

BOOKS

They Are No More, by Z. Segalowitz. Translated from the Yiddish poem "Nishto" by Amelia Levy. Published by "Ophir," the Jewish Arts Association of South Africa.

"Ophir," the Jewish Arts Association of South Africa, have rendered a great service by publishing the poem "They Are No More" by Z. Segalowitz, which has been excellently translated from the Yiddish poem "Nishto" by Amelia Levy. The author conveys in moving language and with deep poetic insight his feelings on the terrible tragedy which has befallen Polish Jewry. His memories of pre-war Poland are vividly portrayed and he nostalgically recalls the intense cultural and literary life in which he shared in Warsaw. He mourns the writers and poets, who were his friends, and asks:

"What's left of all the hope, desire
To mount the crest of every wave?
In crematoria and in fire
A distant, piled up, nameless grave."
He gives a graphic description of the tortures to which the Jews were subjected, and says:—

"Beyond all will and mortal power
To grasp in full our tragedy;
No miracle to save this hour—
And all that's left—a threnody."
He pays his tribute to the heroes of the ghetto rebellion, although he says:—

"I know full well I lack the power,
I feel incompetent, afraid
To raise a verse to match that hour
When Jews fought in the barricade."

He describes how—
"Side by side they fought together,
The pious and the unbelieving"

till
"The flames consumed them altogether
And left no trace of Jewish living."

In spite of the poet's grief and sorrow, in spite of his hatred of the inhuman Nazis, the poem, nevertheless, ends on a note of hope:—

"How many Jews, devout and pious,
Who found in faith their comfort's store,
Were dragged in torture foul and heinous
Together with the Scrolls of Law.
Perhaps one day their ash will tingle
In every blossom's beauteous face;
In Polish flax and wheat will mingle
The dust that bears a Jewish trace.
Perhaps their faith will shed a fragrance
Upon your plants and flowers and leaves,
And add an ever newer radiance
To all your golden corn sheaves.
Perhaps between the weeds and nettles,
Quite unexpectedly will grow
Upon a few obscure petals
These simple letters in a row:

"Thou shalt not murder." In blood not dry
Is writ upon these leaves again;
The old command from ageless Sinai
Cries from the depths of our pain."
Copies of the poem are obtainable from the S.A. Jewish Board of Deputies, P.O. Box 1180, Johannesburg. Price 2/6.

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"Four Rachels," by Dora Kobler.
The Education Department of the Federation of Women Zionists of London has issued an interesting little book entitled "Four Rachels." It deals with four notable Jewish Women of four generations, from 1771 to 1890, presenting, through the portraiture of four widely different "Rachels" the changing aspect of Jewish womanhood through the four generations from the period of the Emancipation to the Renaissance of the Jewish people.
The pictures of the four Rachels are

sketchy and gossipy, and serve as a perfect introduction to the deeper study of their lives, sources of which are given in the Bibliography. Rachel Varnhagen, of Berlin, described by Goethe as 'always calm, yet emotional in a manner peculiarly her own', was a creature of tragic tension and sorrowful conflict. Judaism was for her a source of sorrow, which she only overcame on the threshold of death.

The second Rachel of the Jewish family Morpurgo, was steeped from childhood in things Jewish, in the Talmud, thus being enveloped in the atmosphere which the first Rachel had missed in her youth. She became the feted darling of the group which in the first half of the 19th Century had striven for the renaissance of Hebrew literature. She was the first woman who, in the era of emancipation used Hebrew as the medium of her personal expression.

Rachel Felix, the third great Rachel, lived in Paris. But her real name was not Rachel, but Elise Felix. And it is interesting to note that she was prevailed upon by her stage contemporaries to change her name from "the more commonplace 'Elise'" to the more unusual one of 'Rachel.' Importance is attached by the author to the fact that Rachel Felix was a famous actress, and that the whole of English aristocracy attended her performances, and that in spite of the attempts made to convert her by such people as Queen Marie Amélie, wife of Louis Philippe, the Archbishop of Paris, Tsar Nicholas of Russia, the Archduchess Sophie of Austria, she "continued to be a Jewess."

The fourth Rachel is one nearer to our time and nearer to our hearts. She is Rachel the bardic poet, whose song 'Kinereth Sheli' is one of the most beautiful sung by Cholutzim to-day. This Rachel Blaustein died in 1931. Her comrades buried her on a hillock near Lake Kinereth and planted there the "Gan Rachel" on one of the finest spots in Eretz Israel.

Dora Kobler's short summing up of the Four Rachels has another value besides serving as an introduction to further study of the lives of four great women. It has a symbolic significance, in that, in spite of the essential differences, 'all four were united in their strong attachment to their Jewish heritage which none of them could or would escape.'

Forthcoming Events.

United Hebrew Schools.—The Annual General Meeting will be held on Sunday, 1st June, at 10 a.m. in the Rose and Woolf Harris Hall of the Talmud Torah, 103, Hope Street, Cape Town. Members and donors are invited to attend.

Zionist Socialist Party.—The next meeting of the Study Circle arranged by the Cape Town branch will be held at the residence of Mrs. D. Melamed, 31, Bellair Road, Vredehoek, Cape Town, on Friday, 23rd May, at 8:15 p.m. Mr. E. Kluk will be the speaker.

Bnoth Zion Association.—The next meeting of the Wizo Group of the Observatory-Mowbray branch will be held on Wednesday, 28th May, at 3 p.m. at the residence of Mrs. M. Stein, 9, Glencaird Road, Mowbray. Mr. Solly Kessler, who recently returned from a year's visit to Palestine, will be the guest speaker. Members and friends are cordially invited to attend.

The **Cape Town Zionist Youth Society** are holding their next meeting on Sunday, 25th inst., at 8:15 p.m. at the residence of Doreen Katzen, "Pine-wood," Forest Road, Oranjezicht. The speaker will be Solly Kessler, who will continue the lecture he gave two weeks ago.

Green and Sea Point Wizo Circle.
The next meeting will take place on Wednesday, 28th May, at 10:15 a.m. at the Talmud Torah Hall, Marais Rd., Sea Point. Speaker: Mr. S. Stein on "S.A. Cholutzim in Eretz Israel." All welcome.

Ruth Rome's Farewell Recital.

Ruth Rome, another of our talented artists who is leaving for further training overseas, gave her farewell recital at the City Hall on Tuesday night.

One felt that the enthusiastic reception accorded her was tinged with regret that Cape Town was to be deprived, for some years, of one of its most talented and promising pianists. But there is no doubt, from this performance, that South Africa will be the richer artistically on her return.

The programme was supported by the Beethoven Egmont Overture, the William Tell overture (Rossini) and the Valse and Finale from Tschaikevsky's Fifth Symphony, under the baton of Geoffrey Miller.

Showing a remarkable musical intelligence which compensated for her lack of tonal power, Miss Rome gave a grace and charm to the soft-spoken Beethoven Piano Concerto in G. Major, the musical intricacies of which were never beyond her reach. She dealt with the slow movement with rather academic precision, but the soft plea of the piano in its 'dialogue' with the strings in the third movement showed promise of a new forcefulness, while the humour and tenderness were never clouded.

In the Schumann Piano Concerto in A Minor, Miss Rome revealed great classical feeling and musical insight. She expressed the gently melodic material of the theme in the initial allegro with almost voluptuous sweetness, and enhanced the development in the intermezzo with great sympathy. The essential restraint and charm of her style were best fitted to the delicate exuberance of the Allegro Vivace, while, in this movement, the young soloist showed a sure and strong sense of direction which augurs well for her future development.

Cape Town music lovers will follow with interest the career of this young musician overseas, and will no doubt count on her return to contribute to the musical renaissance which South Africa is waiting for.

S.L.

Social & Personal.

Mr. S. Sandak-Lewin, South African representative of the Society of Commercial Accountants, left Cape Town on Tuesday for Johannesburg in connection with the formation of a Transvaal branch of the society.

Dr. and Mrs. S. C. Shore (née Lolly Fig) are being congratulated on the birth of a daughter.

MIZRACHI ORGANISATION OF S.A.—CAPE TOWN BRANCH.

RABBI DR. H. FREEDMAN, of Melbourne, Australia, will be the Guest of Honour at an

ONEG SHABBAT

on **FRIDAY, 23rd MAY,** at 8:15 p.m.

at the residence of **MR. & MRS. J. W. RUBIK**, 5, Holmfirth Rd., Sea Point.

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"CLAUDIA AND DAVID"

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SUNDAY, 25th MAY.

March from "Tannhauser" ... Wagner.
Overture "Euryanthe" ... Weber.
Songs with Piano:

OLIVE M. ROBERTSON.

Waltz "Footlights" ... Coates.
First Movement from Concerto No. 3 in C Minor for Piano and Orchestra ... Beethoven.

MOLLY THOM.

Bauers music from "Sylvia" ... Delibes.
Admission free. Chairs 6d.

THURSDAY, 29th MAY.

Guest Conductor:

SACHA DEREVITSKY.

Overture "Barber of Seville" Rossini.
Concerto for Cello and Orch. ... Elgar.

HERMANN BECKER.

Symphony No. 5 ... Beethoven etc., etc.

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Races at Ascot

SATURDAY, 24th MAY.

1st Race at 12.20 p.m.

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Trains to Course:

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R. C. LOUW, Secretary.

A

GRAND BALL

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on

TUESDAY, 27th MAY.

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Dancing 8-12.

ק"ק אגודת אחים

חוב חלש קפסאן

NEW HEBREW CONGREGATION, Roeland Street, Cape Town.

RABBI DR. E. W. KIRZNER, Chief Rabbi of the Congregation,

will deliver an address the **FIRST DAY OF SHEVUOTH**

on **SUNDAY, 25th MAY,**

at 5 p.m. after Mincha Service.