition already established in this country whereby no horses of Jewish ownership compete in racing events run on the sacred Day of Atonement.

Aaron Rubin

WITH a number of others who knew him, I was saddened by the tragic death last week of Aaron Rubin. He was an unassuming personality. While deeply interested in every phase of Jewish life, of which he had a profound knowledge, he indulged in no active participation in communal work. He was a man of fine culture and of great vision and carried in his soul a poetic and highly aesthetic conception of life. At times he appeared to be a mere onlooker, who gazed with good humour and tolerance upon the busy frailties of humankind.

The late Aaron Rubin was deeply interested in Jewish literature and had a fine knowledge of Yiddish and Hebrew. Some years ago he translated a few Yiddish stories. These translations, whilst being rendered excellently into a fine English, retained the beauty of the Yiddish originals. Incidentally the short story entitled "A Letter from Grandfather," which appeared in the recently published Rosh Hashonah Number of this journal was one of Rubin's translations from the Yiddish.

Aaron Rubin was a man who had high ethical ideals and his character was like a rare jewel. His passing at the early age of thirty-five, leaves us with a feeling of poignant regret and sadness.

Perlzweig

I HEAR that a new Zionist post has been created as the result of deliberations of the recently-held Zionist Congress at Lucerne. The position is that of the head of the new department of political information in London, and the occupant of the new post is Rev. M. L. Perlzweig.

I remember meeting this gentleman some years ago when on a visit to England. He impressed me as a fine type of enthusiastic and loyal worker for the national cause. Perlzweig, who has an attractive personality and is a most eloquent public speaker, occupies the post of assistant-minister of the Liberal Jewish Synagogue in London. He had a fine academic career at

Current Communal Comments

By

"Hamabit"

college and university and was a brilliant student. He was one of the early young Zionist workers when still a youth at the London University, and he has for many years been a leading figure in English Zionism.

The choosing of Perlzweig as the honorary incumbent of the new political post is a compliment to a worker, who is likely to travel far in Zionist leadership in the years to come.

Imagination

AN interesting news-item recently attracted my attention. This had reference to a Palestinian Jew being awarded a medal by Adolf Hitler. The honour was conferred upon the recipient by the German Consul in Jerusalem. The news-despatch carried no further information except to add that the award was duly accepted.

I feel that the recipient missed a rare opportunity. It is assumed that the German Consul visited the Jew in the hotel which he owns. I can imagine the official being ushered into the office. The Consul explains his mission, reaches into his pocket, withdraws a box, opens it, and reveals the shining gold emblem on a coloured ribbon. With a slight bow, he hands the box to the Jew and awaits the gracious words of acceptance.

Gazing at the medal, the recipient rises to his full height and says; "What I did was for German honour, and no gold nor silver can reward me. Will you, therefore, take back this emblem. If Germany wishes to show appreciation for my humble action, then I ask that she returns to the spirit of Goethe, Heine, Mendelssohn, Schiller and Kant and that Hitler, Streicher, Goering and Goebbels be forgotten as a bad dream. I would prefer this to any medal."

Bowing coldly and with dignity, the Jew hands the box containing the shining emblem to the astounded Consul and calmly walks out of the room.

Journalists throughout the world would have "picked up" this story and the rebuke to Hitler would have occupied a prominent place on the front page of every newspaper throughout the world.

I fear I am but a writer of dreams, for my co-religionist in Palestine merely pocketed the medal and proceeded with his daily tasks.

A Professor

AT the ripe age of ninety-two, there passed away recently in Paris an interesting character. He was Charles Lyon-Caen, the oldest professor of the Sorbonne. He had been a member of the French Academy since 1893 and had represented France at practically all the international

congresses. Lyon-Caen was president of the Institute for International Law since 1910 and a member of the Commission which studied the possibilities for creating the League of Nations at the close of the World War. He was a member of numerous international scientific societies and had been president of the Carnegie Institute for World Peace.

Lyon-Caen wrote many scientific works of authori-

tative significance, his text-book on Commercial Law being recognised as a classical work. His multifarious activities did not prevent Professor Lyon-Caen from being associated with Jewish work and he served for a time as head of the activity for the protection of Jewish Emigrants. He was a fine old gentleman who lived an unassuming and vitally useful life.

A Symphony Orchestra

I UNDERSTAND that a large number of Jewish musicians from Germany of the first rank—both members of orchestras and soloists—who are now in Palestine, have expressed their willingness to become members of a symphony orchestra. This is an interesting development, in which Mr. Bronislaw Hubermann, the famous violinist, is taking a keen interest. He declares that one of the aims of such an orchestra would be to give a number of first-class musicians, who had lost their positions in Germany, an opportunity of earning a decent livelihood.

It is the intention of the new symphony orchestra also to attempt to initiate a musical festival in Palestine. I think that this is a good idea for then classical, and even modern musical works of a Biblical nature, could be produced in their natural and historical environment. Apart from the economic importance of such festivals for Eretz Israel, they are likely to increase the cultural reputation of the Jewish people.

I hear that the first session of the symphony orchestra will take place in October next year. Besides the giving of concerts in the larger centres, it would be an advantage if the Jewish colonies could have visits from time to time by so fine a musical organisation. I like to visualise the idea of a Palestine Symphony Orchestra also performing occasionally in the larger musical centres of Europe.

Argument

DR. SHMARYA LEVIN, the famous Zionist orator and writer, often told of how he once approached a wealthy Jew for a donation for a worthy cause. He was refused on the ground that the prospective subscriber had a poor brother.

When subsequently Dr. Levin found that the brother was being maintained by the local Chevra Kadisha organisation, he returned in indignation to the wealthy Jew. The latter replied:

"But if I do not even give to my own brother, how can you expect me to give for a public cause?"