

Current Communal Comments

By "Hamabit"

in 1775, he appeared at Covent Garden in "Artaxerxes." He composed quite a number of pieces for the synagogue and the theatre. A strict Jew at all times, he declined to appear on the stage on Friday nights and Festivals.

He was, by the way, the uncle of the famous opera singer of that day, John Braham, the composer of the patriotic air, "The Death of Nelson." Braham did not adhere to Judaism, and one of his daughters became Countess Waldegrave and afterwards the wife of Lord Carlingford.

A Temple

AN interesting project is being considered in connection with the plans for the great World's Fair to be held in New York next year.

The proposal is to erect a Temple of Religion to crystallise a campaign to promote tolerance and goodwill among the various existing faiths. The building, surrounded by a Garden of Silence, will be dedicated to rest and meditation and will be completely non-sectarian. Many a visitor will find its soothing atmosphere conducive to spiritual communion after a vigorous dose of sight-seeing.

The idea of the promoters is to contrast the proposed tower with the Tower of Babel, for the new tower is to be designed with the object of achieving the exact opposite of what the Biblical tower accomplished. In the new temple many languages will be heard, but there will be one purpose: there will be many nationalities, but one patriotism; many religions, but an all-embracing faith in the religious freedom which is still the mainstay of liberal democracies.

The Protocols

QUITE a number of books dealing with the so-called "Protocols of the Elders" have appeared in recent years in England and in America. They all contain authentic documentary evidence which gives conclusive proof that this book, used by anti-Semites all over the world, is merely a piece of forgery. I think, however, that by far the most important work on the subject has just been published in Paris in the Russian language. It is written by Vladimir Burtzev, the famous Russian historian. Many years ago Burtzev created a world-wide sensation by exposing Aseff, the notorious agent-provocateur of the Russian revolutionary movement.

Whilst working on the Aseff case, Burtzev established close contact with the Czar's secret service. He maintained this contact with many of the Czar's agents who are now in exile, and was thereby able to unearth the true and full story of the fabrication of the "Protocols."

As is well known, the Protocols were originally written in French and were subsequently translated into Russian. Burtzev, who now lives in Paris, has been able to make the most exhaustive and searching inquiries into the French origin of the documents. He further traced the migration of the forgeries to Russia and their use by the anti-Semites of that country.

The book also deals with the attitude of the Czar himself towards the Protocols and remarks that Nicholas the Second, "who was a born anti-Semite," insisted on the suppression of the Protocols the moment he discovered that they were forged.

A Samson

I HEAR that a "strong" man has just made an appearance in a settlement near Tel-Aviv. Simon Rudi is 25 years old, 6 feet 4 inches high and weighs 297 lbs. He is able to support a weight of 1½ tons on his arched abdomen without undue effort, and allows a 3½ ton farm tractor to roll the length of his body with only a plank to protect him from its wheels. He can hold on his chest a pole on which a wheel turns with 40 passengers, and he can lift a barge horse with a rider on his shoulder.

It is believed that Rudi is even stronger than Zigmund Breitbart, the mighty man who created a sensation some years ago in Poland by his prowess. Breitbart was the chief attraction in the leading circuses of Europe, and amassed a great fortune. He was a keen Zionist and had a go at literary activity by writing memoirs which were published in the *Haint*, of Warsaw. Though regarded as the strongest man in Europe, he met his death through a small mishap. During a performance his hand was scratched by a nail, and blood-poisoning set in.

Apart from his strength Breitbart was an excellent showman, which Rudi is not. But I have no doubt that some enterprising manager will take up the lad and make something out of him, whether in the ring or in the circus arena.

Remnants

A RUMMAGE sale was being organised for a worthy philanthropic purpose. It was decided to send a circular to the ladies of the community encouraging them to support the project. The recipients learned that "a sale will take place of household goods, not worth keeping, but too good to throw away." The circular added: "Do not forget to bring your husbands!"

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