

A DEBUSSY EVENING

THE attractive music-room of Mrs. Fred Cohen's charming home in Northcliff was filled on Friday evening last with a distinguished gathering of local music-lovers, on the occasion of the first of two special concerts organised by the South African Society for Contemporary music in honour of Claude Debussy, the famous French composer, to mark the seventy-fifth year since his birth.

Mr. José Rodriguez-Lopez prefaced a most interesting evening with a short account of the ideas of Debussy and of his contribution to the art of musical composition. Mr. Lopez and Mr. Hyman Sachs then gave a fine rendering of the famous piano duet, *Boite a Joux*—one of the most attractive of Debussy's works. Mr. Bram Verhoef and Mr. Lopez were heard in an artistic performance of the sonata for violin and piano.

Mme Anny Lambrechts delighted the audience with her rendition of a number of Debussy songs. Songs by this composer are seldom heard on our concert platform. This is probably due to the many intricacies involved in the rare musicianship of the author. Mme. Lambrechts, however, is an experienced singer, as well as the possessor of a melodious voice. Her execution of the various items left little to be desired. It was a wholesome and adequate performance.

The last number on the programme was a performance of the *String Quartette, Op. 10*, by four of our premier instrumentalists, Mr. Bram Verhoef, Miss Bobbie Evans, Miss Else Schneider and Mr. J. Wood. The music for this quartette is probably the most difficult in the realm of chamber work, but the players are to be congratulated on a satisfying performance.

Much credit is due to the Contemporary Music Society and to Mr. Roderiguez-Lopez for the success of a really enjoyable musical evening. In view of the increasing interest which is being taken in the recital of music by modern composers, the society is contemplating securing a hall for its purpose; hitherto, recitals have been held at private homes.

The second chamber concert of Debussy music is to be held on September the 17th. The venue will be announced later.

D.

TODAY

IN JEWISH HISTORY

A Tiberias Purim

ELLUL 7th is a local Purim in Tiberias for it was on that day (August 27) in 1743 that a siege of the city was brought to an end and the anxieties of the Jewish inhabitants relieved. Zaher ed 'Omar, a Bedouin of the Jordan Valley, had been gradually carving out for himself a principality in eastern and northern Palestine and in 1730 he seized Tiberias. Among his earliest steps there was to settle Jews in the city. The Pasha of Damascus, within whose district the city lay, resented Zaher's encroachments. Despite his natural lethargy he had in the end to take up arms and in 1743 the city was besieged by him. The siege lasted for 83 days and in its course the Jews took their full part in the defence. At length on the 27th of August the siege was raised to the joy of all of its inhabitants, Moslem and Jewish.

FROM TOWN AND COUNTRY

News of Jewish Activities Throughout South Africa

(From Our Own Correspondents)

Durban

The Durban Women's Zionist League held their August function at the residence of Mr. and Mrs. C. Davidson, on the 23rd inst. The chairlady, Mrs. Torf, who attended the recent Zionist Conference at Kimberley, gave her impressions of Conference. She conveyed to her interested audience the spirit of Conference, that despite the troublous times and the struggles ahead, there was always the optimism and the hope.

Mrs. Dr. J. L. Landau held the audience spellbound, while she told graphically with her characteristic touches of humour, of the three large cities of Palestine, Tel-Aviv, Haifa and Jerusalem.

Harrismith

The Zionist Society held a social in the Grand National Hotel on the 17th inst., when Mrs. S. Helman, who represented the society at the South African Zionist Conference in Kimberley, gave an interesting report.

Musical items and recitations were rendered by the local Habonim, while Mr. H. Chodos gave a reading in Yiddish of some of Zelikowitz's shorter stories. Mr. Shrage, a visitor from Johannesburg, who was accompanied by Mrs. S. Sklarchik, amused the gathering with stories and songs. After refreshments were served, Mrs. Helman thanked the artists and also Mr. Sklarchik for again placing his dining-room at their disposal. Thanks were then accorded to Mrs. Helman on the motion of Miss E. Delatizky.

Kingwilliamstown

On Sunday evening, the 8th inst., at the Kramer Hall, Mr. Sam Wilkin gave an enthusiastic account of his experiences at Kimberley where he represented the local Zionist Association at the Sixteenth S.A. Zionist Conference. Mr. Wilkin's report was comprehensive, omitting nothing of interest. Mr. Morris Shapiro, who acted as the representative of East London at the Conference, also related his experiences in witty vein. Mr. M. B. Cohen, who presided, expressed the thanks of the Association to Mr. Wilkin, whilst votes of thanks were accorded to the speakers on the proposal of Rev. Gordon and Mr. C. Alperstein. Refreshments were kindly served by members of the Ladies' Society.

N'Kana

The Jewish National Fund campaign which was conducted by Mr. Aaron Abrahamson in N'Kana proved to be a great success, the members of the community contributing generously towards Geulath Haaretz. Special thanks are due to Mr. M. Gersh for his valuable assistance in connection with the J.N.F. campaign in N'Kana and for presiding at the meeting of the members of the community.

Middelburg, Cape

On Sunday, the 15th inst., a general meeting was held when the following officers were elected: Mr. B. Capcan, chairman; Mr. P. Segall, vice-chairman and treasurer; Mrs. M. Katz, assistant; Mr. M. B. Berghaus, secretary. Committee: Mrs. B. Capcan, Mrs. Cohen, Mrs. Segall, Rev. Myburgh and Mr. J. Melmed.

The chairman, Mr. B. Capcan, Rev. Myburgh and Mr. M. B. Berghaus, in well worded speeches, thanked Miss Evelyn Mann, the outgoing secretary, for her untiring work in the interests of Zionism. Miss Mann ably responded, whereupon the meeting closed.

Marquard

An impressive service was conducted by Rev. J. Adler in the local synagogue on June 30th in memory of the late Dr. Theodor Herzl and Ch. N. Bialik. At the conclusion of the service, the Chairman of the Marquard Zionist Society, Mr. J. Posner, appealed to the members of the community to commemorate the occasion by donating money for the purpose of planting trees in Eretz Israel. The amount of £2 2s. was collected and sent in to Head Office of the Jewish National Fund in Johannesburg.

Oudtshoorn

The monthly meeting of the Herzl Ladies' Zionist Society was held at the residence of Mrs. I. Sindler, Adlerley Street. There was a fair attendance, Miss S. Kusel president.

At a card evening which took place at the residence of Mr. and Mrs. A. S. Segal, of Hopetown, the amount of £1 15s. 6d. was collected for the Jewish National Fund and sent in to the Head Office in Johannesburg.

Volkstrust

Mrs. B. Zulman, hon. sec. of the local branch of the S.A. Orphanage, has forwarded to the institution the sum of £7 5s. 9s. collection of subscriptions from local members, and £2 16s. of sale of second-hand clothing. Mrs. B. Fine.

OBITUARY

Mrs. Hanna Freed

The death has occurred in Johannesburg of Mrs. Hanna Freed.

Mrs. Freed was born in Kapsal, 1877, and came to South Africa in 1906. She was one of the oldest and most respected members of the Jewish community. Her many acts of philanthropy, always unperformed, earned her the love and respect of her fellowmen, and the spirituality of her life drew the unfailing devotion of her children.

She is survived by her husband, Noel Freed, and by her sons, Mr. Peter Freed, Mr. F. Freed, Dr. Izak Freed, Lieke Freed, Mr. Colin Freed, Mrs. Sandler, Mrs. Ann Finstein and Bess Goldberg.

Durban

Recent visitors at the Hotel Orphanage organised a raffle in aid of the Jewish Orphanage. The proceeds which amounted to £3, has been sent to that Institution by Mrs. Smith. A most enjoyable evening was spent by all who attended.

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