

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Work of the M.D.A.

Sir,—Ever-ready to undertake any relief and assistance to our people wherever and whenever the need arises, Magen David Adom has recently had to undertake responsibilities which will be of interest to your readers and our many members throughout the country.

A drive for the benefit of refugees who were deported to and detained at Cyprus was declared throughout Palestine by the Vaad Leumi, whereby each family was to contribute £1, with which food parcels would be purchased and sent to Cyprus. Magen David Adom was asked to undertake the drive and thousands of their members participated. Other organisations, such as WIZO have also volunteered their services. Within a few weeks thousands of parcels were sent to our brethren in Cyprus.

Similarly, when news of the disaster of the shipwreck of some 800 refugees off the coast of Syria reached Palestine the Jewish Agency approached the Magen David Adom, who prepared a large transport of blankets, medicaments, cognac, first-aid equipment, instruments, penicillin, anti-tetanus serum, maternity kits, baby layettes, etc., some other institutions having contributed supplies as well. An ambulance conveyed this transport. This was all done within two hours. Magen David Adom personnel assisted in loading the supplies. Officers of the R.A.F. complimented the Yishuv, who, within a few hours organised such helpful relief to the shipwrecked. All the Palestinian newspapers have commented on the excellent organisational work of the Magen David Adom.

Romance of a Name

(Continued from page 16)

Lipsky originally meant a merchant who travelled to Lipsk or Leipzig once a year to purchase merchandise at the Great Leipzig Fair. Not everybody could go to Leipzig. Only business men of the first magnitude were permitted to visit the fair. Before gaining admittance, the merchant had to undertake to spend not less than 5,000 ducats at the exposition and he had to satisfy the authorities that he carried the money in cash on his person. That is why it was a matter of pride and prestige to be called Lipsky. Two centuries ago the possession of 5,000 golden ducats stamped a man as a true merchant prince.

Descendants of such a merchant carried the name forward with pardonable pride. 150 years ago the name was legalised as a Jewish family name. The famous American Zionist leader, Louis Lipsky, is a descendant of such a family.

Lipsky is also a name widely represented among the non-Jewish Polish aristocracy. Polish history records many cardinals, prime ministers and army leaders of that name. When Hitler attacked Poland the last Polish ambassador in Berlin was Jozef Lipski. The great mathematician Leibnitz was originally named Lipsky and so was the celebrated Belgian humanist and philologist Lipsius.

It is only through such an organisation as the Magen David Adom with its network of branches and ambulances throughout the country that such emergencies can be met so expeditiously.

Yours, etc.,
ADE FRANKEL,
Hon. Secretary,
Magen David Adom in
South Africa.

Johannesburg.

Rabbi Kviatkovsky

Sir,—In your issue of January 17, you published the report of my arrival in this country from Palestine. I would be obliged if you would insert the following remarks with reference to the report:

(a) I was brought out by the Cape Board of Jewish Education as one of the teachers engaged by its Director, Dr. A. Birnbaum, when he visited Palestine. (b) The stipulation as to the exact place of services was entirely left to the discretion of the aforementioned Board.

I was, therefore, surprised to read in your esteemed paper that I had already been assigned to a particular place in the Western Province. As far as I am aware no such decision has yet been made.

Yours, etc.,
RABBI M. KVIATKOVSKY.

Toasts at Royal Functions

Sir,—We are advised by the Prime Minister's Office, after the matter had been held over for discussion with Major Adeane, His Majesty's Assistant Private Secretary, that, in accordance with established practice, toasts at functions at which members of the Royal Family are present during their forthcoming visit to the Union may be drunk in water or any other beverage desired.

The South African Temperance Alliance earnestly appeals that adequate provision be made at all public and other functions for the convenience of those who desire to honour the loyal toast in non-alcoholic beverage.

H. R. COCKING,
General Secretary, S.A.
Temperance Alliance.

Derivation of a Jewish Name

Sir,—Appropos "Romance of a Name," may I point out the derivation of the Russian-Jewish name "Smeyatchnik," which I am convinced is the Russian adaptation of the name Isaacson.

The name Isaac (Yitchak) which, according to the biblical story, means to laugh, is "Smeyatsia" in Russian. The genius of the Russian language accordingly gave the Isaac family the patronymic twist Smeyatchnik, i.e., belonging to the laughers.

Yours, etc.,
(Rabbi Dr.) M. ROMM.
Johannesburg.

Benoni Women's Zionist League

The annual general meeting of the Benoni Women's Zionist League will be held on Tuesday, January 28, at 3 p.m., at the Hebrew Hall, Bunyan Street. Mrs. Kate Gluckman, of the Women's Zionist Council, will address the members.

All Benoni women are urged to attend.

"ZIONISM SAYS JEWS MUST BE HELPED WHEREVER THEY ARE"

Dr. Birnbaum Addresses Luncheon Club

THE controversy that has been raging around the tasks and aims of the S.A. Federation of Lithuanian Jewry, formed the basis of an address by Dr. A. Birnbaum, Director of the Cape Board of Jewish Education to the Zionist Association Luncheon Club last Friday. Rabbi J. L. Zlotnik, Director of the S.A. Board of Jewish Education, Johannesburg, presided.

Zionism, said Dr. Birnbaum, was not against help being given to Jews in countries other than Palestine. Zionism did therefore not oppose help being given to Jews in Lithuania or Poland, but it felt that Jews living in these countries should be encouraged to go to Palestine as soon as possible.

Even a non-Zionist, he added, would agree that Jews should leave anti-Semitic countries like Poland and Lithuania—but this did not imply that there was any harm in Jews attempting to re-establish their lives in liberal countries like France or Holland.

Mr. Rybko to Tour Orange Free State

Mr. W. Rybko, who is the official propagandist and lecturer of the South African Zionist Federation, is undertaking an extensive tour of the Orange Free State. Leaving Johannesburg on February 2, he will address meetings at Kopjes, Kroonstad, Theunissen, Bloemfontein, Bethulie, Burghersdorp, Aliwal North, Wepener, Dewetsdorp, Clocolan, Ficksburg, Marquard, Senekal, Bethlehem, Harrismit, Reitz and Frankfort. Mr. Rybko will be on tour for about five weeks. He will utilise the opportunity, apart from addressing various meetings throughout the Free State, of meeting the committees of the Zionist societies, in order to discuss with them matters of organisation.

The various centres are looking forward keenly to his visit, which should prove of great benefit to them in their Zionist work.

Uppington Women Zionists

The Uppington Women's Zionist Society has had an active year. Meetings were held once a month and were well attended. The society assisted in the local Keren Hayesod campaign and also held a highly successful Wizo Month, when various functions were organised. The year's programme also included a "quiz evening" dealing with Palestine and an address on "The Part Played by Women in Jewish History," by Cantor Immerman. Very good work was done by the sewing section.

The committee consists of Mesdames J. Kowen (chairman), C. Immerman (secretary-treasurer), B. Hirschfield, H. Goldberg, M. Kowen, G. Schatz, B. Wulf, N. Davis, B. Hummel, L. Hummel, Rabkin, Lewis, Gottschalk, Speirs, Bucheimer, B. Kangisher and A. Cohen.

MAGEN DAVID ADOM

Women's Section

Among the many activities undertaken by the women's section is the organisation of the junior section of Magen David Adom.

Branches of the women's section will in the near future hold the following functions: All-day fete and a ball at the City Hall.

The next open-air dance at Mr. K. Bacher's farm, a monthly function, will be held on January 25.

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GOOD SYMPHONY CONCERTS POORLY ATTENDED

The attendances at the Tuesday and Sunday night Symphony Concerts are still on the decline. The high standard of performance which the orchestra had reached during the period it was conducted by Malcolm Sargeant seems, unfortunately, also to have been affected by the empty concert halls.

Last Sunday night, the Johannesburg City Orchestra gave a recital at the Empire Theatre, at which Dr. Chisholm conducted.

The programme opened with the overture to "Euryanthe," by Weber, Bizet's *Jeux d'enfants*, opus 22, in which Michael Dore, the leader, played the solo to the "Little man and little woman." This was performed with beauty of tone and much tenderness.

The "Trojan March," Berlioz, was followed by Schubert's Symphony No. 5 in b flat major, which was very well received by the audience.

At the Concert at the City Hall on Tuesday night, Dr. Chisholm again conducted the Orchestra. The programme included a suite from "Hary Janos," by Kodaly, Schubert's Symphony No. 7 in C Major, and Dvorak's *Carneval Overture*.

Miss Fanny Sugarman gave a beautiful rendering of the aria, "Ritorna Vincitor," by Verdi, and Massenet's "Il est doux" from *Herodiade*.

Musical Institute Forms Balalaika Orchestra

The Jewish Musical Institute, which has been in existence less than one year, has already made a name for itself in the life of the Jewish community by participating in most of the major Jewish functions in Johannesburg. The Youth Symphony Orchestra, which is one of the best known sections of the Institute, has earned the highest praise of leading musicians in Johannesburg.

The Institute has now created a new section, namely, a Balalaika Orchestra. The famous Jewish composer and conductor, Mr. H. Ichilchik, has been appointed as conductor and the mandolin virtuoso, A. Joffe, as leader.

Those desirous of joining the orchestra should apply to the manager, Mr. Z. Engel (phone 24-5408), or the musical director, Mr. S. Aronowsky (phone 44-4896) between 5 and 7 p.m.