

## Book Reviews

**EARLY ENGLISH ZIONISTS—1890-1920.** By Prof. Norman Bentwich.

In the booklet, entitled "Early English Zionists", the fifth in the series "Zionist Library" published by the Youth Department of the Zionist Organisation, Prof. Norman Bentwich shows how "Although quantitatively English Zionists were not of great account as compared with the mass movements in Poland, Russia and South-Eastern Europe, in their quality the leaders of English Zionism and the Gentile friends who were sympathetic with its aims, played an eminent part in the decisive developments".

The part played by England and English Jews is traced from Herzl's early realisation that England was the country most likely to prove sympathetic to Jewish national aims on account of the religious feeling towards Palestine felt by the bulk of the British people and the growing political interest taken by Britain in the Eastern Mediterranean, to the setting up in Palestine in 1920 of a British Civil Administration and the formation of a Government in which the High Commissioner and four of his principal assistants were British Jews.

In what is to all intents and purposes a short historical outline of Zionism in England during the nineteenth and early twentieth century, he describes the work of the men and women—Moses Montefiore, Disraeli, George Elliot, Zangwill and Oliphant, to mention a few, who were among the first to further that cause, and the set-backs which they met. He outlines the practical efforts of the Society of Lovers of Zion, constituted in 1891, with which the names of Goldsmid, Sebag, Montefiore, d'Avigdor and Dr. Gaster are associated. He describes Herzl's contact with British statesmen and the beginning of political Zionism (with its financial institutions established in London) followed by the schism over the Uganda offer.

Coming on to modern times when, during the first World War England became the centre of Zionist activity, we are introduced to the leading Zionist figures in the provincial towns of England and above all to Weizmann who had, by the time, made Manchester his home and who was exerting a powerful influence on British statesmen and journalists. The support which leaders of Anglo-Jewry and outstanding Zionists, e.g. Lord Reading, Lord Melchett, Dr. Hertz, David Eder, Leon Simon, Selig Brodetsky and Simon Marks gave to the Movement at the time of the Balfour Declaration and subsequently, is described.

Finally, brief mention is made of the first Youth Aliyah from England and tribute is paid to Brigadier Kisch, political head of the Jewish Agency from 1922-1931, who was killed in action in North Africa in 1943.

The booklet provides a useful introduction to a study of the history of Zionism in England.

NINA DEVONS.

**LISTEN, GENTILE!** By Y. Ben Aharon. Staples Press Ltd., London.

In a prefatory note readers are told that this story was written in 1944 while the author was a prisoner-of-war at Oflag 79 (Brunswick). It purports to be an account of conversations over a period of three years between two P.O.W.s., one an English officer (Jack) and the other a Palestinian Jew (Reuben), as retold by Jack. The "conversations" are for the most part nothing more than monologues, in the course of which Reuben surveys the history of the Jews, analyses the reasons for Zionism and describes modern developments in Palestine with special emphasis on the communal settlements. He does not deal with the political aspect nor with the situation during and since the end of the war. The

(Continued in Second Column.)

## Forthcoming Events.

**Histadruth Ivrit.**—An Oneg Shabbat in honour of delegates to the 21st S.A. Zionist Conference will be held at the Zionist Hall on Saturday, 12th July at 3.30 p.m. All delegates, members and friends are cordially invited.

**Lectures by Mr. I. Charlash.**—On Sunday, 13th July in the Oddfellows Hall, Hope Street, Mr. I. Charlash will give the second in the series of lectures on Yiddish Literature. The subject will be "Fifty Years Zionism—Fifty Years Socialism." The third lecture on "Der Geyer" by Boraisha, will be given at the Zionist Hall on Thursday, 17th July at 8.15 p.m.

**Cape Peninsula Women's Mizrahi Association.**—Members and friends of the Vredehoek branch are cordially invited to a monthly meeting on Tuesday, 15th July at 2.30 p.m. at the residence of Mrs. H. Boruchowitz, "Mon Repos," Upper Buitenkant Street, Cape Town. Rabbi Dr. A. T. Shrock will be the guest speaker and Miss Leonie Globus will entertain the gathering with Hebrew melodies. All welcome.

## Lawrence Tibbett.

Lawrence Tibbett, the famous baritone, gave his second concert in Cape Town before a very large and appreciative audience at the Alhambra Theatre on Monday night. His programme was interesting and varied, and each item was enthusiastically received. Outstanding were Hear Me, Ye Winds and Waves (Handel), The Wanderer (Schubert), The Water Mill (Vaughan Williams), Edward (Loewe) and Song of the Flea (Moussorgsky).

Mr. Tibbett was very generous with encores, giving a number of request items, including The Road to Mandalay and a satiric little song, "American Lullaby," which much appealed to the audience. Though Mr. Tibbett's voice has not the power one expected, his singing is nevertheless of a very high quality and is characterised by beauty of expression and fine technique.

Edward Harris, who was a most sympathetic accompanist, also played a group of Debussy compositions, for which he was encored.

(Continued from First Column.)

method by which the story is told seems artificial and tends to become somewhat tedious.

The author is one of the younger generation of Jewish Labour leaders in Palestine and lives and works in the communal settlement of Givat-Hayim. It is not surprising, therefore, that he stresses the importance of the Labour Movement and the collective settlements in the development of Palestine with hardly any reference to anything else. Though Jack, the Englishman, who retells what Reuben has told him, says he was impressed with his arguments—which "became even more convincing when I came to know his personal experience as a member of such a community"—it is possible that anyone reading the book without any previous knowledge of Palestine might get a distorted idea of life in the country.

## SILVER WEDDING.

**GORDON—EFFMAN.**—Married by Rabbi M. Ch. Mirvish 10th July, 1922 (14 Tamus, 5682) Rev. Ch. Gordon to Adela Effman. Address: Benjamin Road, Wynberg.

Jerusalem.

The price of petrol in Palestine is to be increased by 3d. to 3s. 3d. a gallon to pay the £250,000 damage caused when terrorists set fire to the Shell Oil Company's installations in Haifa last March.

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R. C. LOUW,  
Secretary.

## LOST.

Lady's rain cape in Zionist Hall on Tuesday evening. Will finder please phone 2-3295.