



Society of Jews and Christians Holds Successful Symposium

Vague Race Theories Condemned

The theatre hall of the Johannesburg Public Library was filled to its utmost capacity on Tuesday evening when a large and appreciative audience gathered to listen to an interesting symposium on "The Problem of Race," which was scientifically dealt with from diverse angles by prominent professors from the University of the Witwatersrand. The meeting was held under the auspices of the recently-formed Society of Jews and Christians.

Before the proceedings commenced, it was announced that a letter had been received from General Smuts, which expressed his sympathy with the aims and objects of the society, and he regretted that he was unable to be present at that night's meeting. In introducing the chief speakers for the evening, Mr. Justice Schreiner, who presided, declared that the subject of race problems was often dealt with emotion, prejudice and a feeling. Such controversies, he said, have triumphed although it was often obscured. Therefore, in that respect, the society of Jews and Christians performed a valuable public service by discussing the theme in a clear and rational manner.

In time, every culture can be assimilated by every individual of every race. It is not bound to any race in the physical or mental sense.

Half-Truths Dangerous.

Professor R. A. Dart then followed with a learned address dealing with the wanderings of the human race since its earliest days. Speaking from the standpoint of a physical anthropologist, he maintained that men were travestying science by untruths about race knowledge; and half-truths concerning the topic in mind were to be regarded as dangerous dynamite.

Professor C. J. van der Horst approached the subject from the biological point of view. Only by racial co-operation could they do much to raise the status of mankind, he declared.

Speaking as a psychologist, Professor I. D. MacCrone discussed the subject chiefly as a differential psychologist and contrasted the racial with the environmental hypothesis. He affirmed that human nature was not a biological phenomenon but a psychological one, the race concept being entirely irrelevant.

Hitler's Nostalgia.

The last speaker was Professor J. L. Gray, who spoke as a social psychologist. Much nonsense was talked about race mixtures and miscegenation, he said. The overwhelming majority of scientific workers were agreed that the concept of race was ambiguous and not a reliable guide to social evolution. The leading social psychologist of to-day had stated that the correlation of physical characteristics with capabilities could be written on the back of a postage stamp. Herr Hitler, in "Mein Kampf," spoke almost with nostalgia of the Jews as a pure race. But he was quite mistaken. Hitler's ideal was to make the Germans resemble those African forest communities whose race, as far as was known, was the purest in the world.

Finally, it was because race doctrines, by pretending to biological exactness said Professor Gray, acquired a spurious plausibility in an age of scientific credulity that they were dangerous to human welfare.

The meeting concluded after the speakers were warmly thanked for their instructive addresses.

The first general meeting of members of the Society of Jews and Christians will be held on November 17.

An Interesting Function at Oudtshoorn

The Jewish Guild held its third annual dinner and dance at the Central Hotel on the 29th ult. It was a most successful function. The George and Uniondale Zionist Societies were well represented. Among those present was the newly-elected Mayor of Oudtshoorn, Mr. B. L. Gillis and the Mayoress, and Rev. and Mrs. M. Woolfson.

Mr. V. H. Aschman presided, and during the course of the evening Mrs. M. Sladowsky delivered an address on "Simchas Torah."

In proposing the toast of the visitors, Mr. M. Mann pointed out that the function was one of the proofs that the Guild had justified its existence. He emphasised the value of such functions in strengthening the bonds of friendship and goodwill, and cementing a closer unity between the various Jewish communities in the south-western districts.

Mrs. J. Landsman, of George, suitably replied on behalf of the visitors. At the conclusion of the dinner dancing took place and rounded off an enjoyable evening.

THE GROWTH OF AN IDEA

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about to make its first practical move, the War broke out.

The echoes of the War in Palestine had hardly died away, when the foundation stone of the Hebrew University was laid on Mount Scopus in Jerusalem, on July 24, 1918. On April 1, 1925, in the presence of poets, scholars, statesmen, men of affairs, educators, philanthropists from all parts of the world, the Earl of Balfour formally dedicated the Hebrew University, confident that a structure was being raised worthy of becoming that spiritual centre for which Judaism and Jewry hungered.

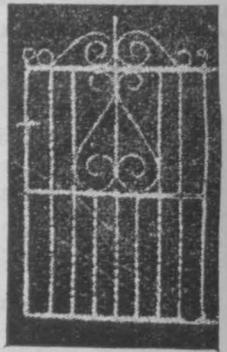
USSISHKIN CALLS FOR ACTION

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promote Geulath Haaretz in the two years to come." Then we shall be able to report to the Twenty-First Congress not that 85 per cent. of the quota has been covered, but that a very large sum has been raised for Geulath Haaretz.

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Johannesburg Musical Society

THE concert given by the Musical Society at the New Library Theatre on Wednesday night, consisted solely of piano recitals, Miss Millie Van Geuns and Mr. John Connell giving a performance of four works for two pianos, and Cavalier Lorenzo Danza presenting two groups of pianoforte solos. Mr. Danza's contribution to the programme was an unexpected one. Originally, Miss Rose Pratt-Paget, the vocalist, had been featured to appear, but owing to her sudden indisposition, the well-known pianist stepped into her place at short notice. Brilliance and delicacy characterised his execution of the Beethoven "Sonata in C Sharp Minor" (the "Moonlight" Sonata), and a sensitive understanding of his rendering of Chopin's "Polonaise" in F Sharp Minor.

In the recital of music for two pianos, Miss Mille Van Geuns and Mr. John Connell gave performances outstanding for their unity and uniformity of purpose. Both are artists, known individually for their musicianly qualities, and they did not disappoint the audience in their joint work. Their playing of the Saint-Saens "Variations on a Theme of Beethoven" was a sheer delight, while their handling of Weber's "Invitation to the Waltz" left little to be desired. All in all, this concert must be regarded as one of the most interesting presented by the society.

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