

Art and Music in Johannesburg

A Great Performance

Mr. Isador Epstein with Symphony Orchestra.

THE interpretation of Paderewski's "Polish Fantasia" is rarely heard in this country. It is a difficult piece of music composed by a great pianist, and it is fortunate that music lovers in Johannesburg have in their midst Mr. Isador Epstein, who has performed this difficult work with great distinction with the Queen's Hall Orchestra in London, under the conductorship of Sir Henry Wood.

An appreciative audience heard Mr. Epstein give a performance of Paderewski's work at the concert of the Johannesburg Symphony Society at the Wanderers Hall on Wednesday evening last. The work is one which requires close co-operation between soloist and orchestra. It must be said that Mr. Joseph Traunek was able to co-operate with the artist who gave a really remarkable performance. The beauty, power and exquisite quality of the composition was brought out in a magnificent manner.

The orchestra played a number of further items to complete an interesting programme. The rather picturesque work of Smetana's "Vltava" was particularly interesting. Its central refrain was intriguing, for it is so similar to the Hatikvah tune. One wonders whether the author of the Jewish national anthem was influenced by Smetana, or is the similarity of the tunes just a coincidence?

D.

Harold Samuel Recital

Johannesburg Musical Society.

It was gratifying to see the large and distinguished audience at the Bach recital by Mr. Harold Samuel, on Wednesday evening at the Selborne Hall. The occasion was the 356th meeting of the Johannesburg Musical Society.

The performance by Mr. Samuel in the varied programme of works by the great composer, was magnificent. A life study of Bach has made Mr. Samuel the finest exponent in the world to-day of this composer's works.

The Fantasia and Fugue in A Minor were followed by the English Suite No. 4 in F Major. Then came four of the famous 48 Preludes and Fugues, and the programme ended up with the magnificent series of items in the French Suite No. 4 in E Flat. All the works were exquisitely rendered, and Mr. Samuel had to respond again and again to enthusiastic applause and appreciation. It was a recital of a kind rarely heard on the concert platform in South Africa.

To the Johannesburg Musical Society credit is due for having given earnest music lovers an opportunity of hearing a superlative artist giving interpretations of works of a great composer.

D.

Great Ballet at the Empire

Rene Blum's Fine Company.

Apart from the aesthetic pleasure of witnessing the Ballets de Monte Carlo at the Empire Theatre, it affords play-goers a magnificent entertainment. Very little is lacking in the way of mounting, costuming and colour. In fact a feast of all these is offered. The work of the company is splendid. The star artists throw themselves wholeheartedly into the ensemble, and as a result perfect effects in the ballets are secured.

One cannot, of course, visit the ballet without appreciating the outstanding ability of Vera Nemchinova. Her grace, poise and command of movement are all evidence of her ability as a great ballerina. She is assisted by Anatole Oboukhoff, who takes the leading place amongst the male dancers. There is a young man, Andre Eglevsky, who although only eighteen years of age, is the possessor of such grace, charm and rare artistry, that he is undoubtedly destined to become one of the world's greatest dancers.

The whole organisation, under the able management of M. Rene Blum, with the assistance of the staff of the African Consolidated Theatres, has resulted in a perfection of ballet performances rarely seen before in this country.

No lover of beauty and no admirer of delightful entertainment should miss seeing the ballet at the Empire on a number of occasions.

D.

A Broadcast Concert

Fine Playing by Hyman Sachs.

THE 40th fortnightly concert given by the S.A. Broadcasting Symphony Orchestra, was held at the Jewish Guild on Tuesday evening. A varied programme of interesting music was presented. Mr. Jerry Shulman conducted an orchestra which played with fine harmony.

The solo artist of the evening was Mr. Hyman Sachs, the well-known pianist, who chose the De Falla "Night in the Garden of Spain." This is a composition emblematic of the modern school in Spain. It is a difficult and complicated work which requires clever artistry on the part of the player and expert orchestral accompaniment. The suite was well played by the orchestra and pianist and gave every satisfaction to an appreciative audience.

The orchestra also played a number of excerpts from the modern French school of composers and the performance of these gave great pleasure. Indeed the orchestra has now become an amazingly capable musical combination, for which its conductor is to be highly commended.

D.

A Great Boxing Contest

To be Staged at the Wembley Stadium.

What is undoubtedly the greatest contest between champion feather-weight boxers to be held in South Africa will take place at the Wembley Stadium on Saturday evening, October 24. The hard-hitting Freddie Miller, the ex-feather-weight champion of the world (who recently knocked out Willie Smith) and Maurice Holtzer, feather-weight champion of France, will meet under the auspices of the Union Sporting Club.

This organisation has two highly successful promotions to their credit, and the new promotion is likely to bring together an even larger crowd of boxing fans in Johannesburg and from all parts of the Transvaal.

Seats may be secured at the booking office, Paramount Stores (Johannesburg) and all its branches.

Johannesburg Women's Zionist League

Kensington Branch.—This branch is holding a Golden Jubilee dance on Saturday, the 31st inst., at the Jewish Guild. Arrangements have been made for special lighting effects and Alec Benjamin's band will supply the music. Every effort is being made by the large committee in charge to ensure the enjoyment of all those attending the dance.

A feature of the evening will be Audrey Grose's dancing troupe, who will present an interesting dancing display.

GLIMPSES OF ERETZ ISRAEL

(Concluded from page 7).

as Palestine, the villager as the Arabs, the foreigner as the Jews, and the court of judgment as the Royal Commission; and in case that modicum of imagination was lacking in the part of Arab listeners, the players took care to make their meaning clear to the meanest intelligences.

Last week another offensive feature was included in the Arabic programme. The Director of the Arabic section, a nephew of the infamous Mayor of Nablus, Suleiman Touqan, related a well-known Arabic legend concerning Samuel ben Adaya Hacoen, a Jewish poet, who lived in Arabia in pre-Islamic times. His great friend, Imru Alkis, an Arab poet and ruler, was obliged to leave Arabia for a lengthy period, and left his valuables, including a precious shield, in Samuel's care for safe-keeping. One of Imru's enemies took the opportunity of his absence to endeavour to secure the shield. He besieged Samuel's house, demanding that it be handed over to him. But Samuel refused to betray his friend's trust, even when the besieger seized one of Samuel's children and tore him limb from limb. Since then Arabs refer to loyal friends as being "faithful as Samuel." Mr. Touqan, however, decided to alter the point of the legend, and explained to his listeners at great length that Samuel, far from being a hero, was an avaricious Jew, who preferred to see his child tortured to death rather than part with the sword, which, he claimed was of silver, and had been left him by Imru as security for a loan.

It lies in the power of the Palestine Broadcasting Service to become an indispensable agency for the promotion of mutual understanding and goodwill in a land where the need of both is so tragically great. But it will achieve far more harm than it can repair if it continues to permit this prostitution of its powers.

"THE SEVEN SINNERS" AT THE PLAZA

"The Seven Sinners" is the name Gaumont British studios gave to the stage-thriller "The Wrecker," when they adapted this gripping play for the screen. The story is an exciting one telling of the efforts of a criminal detective to discover the reason for a mysterious French train accident. The part of the detective is played by Edmund Lowe and he is well supported by Constance Cummings and a good cast. From Monday next the Plaza Theatre is showing Jean Arthur and Edward G. Robinson in "The Whole Town's Talking." Both supporting programmes are of a high standard.

La Rochelle Hebrew Congregation

An interesting reception took place after the services on Simchas Torah under the auspices of the above Congregation. Rev. A. L. Kaplan was in the chair, and the president of the congregation, Mr. I. Broomberg, acted as "Chozon B'raishis." In the course of his address, Mr. Broomberg referred to the appreciation of the Congregation to Mr. Gingold, who had generously donated a "Sepher Torah" to the synagogue just before the High Festivals. The toasts of "Chozon Torah" and "Chozon B'raishis" were proposed by Rev. Kaplan. Mr. L. Sklar, the "Chozon Torah," suitably responded.

CUTHBERT'S FOR MEN'S AND BOYS' CRICKET BOOTS