

INAUGURATION OF JEWISH PEOPLES' COLLEGE LECTURES

Large Attendance at First Function.

THERE was an interesting development in local Jewish cultural life on Thursday evening of last week, when the recently-organised Jewish People's College was inaugurated with the first two lectures of its syllabus.

The lectures were "Jews and Aryans: An Anthropological Analysis" by Dr. H. Sonnabend, and "General Principles of Group Psychology and their Application to the Jewish Group" by Dr. Wulf Sachs.

The lectures were held in one of the special lecture rooms of Johannesburg's magnificent new library. There was a large audience, which augurs well for the future of the College.

In a brief introductory speech, Dr. Sonnabend opened the College, explaining its purpose and outlining its programme. He said that among Jews no less than among other peoples, there was a large number of young men and women who used education not as education, but simply as a ticket of entry into society. Knowledge became to them a matter of suitable data which they could show off on various occasions. But there were those, like their fathers and grand-fathers of the famous *Haskalah* period, who had a divine restlessness in their hearts. They courted knowledge not for its social value, but for the help it might give them and their people in the future. It was to such people, imbued with the wish to understand the present position of humanity and the Jewish group in it, and help the Jewish group, and, through it, humanity, that the Jewish People's College wished to address itself.

"Jews," said Dr. Sonnabend, "were always marked by a love of truth. Others might indulge in heroics and talk superciliously about superior qualities of Aryan races. We must go on facing truth."

THE LECTURES.

DR. SONNABEND then proceeded to his first lecture, in which he gave a careful study of the development of the idea of Aryanism, and its modern distortion in Germany. He showed that what was originally purely a matter of language, had now become a question of race which the Germans had taken up fanatically, although only a small percentage of them were even so-called Aryan type. His lecture was copiously illustrated by slides, showing various anthropological types.

Dr. Sachs devoted his first lecture to introducing the audience to the essential principles of group psychology. He began by appealing to them to forget the nonsense about group psychology expressed by social leaders and politicians, and even the smatterings of knowledge on the subject they may have picked up at various times from popular sources. He explained that the approach to the subject must be objective and not emotional. He then outlined the various methods of studying psychology of groups, and their developments, and, by showing the negative aspects of many of these approaches, suggested by implication, positive aspects of approach, with which he proposed to deal more fully in his next lecture.

Both the lecturers were well received and were listened to with deep attention.

Last night lectures were delivered by Chief Rabbi Dr. J. L. Landau and Mr. D. Mierowsky. These will be reported in our next issue. Next Thursday night Rabbi M. C. Weiler will speak on "Under the Impact of Emancipation" and Dr. W. Sachs will deliver his second lecture, "Psychological Structure of the Jewish Youth Group." Lectures will be held at the Johannesburg Library, commencing 8.10 p.m. and 9.20 p.m. sharp.

New Symphony Performed

Concert by Johannesburg Symphony Orchestra.

The fifteenth concert of the Johannesburg Symphony Orchestra at the Wanderers Hall on Wednesday evening was distinguished by the performance of Anton Bruckner's famous Symphony, No. 4 in E Flat ("Romantic.")

In a short introductory talk given by Professor Kirby—that well-known music enthusiast—it was learnt that this notable piece of music had never yet been produced in this country. The performance, under the able baton of Mr. Joseph Traunek, was keenly enjoyed by a large audience of discerning music lovers.

Although Professor Kirby had maintained that Bruckner, who lived at the time of Wagner, had not been influenced by the great composer, there were parts of the Symphony in which the Wagnerian influence was definitely felt.

There was a good deal of repetition heard in the hour in which the Bruckner Symphony was played. This slight defect, however, did not detract from the splendid conception of the whole work. It is strange that Bruckner is heard so rarely, for he undoubtedly was a great and original composer.

Credit is due to Mr. Traunek and his orchestra for having given Johannesburg so fine a musical treat.

D.

Hebrew Speaking Circle

The discussion on the Hebraic attitude towards "Iva" has been postponed to Saturday, April 4, at 8.15 p.m. at the Hebrew High School. All interested are cordially invited.

A BRIDGE DRIVE.

The Sisterhood of the Johannesburg Jewish Reform Congregation will hold a bridge drive at Casa Mia on Monday, the 30th inst., at 2.30 p.m.

Palestine Club

The 115th meeting of the Palestine Club will be held on Saturday, April 4, at 8.15 p.m. sharp at the residence of Mr. and Mrs. S. Esakov, 57 Louis Botha Avenue. Rev. I. Goss, B.A., will be the speaker of the evening and he will lecture on "The Meeting of Helenism and Hebraism."

MACCABIA TENNIS.

The date of entries for the Maccabia tennis tournament, which is being held at Ellis Park at Easter, has been extended to March 30. Inquiries from M. Donen, Box 7460, 'phone 22-7933.

"THE FIRST WORLD WAR."

"The First World War," which is the current attraction at the Colosseum theatre was adapted from Laurence Stalling's story of stark realism. It is the uncensored record of the Great War, taken from the Government archives of many countries. The film is accompanied by a commentator who tells the story of the war fluently in English and three foreign languages.

The next attraction at the Colosseum theatre is Miriam Hopkins and Joel McCrea in "Splendour." Michael Dore and his orchestra add to an already attractive supporting programme.

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