

CORRESPONDENCE

The Palestine Opera.

The Editor,

"S.A. Jewish Chronicle."

Sir,—The Palestine Folk Opera, established at the end of 1940, is a co-operative society registered by the Government and has 120 members. Most of them are refugees from Hungary, Czechoslovakia and Germany, the rest are Palestinians and old performers.

The choir and the orchestra consist of the best conductors in the country, all of them famous artists. It is important to note that about 60 per cent. of the members are professionals.

The first performance took place in February, 1941, with the classical operetta—"The Bat" by J. Straus, translated into Hebrew by Truche; the number of performances given in all the towns and villages up to now is forty-five. The following performance was "Madame Butterfly" by Puccini, conducted by G. Singer, translated by H. Bergman; up to now it has been performed twenty-five times. The next performance was that of the operetta "The Gypsy Princess" by A. Kalman, translated into Hebrew by A. Truche, conductor A. Lustig.

The decorations and the dresses for the last operetta required a great deal of money and energy.

The Palestine Folk Opera, compromised with the conductor, Mr. Golinkin, the pioneer of the opera in Palestine. He is shortly to conduct the operas: "Pagliacci" by Leoncavala, and "Cavalleria Rusticana" by Mascagne. During a period of one year about seventy thousand people visited the performances of the opera, among the visitors being many members of the high civil and military authorities.

In spite of the economies made in the management, the opera can afford to pay her members only the minimum wage which hardly suffices for their living expenses. If the Opera is to continue to exist and to develop it ought to be supported by the various institutions of the Jewish population in Palestine.

It would certainly be gratifying if Jewish theatre-lovers, living beyond the boundaries of Palestine would generously assist the young but already successful opera in its first difficult steps.— I am, etc.,

JULIUS SACHS.

Tel-Aviv.

Goodwill Day.

The Editor,

"S.A. Jewish Chronicle."

Sir,

Men of Goodwill everywhere must be seriously disturbed by the mounting tide of hatred and bitterness which is engulfing mankind. It has been the cause of the war spreading over the entire world, while within the life of the Nation it continues to breed strife and discord.

No country in the world needs the spirit of Goodwill more than South Africa. The racial divisions and the peculiar political animosities have brought about a situation for which there are few parallels in other countries. The past year has seen no decrease in the prevailing intolerance and racial bitterness. There is, therefore, an urgent need to mobilise all the forces of good in the land.

Happily there are many far-sighted men and women who are concerned about the state of affairs, and who are doing a great deal to create better feeling. Last year they set to work and organised a "Goodwill Sabbath" and succeeded in focussing attention upon the need and value of a better spirit between the different sections of the community.

New and beneficent forces were released in the life of the people. This resulted in the formation of the Goodwill Council, which is striving to improve the relations between the Afrikaans and English-speaking sections of the community, between Jews and Christians, and between Europeans and non-Europeans.

This can be done by creating a spirit of mutual understanding, tolerance and goodwill and by co-operative efforts which aim to improve the common life. Differences of opinion and conviction there must be in a nation made up of so many racial elements as we have in South Africa, but closer fellowship will help us not only to understand and respect one another but also to destroy fears, prejudices and antagonisms.

The work of Goodwill is being further extended by the observance of a Goodwill Week commencing May 18th. This will be chiefly of a secular nature, with a special appeal to youth. For religious observance, however, Saturday, February 14th (or Sunday, February 15th for the Christian) has been declared Goodwill Day.

As was the case last year the spirit of this Goodwill Day is to be kept clearly apart from the realms of party politics.

It is sincerely hoped that this movement will meet with the wholehearted and widespread support which it merits.

Yours faithfully

S. L. SCHACH, *Hon. Secretary,*
GOODWILL COUNCIL.

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BARMITZVAH.

KATZIN.—Harold Eliezer Zvi, only son of Mr. and Mrs. M. Katzin, of Main Road, Retreat, will read a Portion of the Law and Maftir at the Wynberg Synagogue on Saturday, 7th February. "At Home," Saturday and Sunday.



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ABSORPTIVE CAPACITY. (Continued from Previous Page).

and iron, but the age of coal and iron is passing, and in the coming age of physics and chemistry we have the men and are not so badly off in the matter.

Town and country, agriculture and industry are commonly opposed. Palestine is too small a country for us to afford that luxury. We must look upon its future as one great garden city, in which town and country, industry and agriculture, interpenetrate. With such a goal we can extend wide the bounds of absorptive capacity and build up a nation without urban or rural slums, without the slickness of the city or the dullness of the country.—(By courtesy of "The New Judea.")

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