

## Zionist Conversazione.

The last fortnightly *Conversazione* of the season took place at the Zionist Hall on Tuesday night.

Mr. J. Weinreich was in the chair and said that this *Conversazione* marked the end of the thirteenth year since this function had been instituted in Cape Town. The *Conversazione* had given a platform to every shade of opinion both by Jew and non-Jew. Many prominent personalities had been welcomed and very interesting addresses had been delivered on a variety of topics. He thanked all who had helped to make the *Conversazione* a success.

Mr. Weinreich extended a cordial welcome to Mr. Hans Kramer who had very kindly consented to present a recorded programme of music by Jewish artists and composers.

Mr. Kramer said he was very grateful for the opportunity given him of presenting this programme, which he had wanted to do for a long time. Introducing his programme with a talk, he said that Jewish religious and folk music reflected with the utmost fidelity the atmosphere of their environment. As far back as the Middle Ages the performances of Jewish musicians were eagerly listened to by non-Jewish audiences. It was not before the Renaissance, however, that individual composers began to emerge. Only in lands of greater freedom did Jewish musical ability find its outlet. The pioneers were the instrumentalists, like the Italian Jacob Basevi Cervetto, virtuoso of the violoncello, who emigrated from Venice and became one of the best-known players in London for some 45 years. Jewish singers, too, began to come into their own in England at the same time.

It was Germany which led Europe in music and so it was natural that German Jews showed greater prominence in this than in other parts of the Continent. Felix Mendelssohn-Bartholdy (1809-1847), the baptised grandson of the great Jewish philosopher, exercised an influence so important that it seems hard to realise that he died before his 40th birthday. Among his contemporaries were Meyerbeer (1791-1864) and Francois Halevy (1799-1862), one of the greatest figures in French music. Jacques Offenbach (1819-1880) linked Germany with France. Karl Goldmark and Gustav Mahler have left their mark in musical history. In England the only name of almost equal calibre is that of Sir Frederic Cowen, conductor and composer. The 19th century produced among other less universally known Jewish composers, Moritz Moszkowsky in Germany, John Barnett and Julius Benedict in England, Paul Dukas in France and Alberto Franchetti in Italy.

In the modern school of music Jews, now at last afforded ampler opportunities, are

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## The Biltmore Programme

Recent despatches from the Yishuv make frequent reference to "The Biltmore Programme." This is the programme that was set forth in a Declaration adopted by the Extraordinary Zionist Conference held at the Hotel Biltmore, New York, on 9th, 10th and 11th May, 1942. The Conference was the culmination of several months of intensive political activity, sponsored by the Emergency Committee for Zionist Affairs under the guidance of Dr. Weizman and Mr. Ben Gurion. It was attended by nearly six hundred delegates from all over the United States, and had a special importance in view of the impossibility of convening a World Zionist Congress under war conditions.

The Declaration adopted by the Conference affirmed Jewish solidarity with the United Nations and called for the establishment of Palestine as a Jewish Commonwealth. It reaffirmed Zionism's unalterable rejection of the White Paper policy; stated the significance of Palestine as a bastion of Allied War strategy, and called for a Jewish fighting force under its own flag and under the High Command of the United Nations. The Declaration reaffirmed the stand previously adopted at World Zionist Congresses, expressing the readiness and desire of the Jewish people for full co-operation with their Arab neighbours, and concluded:—

"The Conference declares that the new world order that will follow victory, cannot be established on foundations of peace, justice and equality, unless the problem of Jewish homelessness is finally solved.

"The Conference urges that the gates of Palestine be opened; that the Jewish Agency be vested with control of immigration into Palestine and with the necessary authority for upbuilding the country, including the development of its unoccupied and uncultivated lands; and that Palestine be established as a Jewish Commonwealth integrated in the structure of the new democratic world.

"Then and only then will the age-old wrong to the Jewish people be righted."

### BARMITZVAH.

SILVERMAN.—Monty, only son of Mr. and Mrs. Herman Silverman, will read a Portion of the Law and Maftir at the Gardens Synagogue on Saturday, November 28th. Brocha after Shool at 74, Molteno Road, Oranjezicht.

SACKS.—Gerald, son of Mr. and Mrs. Nathan Sacks, Sunningdale Flats, Killarney, Johannesburg (formerly of Sea Point), will read a Portion of the Law and Maftir at the Wolmarans Street Synagogue on Saturday, November 21st.

## South African Jewish War Appeal.

The campaign for the S.A. Jewish War Appeal goes on apace in Cape Town and in the Western Province. During the preceding week a large field had been covered in Cape Town and suburbs, and on Wednesday, 11th November, Mr. Leon Segal, Chairman of the War Appeal, Mr. J. Philips and Mr. J. Dwolatzky addressed a well-attended meeting of the Paarl community in the Communal Hall, Paarl. They were accompanied by Mr. M. Rabie and Mr. M. Wolman. The response of Paarl Jewry has been such that all previous figures have been shattered, and new records for the community have been established. The canvass is proceeding.

For the immediate future, plans are being made for the large meeting at Worcester on Sunday, 29th November, and during the first half of December it is intended to cover towns such as Moorreesburg, Malmesbury and Piquetberg, and to proceed from there to Van Rhynsdorp, Garies and Springbok.

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among the leaders. Outstanding are Arnold Schoenberg, Darius Milhaud, Mario Castelunovo-Tedesco and Ernest Bloch, who more than any of the others devotes his talents to Jewish themes.

Jews, said Mr. Kramer, have figured among the instrumentalists in every land in utterly disproportionate numbers. The concert hall of to-day would be inconceivable without Jewish virtuosi. The violin has had a particular attraction for the Jews, particularly for those of Russian birth. He mentioned a long list of names of world-famous Jewish violinists, pianists, violoncellists, singers and conductors. To deal with this subject adequately, he said, would require several evenings.

Mr. Kramer played a number of very beautiful records during his talk and the programme closed with the playing of the record of the *Hatikvah* sung by Alma Gluck.

During the evening a recording of Mr. J. H. Hofmeyr's broadcast on the occasion of the 25th anniversary of the Balfour Declaration was given.

Mr. Weinreich expressed deep appreciation to Mr. Kramer for providing a programme so interesting and entertaining.

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