
OUR WOMEN'S PAGE

Conducted by

Judith

A Fine Film

I WAS one of those privileged to be present at the pre-view of the first "talkie" of Palestine life to reach this country. I consider the "Land of Promise" an amazing film. It vividly depicts the entire field of Jewish endeavour in modern Palestine. One sees brought before our eyes the most interesting aspects of the daily life of our people in Eretz Israel.

As the film unfolded itself, I felt a gulp coming up in my throat. The achievements are remarkable and the pain and sorrow which must have been endured before such achievements were possible is what brought tears to my eyes. The whole film is beautifully conceived and strikingly produced. I urge every Jewish girl and woman in this country to make a point of seeing the "Land of Promise." It is a vivid experience which they are not likely to forget for many a day.

There are some wonderful scenes in the film. The one which I liked best was the performance of Haydn's oratorio in its beautiful natural setting of the Hebrew University grounds on Mount Scopus, in Jerusalem. There were also the fine modern dances of the pioneers, sharply contrasted with the old Oriental form. There were amazing Jewish scenes of Tel-Aviv and a hundred other evidences that we are creating a cultural, as well as an economic, society in our ancient Homeland.

I am not surprised that the "Land of Promise" received the International Motion Picture award several months ago. It is a magnificent production and in Geneva twelve hundred League of Nations officials and diplomats recently witnessed the showing of the film in the famous city's largest cinema house.

A Woman Talmudist

ONE of the scions of an illustrious family has passed away in the person of Mrs. Flora S. D. Sassoon, of India.

A woman of great learning and culture with an unusual knowledge of Jewish law and tradition, she could rise "to the heights of our women of old who sat with the rabbis in the house of learning, knew much, and were yet content to let history pass them silently by."



"Picking"

A scene from the "Land of Promise" film.

She was born in Bombay in 1859 and was the daughter of a well-known merchant and scholar, Ezekial Joshua Gubbay, and the granddaughter of David Sassoon, founder of the family of that name, which has produced so many men celebrated in financial, social and political life. Mr. Arthur and Mrs. Reuben Sassoon were honoured with King Edward the VII's friendship, and Sir Edward Sassoon, M.P., was the father of Sir Philip Sassoon, England's notable and energetic Under-Secretary for Air.

Flora Sassoon married her uncle, Solomon Sassoon, who died at a comparatively early age, leaving her with three young children. She was educated in the old traditional fashion in Bible and Talmud, particular attention, however, being paid at the same time to her English education. She acquired an extraordinary knowledge of the Bible, Jewish law and tradition, so that in later life she could meet rabbis and scholars from every part of the world on an equal footing, examine intricate points of Judaic law and elucidate the mysteries of Talmudic injunctions.

Her deeds of charity embraced as wide a field as her intellect. She was one of those, too, who loved doing good "by stealth."

Mrs. Sassoon is survived by a daughter, Rachel, married to Sir David Ezra, the president of the Jewish community in Calcutta, and by her son, Mr. David S. Sassoon, who is well-known for his important Bibliographical work and his collection of rare and valuable Hebrew MSS, the richest and largest of its kind in private possession.

A Singer Passes

I WAS sorry to learn of the passing, after a year's illness, at the early age of 43, of Sophie Braslau, the distinguished, internationally-known Jewish singer. During the last twenty years, Miss Braslau has been soloist for most of the leading symphony orchestras in the United States, and has toured Europe with success.

She appeared both on the operatic and concert stage, and sang with the Metropolitan Opera Company from 1913 to 1920. Her last appearances on the concert stage were in the spring and summer of 1934 when she sang with the Philharmonic Symphony Orchestra in New York. Sophie Braslau was born in New York in 1891 of Russian-Jewish parents. At the age of 21 she had an audition with Gatti-Casazza, on whom her beautiful contralto voice made so great an impression that she was immediately engaged to sing for the Metropolitan — an extraordinary achievement for one so young. Her most important operatic part was the title role of Charles Wakefield Cadman's "Shanewis," an American opera about an Indian girl presented in 1918.

She participated in many musical festivals, presenting German, Russian, French, Italian and English folksongs, modern compositions, Negro spirituals, oratorios and cantatas. American Jewry in particular, and the world of music in general, mourn the loss of this beautiful and accomplished singer.

A Book on Miss Szold

NOTE that Marvin Lowenthal, writer and lecturer, author of "The Autobiography of Michel de Montaigne," is to edit an autobiography of Miss Henrietta Szold, that great Zionist leader whose name has now become a household word among Zionists throughout the world.

The appearance of this biography which will embody not only an account of a colourful and heroic personality rich in service to her fellow-Jews and a great cause, but much of the history of Zionism during the last forty years, embracing the growth of Hadassah, the great Women's Zionist Organisation of America of which Miss Szold was the founder, and the development of the Youth Aliyah movement for the transference of German youth to Palestine with which her name will always be associated, will be eagerly awaited throughout the world.