

Rain

A FEW weeks ago prayers for rain were offered in all synagogues throughout South Africa. I have never heard of this custom existing in Jewish communities in other parts of the world, and suppose the introduction of prayers for rain is the result of the similar prayers which are regularly offered up by churches in this country.

South Africa is a religious community. Especially among the Afrikaners there is the earnest belief in the efficacy of prayer. Owing to the extreme dryness of the land in many parts, and to the curse of drought, religious people are impelled to think more of their Creator and of how much they owe to His bounty and mercy.

It is but natural, therefore, for Jews who are members of a religious community, to offer up prayers, with the rest of the people of this land, asking for the blessing of rain in times of severe drought.

Mancroft

MANY of my readers will remember the King's recent elevation to the peerage in England of a distinguished though particularly modest member of Anglo-Jewry. I refer to Sir Arthur Michael Samuel. It is learnt that Sir Arthur has chosen the title of Lord Mancroft, and has published the design of his coat-of-arms. The name of Mancroft also appears in the title of a volume of essays Sir Arthur published some years ago, "The Mancroft Essays." The word Mancroft is connected with the city of Norwich, where Sir Arthur lives, and of which he was at one time Mayor.

Lord Mancroft has served, as a Member of Parliament for many years, and was for some considerable time Financial Secretary to the Treasury. A brilliant economist, he wrote some remarkable economic treatises, of which his "Working of the Bill of Exchange" and "The Herring: Its Effect on the History of Britain," are the best known.

Norwich may indeed be proud of this Jewish son who has done so much for England.

A New Bible

I HAVE been most interested to learn of the enterprise of that well-known publisher, William Heinemann, in bringing out a beautiful edition of the Bible "designed to be read as literature." This will be a fascinating production and one which should make a deep appeal to all who treasure that greatest of the world's books. The new edition is to follow original lines. The various books of the Bible are presented in their historical order, instead of in the somewhat arbitrary order in which they appear in the Authorised Version. Verse numbers are omitted and the

Current Communal Comments

By "Hamabit"

poetical parts of the Bible are set forward as poetry, in metrical form. The narrative portions are presented as prose, admirably arranged, not in verses, but in paragraphs.

This new publication, of which Mr. Ernest Sutherland Bates is the editor, will be printed on selected white paper, in a beautiful new type especially cut by that expert of typography, Mr. Eric Gill. The handsomely bound book should make a lovely addition to any library.

A New "Lung"

A YOUNG Jewish worker in the department of Medical Research of the University of Toronto, has invented a respirator—now called the "Leibel lung," in honour of the inventor, Bernard Leibel.

The respirator works on an entirely different principle from anything devised by science. Leibel himself was a "cure" from infantile paralysis he contracted a few years ago and which kept him in hospital for three months; he was regarded as one of the most serious cases that ever made recovery.

The child-size "Leibel lung," which was recently used in fighting the epidemic of poliomyelitis raging in certain parts of Ontario, proved most effective, and is likely to be of great benefit to humanity.

Bernard Leibel is only 22 years of age and his invention has aroused considerable interest amongst the medical fraternity in the United States and Canada. I dare say it will not be long before the "Leibel lung" will find its way into this country, ready for use in fighting epidemic and disease.

—And Now the Gipsies

FROM Roumania comes the news that the anti-Semites have acquired a new ally. Numerous gipsies have joined the anti-Semitic party. The London "Jewish Chronicle" reminds the gipsies that only a comparatively short time ago they were serfs and were sold and exchanged. Less than a century ago Roumania witnessed the sale of 200 gipsy families by auction and as late as 1782, 55 gipsies were charged with cannibalism and forced to confess under torture that they ate their victims.

Anti-Semites are, however, well known for their short memories. Why then should we expect the frail and exotic wanderers to remember their history?

A Flag?

THE delegates of the Agudath Isroel have recently held their congress in Marienbad. The gathering was evidently intended to counteract the influence of the Zionist Congress. Speeches, delivered in the assembly, give the impression of people who belong to the 17th century. In the eyes of these extremists, even the Mizrachi people are *treif* and the many famous rabbis who belong to that movement are *apikorsim*.

The congress was somewhat embarrassed over the matter of a flag. It is customary to hoist a flag on a congress building, but the blue-white Zionist flag is not *kosher*, so some of the young bloods bethought themselves and put up a *talith* on the flagpole of the building! This action outraged the feelings of all genuinely religious people and there was an outcry, and the *talith* was consequently pulled down.

Sons . . .

THIRTY thousand people recently listened on a Sunday evening in the famous Hollywood Bowl to a bass—the possessor of a magnificent voice. The name of the artist was Paul Dennis. In reality he is Henuch Rosenblatt, son of the late Cantor Joseph Rosenblatt, who so endeared himself to Jewish audiences for his beautiful renditions of excerpts from the Hebrew liturgy and Jewish folk music. Paul Dennis sings in no less than 20 languages. Whilst proud of the great achievements of his famous father, he decided not to enter the profession of a synagogue cantor.

Recently there passed through Johannesburg Mr. Hugh Marlyn, a brilliant musician, singer and actor, whose home is in London. Marlyn's father was the late Cantor Epstein, who was the possessor of a noble voice and conducted services for a generation at the famous new *shul* in London.

Only One . . .

YANKEL was very worried. His friend Zundel asked him what the trouble was about.

"I have no *matzoth* for *Pesach*," replied Yankel. "I have no meat, no wine. The children have no clothes for the holydays, no shoes, and my wife needs a dress for *Pesach*. My head is ready to burst with so many worries."

"Nu," said Zundel, "just take a pencil and figure it out. For *matzoth*—you need ten zlotys; for meat and wine—twelve zlotys; for clothes and shoes for the children—twenty zlotys; and a dress for your wife—twelve zlotys."

"How will all that help me?" asked Yankel.

Zundel replied: "Altogether you need fifty-four zlotys. That is your immediate task. Why have so many worries, when you really need to have only one?"

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