

Some Current "Sportlights"

— By —

JOSHUA M. BRAUER

MAX BAER is taking his comeback seriously. His fight with Tommy Farr some months ago brought him right back into the limelight. His decisive victory gave him some more 'devil', and what stunned the critics most was that he actually dropped Farr. Neither Louis nor Braddock could claim that distinction. A new Baer is fighting back, and when such shrewd critics as Natty Fleischer and Mike Jacobs rate his chances of winning back his world title on the highest, it seems that history is likely to be made. Nevertheless, only the Louis-Baer fight will decide.

MEANWHILE the boxing horizon is studded with promising Jewish fighters. Max Ross and Al Bernard are fighters out for the supremacy in the West Coast middleweight championship. Abe Simon and Herman Katz are climbing up in the heavies, while Benny Caplan is tipped to be Britain's champion light-weight ere long. Caplan is one of the cleverest boxers in England to-day and has a good record.

A current issue of "The Ring" applauds a number of Jewish wrestlers. I notice that Krasher Korman has been sweeping the boards as has Sammy Stein and Nat Rabin. Max Krauser, Polish-Jewish champion, is rated as the "sixth best wrestler in Europe."

A little cricket news. Norman Gordon is in the limelight again as a candidate for the Transvaal team, and a possible hope for the South African team. The Balfour Park

Cricket Team have been promoted to the reserve league. Jewish cricketers to watch this season are Abe Glantz, Spira, Jacobson, Goldberg and Lionel Allesen. Cyril Kaplan is, as usual, doing well in the Free State league.

JUDITH DEUTSCH, former Austrian women's swimming champion, has arrived at Haifa with her parents and younger sister, to settle in Eretz Israel. Judith, who is pretty, brunette, and just nineteen, created a stir in 1936 by announcing her refusal to represent her country at the Berlin Olympics, because she was a Jewess.

This brilliant woman athlete holds Austria's national record in the 100, 200, 400-metres free-style and 100 metres back stroke. Although disqualified for a period of two years from participation in any Austrian events by the National Swimming Federation she has continued a rigid training and is in splendid form.

Readers will be pleased to learn that Judith recently set up new Palestine records by covering the 200 metres, free-style, in 2 minutes 47.6 seconds, and the 50 and 100 metres in .35 minutes and 1 minute 17.6 seconds respectively. She is already a swimmer of world class and as an American journal puts it, "a potential world beater".

Her younger sister, Anne, aged fifteen, was the junior free-style champion of Austria and her elder sister's closest rival. Anne has broken the 100 metres back stroke in 1 minute 36.1 seconds.

The two champions will resume their swimming careers in Palestine. First, however, they say, they will learn to speak modern Hebrew.

A GREAT WRESTLER

AT the wrestling tournament organised by the Union Sporting Club at the Wembley Stadium, a fairly large crowd saw the first appearance in a South African ring of Earl McCready, the great Canadian battler, who claims the British Wrestling Championship. His contest with Jim Burnett, a fellow Canadian, can only be described as an exhibition bout in order to demonstrate the easy manner in which McCready can overcome all the famous and well-known holds. McCready is undoubtedly the finest wrestler ever to have come to this country. His strength is enormous and his style is clean and flawless.

His projected match with Johannes van der Walt, the South African champion, should draw an enormous crowd of wrestling fans; it will undoubtedly prove an homeric contest.

AN ATTRACTIVE BOXING PROMOTION ON SATURDAY NIGHT

The appearance of Tommy Bensch in his fight with Jim Pentz at the City Hall on Saturday evening, 5th inst., is likely to draw an immense crowd of boxing fans. Bensch has so far won every one of his fights with a K.O. in an early round. His smashing punch has defeated all-comers. What will he be able to do with Jim Pentz, who is known for his sturdiness and fine strength?

The promotion is under the auspices of the Transvaal National Sporting Club, and there will also be three stirring preliminaries. Plans are at Publix, Carlton Hotel.

BULAWAYO

In addition to its regular cultural activity, the local W.Z.O. has recently undertaken an intensive drive on behalf of the National Fund. Mesdames A. A. Salomon and A. Kaplan entertained the members of the W.Z.O. at the residence of Mrs. Salomon at a card party and a substantial contribution was realised. A similar function was held at the Guild Hall recently at which Mesdames H.

Hodes and Sammy Rabinowitz were the hostesses.

Mrs. A. J. Coleman addressed the W.Z.O. recently on Shakespeare at the Guild Hall. Mrs. Anna Cohen was in the chair and Mesdames Aberman and M. Rosen acted as hostesses. The Rev. M. I. Cohen was the speaker at another cultural function at which Mesdames D. Freed and W. Lowenthal acted as hostesses.

THE JEWS OF CURACAO

"ZIVION," the columnist of *Vorwaerts* (New York) describes a recent visit to Curacao where he found a very happy Jewish community. Amongst the population of fifty thousand who inhabit this island in the West Indies seven hundred and fifty are Jews.

The Jewish community of Curacao has a long and most interesting history. It was founded in 1650 and must, therefore, be regarded as one of the earliest Jewish communities in the new world. The Jewish cemetery in Williamstadt was founded in 1668 and is considered one of the oldest if not the oldest cemetery for European settlers in South and Central America. From the inscriptions on the tombstones one learns that Curacao Jews have occupied positions as administrators, doctors, officers and captains of the island. The Synagogue was built some two hundred years ago, and is an exact copy of the old Synagogue in Amsterdam. One of the most ancient homes of Prayer on the island, it was built even before the Protestant church. Beautifully preserved, it contains some very fine ornaments.

From Dr. J. S. Emmanuel, the Rabbi of this island, "Zivion" learnt that the whole community lives under the happiest conditions and there are practically no poor amongst them. Like all the other clergy the Rabbi receives a salary from the Government. Jewish citizens have occupied a leading position on the island from the earliest days. There were Jews amongst the first Hollanders that came out to settle on the Island.

In 1651 the Dutch West India Company almost decided to give up the island altogether, and it was due to Joseph van Seka, a Dutch Jew, who was well-known as David Nassi, that the directors were persuaded to go on with the administration of the island and to introduce new colonists. In the contract which David Nassi drew up with the authorities a special clause was inserted to safeguard the religious freedom of the settlers. This contract may be regarded as the first charter of religious freedom for the Jews in the New World, and large numbers of Jewish immigrants came to the island.

To-day Spanish and Portuguese Jews still play an important part in the commercial life of the community, though the number of Jews has greatly decreased. Madura is the owner of the gigantic oil-refinery which is considered the biggest in the world. Morris Curie is the owner of the biggest department store, and four of the nine members of the Chamber of Commerce are Jews.

WITBANK

Simchat-Torah Dance

The Witbank Zionist Society held a Simchat-Torah dance at the Hebrew School Hall on the 19th Oct. The Kit-Kat Band was in attendance. In spite of the rain it proved a most successful function both socially and financially, and the Hebrew School Building Fund benefits substantially by the proceeds. Thanks are due to the organising committee for their excellent work.

S.A. Jewish Orphanage

The amount of £34/17/6 was sent to the S.A. Jewish Orphanage per Mrs. Dembo—being subscriptions received from April to the end of August.

The Governor-General

Professor Norman Bentwich and Sir Wyndham Deedes Entertained

The Mayor and Mayoress of Johannesburg, Sir Wyndham Deedes, C.M.G., D.S.O., and Professor Norman Bentwich, O.B.E., M.C., had the honour of lunching with the Governor-General and Lady Duncan at Government House on Thursday last.

PAST AND PRESENT ON MOUNT SCOPUS

(Concluded from page 15)

THE open-air theatre with the Minnie Untermyer Memorial Stage can seat over 2,000 people and is to me one of the most impressive assembly halls I have seen. I liked the gesture which has placed Greek pillars, forming the background of the stage, to frame the glimpses of the Wilderness and the Valley beyond. A seat of culture should know when to borrow from other cultures and it is pleasant to reflect upon the enormous portion of the world's culture which is based on these two — the Jewish and the Greek.

Beneath the stage, in lighted underground halls, is one of the most interesting and weirdest collections that any university has housed. It is called the Museum of Biblical Botany and Arab Plant Lore and is under the curatorship of Dr. Ephraim Ha-Reubeni. Here is preserved in its natural form and colour every plant mentioned in the Bible as well as specimens of some of those mentioned in the Talmud, the New Testament and the Koran. The collection is unique and the method of preservation a secret known only to their collector, Dr. Ha-Reubeni, who is consulted or the subject of flower preservation by such world famous places as Kew Gardens.

In this setting of ancient culture, modern research, new buildings and age-old scholarship, many of the Palestinian students, men and women, walk in khaki shorts and blue shirts. This cheap and practical uniform is usual among Palestinian youth. Some of the women students wear coloured handkerchiefs on their heads — shades of academic dress in the ancient European halls of learning! Yet none is more truly ancient than this on Mount Scopus. But to remind us vividly that this, after all, is 1938, and the world no longer in its playful infancy, are the piled sandbags on the roofs of the meteorological department, the cordon of watchmen round the grounds at night and the bullet holes in the walls where shots at random have found a mark.