

Echoes

Used To It

DEEP sorrow overwhelmed all the members of the Kvutza when it became known that one of the "Teheran" children had been drowned in the small pool. Vain were all efforts to revive him. He died.

Silently all the members of the Kvutza stood round his open grave and could find no words to express their pain; silently they cried and their tears fell on the upturned sod.

When one of the "Teheran" children who stood speechless, cold and fearless was asked "Have you no tears for your friend?" he replied, "I am accustomed to the dead. I hid amongst them, I lay with them, I slept in their midst!"

★ Palestine Viola.

DURING the Palestine Orchestra's last out in Egypt, a rich man in Cairo fell in love with Viola . . . one of the viola players. In the few days at their disposal they managed to settle all formalities, such as the engagement, date of wedding, etc. It has ever been said that the violas had never sounded more beautiful than on this particular tour.

In due course Viola will remain with her husband, a Viola without her orchestra, an orchestra without its viola.

—Mando in "Palestine Post."

Workers' Societies, and so on without end. Old Kasrievky had known no other drama than the Purim play; new Kasrievky had two theatres, both of them empty most of the time. Old Kasrievky had known no other music than that of the synagogue; new Kasrievky had two Choral Societies. Why two Dramatic Societies and two Choral Societies? The answer is that though everything else might have changed, the spirit of imitation, envy and competition had not disappeared with old Kasrievky.

Old Kasrievky had been without a local publication; new Kasrievky had two Yiddish dailies, the "Skullcap" for the orthodox, the "Bowler Hat" for the moderns. Not that the "Skullcap" and the "Bowler Hat" were not both modern in their methods. They lacked nothing which may be found — or might have been found forty years ago — in the newspapers of the great outside world. They had their news columns, their interviews, their feature articles, their thrilling novels in thirty or forty or four hundred instalments, their advertising departments, and, of course, their platforms. The "Skullcap" stood for tradition, orthodoxy, and Hebrew (though it was a Yiddish newspaper); the "Bowler Hat" stood for progress, modernity, and Yiddish. The rivalry between the "Skullcap" and the "Bowler Hat" was conducted with a ferocity which would have startled gun-toting editors of the Far West in the early days of Mark Twain and Bret Harte.

Points of View

Owing to pressure on space Points of View by Mevaker have been crowded out this week.

Serious and Otherwise

* by ben dor *

Gallant Englishman

THE South African press recently extolled a gallant young "English" officer, the son of a Sheffield business man, a "37-year-old lawyer who turned soldier and revolutionised the battle-training of Britain's armies." The young officer, who was killed in action in Italy, was probably the most original and constructive thinker on modern military tactics which the present conflict has produced in Allied or enemy countries.

The young English soldier's name was Lionel Wigram, and he was a Jew, who was closely and enthusiastically associated with the Anglo-Jewish community. His father, an orthodox and learned man, had been President of the Sheffield Synagogue for many years, and Lionel was a product of the Jewish way of life. Before the war he took a keen interest in gaining support for Jewish charities, and gave his time and energy freely to helping Jewish refugees and in setting up a hostel for the child victims of Nazidom.

After Dunkirk, he realised that the method of training British soldiers, especially the infantry, was totally out-moded. He had fresh ideas on the subject, and published a book on battle drill. Soon every British division was equipped with a battle-school in which Wigram's suggestions could be taught, and he himself was appointed commandant of the General Headquarters School for training instructors.

As a result, says an article in a leading English newspaper, "a new system of training was introduced and a new army was born," and to-day "the results of that training are to be seen from end to end of the Mediterranean."

Then, like that other great Jewish soldier and patriot, Brigadier Kisch, Wigram fell in action with the Eighth Army. And amidst all the enthusiastic praises in the national British and in the South African press nobody mentioned that he was a Jew.

Counter-Espionage

HERE is a true story that would make an excellent mystery film by Hitchcock:

Some months ago, a man named Mikitch was found dead in an empty lot outside the German Embassy in Ankara. His death received only a few lines in the press. But in the bars of the Turkish capital rumours spread rapidly that he was done away with by Von Papen's men.

At one time Von Papen considered tall, blond, handsome Mikitch his friend. At the time he didn't know that Mikitch, who travelled on the forged passports of many countries, varied his

religious identification according to the country he entered.

Mikitch was a Bialystock Jew. He ostensibly served as a Nazi espionage agent. He travelled freely all over Europe, often in the company of Gestapo officials. In their company, he still managed to make his contacts. He brought money to Jews in the ghettos. He saved many of them from the ghettos. On one trip he "married" an elderly woman and brought her and her daughter to a free country.

It was later learned that the woman he had ostensibly married and her daughter were the wife and daughter of the former Polish Premier, Sikorsky, whom Mikitch thus rescued from Poland. The full story of the man has been told by Dr. C. Szoszkies in an article in the Yiddish Morning Journal. Dr. Szoszkies knew Mikitch well.

—"Heard in the Lobbies."

Orator-Fighter

FROM Italy comes the story of a Jewish refugee, a veteran of the Imperial Germany Army of the first World War, and now a soldier in the United States Army, who persuaded six German machine gunners to surrender and thus saved his unit.

The soldier, Richard Stern, received the Iron Cross during World War I and was given the Hanseatic Cross by Adolph Hitler, who did not know that Stern was a Jew. Stern has given both medals to the scrap drive in America. Before he left Germany, he worked in the anti-Nazi underground. He came to the United States in 1939.

Although he is forty-five years old, he was drafted. When offered an honourable discharge, he indignantly refused and demanded overseas duty. A member of the combat engineers, one of the most arduous branches of the service, he was shipped to Italy. When his unit was trapped on a hillside and the officer in charge was wounded, Stern delivered an anti-Nazi oration in perfect German and induced a group of six Nazi machine gunners to surrender.

His sister in New York expressed some surprise at his eloquence, as he was never before known to be an orator. However, she stated, in all his letters he expressed his desire to come to grips with the enemy, in order to avenge the death of a brother, sister-in-law, niece and three cousins who were killed in concentration camps in Germany.

Einstein Cannot Work Out His Income Tax

Albert Einstein, greatest living mathematician, and one who has grappled with and solved the most involved mathematical problems of all time, cannot work out his income tax. He has finally given it up as a bad job, and has submitted it to an income tax expert.

Einstein was asked: "What effect have the many 'tax-questions' had on you in general?"

"That is a difficult question to put to a mathematician. A philosopher would be much more helpful," was the curt reply.



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