

The Capetown Orchestra.

The concert on Tuesday last was a Beethoven Concert. The programme opened with the overture "Coriolanus" (Op. 62), one of the prettiest, though least known, of the great composer's overtures. Then followed the famous "Choral" symphony in D minor, also known as the "Ninth", in which the Johannesburg Philharmonic Society took part, whilst the soli were taken by Mrs Harold Fraser (soprano) Mr. W. K. Donald (alto), Mr. A. Hedges (tenor) and Mr. Montague Borwell (bass), all well-known artists on the local concert platform. The symphony consists of four parts, the allegro, the scherzo, the adagio and then the grand finale, in which the soloists and chorus participated. The perfect, faultless manner in which the symphony was rendered—performed is perhaps a more suitable expression—makes criticism unnecessary, and the harmonious manner ensemble gave ample proof of careful rehearsing, which was a credit to both conductor, Mr. Wendt and vocalists, whilst the orchestra acquitted themselves in their usual masterly style. P. J.

THE WITWATERSRAND JEWISH AGED HOME.

Eleventh Annual Report.

The Work Accomplished.

The Committee of the Witwatersrand Jewish Aged Home have just issued their annual report for the year ending December 31 1922. Attached to it is the revenue and expenditure account which will be submitted for approval at the annual meeting on Sunday next 29th, April, at the Hebrew High School, Johannesburg at 10 a.m.

At the present time there are forty-five inmates in the home (32 men and 13 women) and it is pleasing to note that during the year in question sickness and mortality have been less prevalent than usual. This is undoubtedly due to the great amount of care and attention bestowed upon them. Looking at the financial side of affairs the income shows a surplus over the expenditure by no less a sum than £1161 13s. 11d., but this is mainly due to the number of legacies which were given during the year. The subscriptions however show a decrease, true, a slight one, but it must be remembered that the Home is one of the most necessary of institutions and fully deserving of the greatest amount of possible support, more especially in view of a considerable sum being

needed in the ensuing year for the carrying out of alterations to the buildings.

A GENEROUS GIFT.

The Committee has great pleasure in announcing that the Palatial Building erected by I. W. Schlesinger, Esq., in memory of his father, the late Abraham Schlesinger, of New York, was completed in September last year, and was opened for the accommodation of the inmates in November last. It consists of one large reading room, seven bedrooms, baths, lavatory accommodation, spacious verandahs; is completely and exquisitely furnished, possesses extensively laid-out grounds, lawns, etc., and represents an outlay of £6,800.

The entire Jewish Community are deeply grateful to Mr. I. W. Schlesinger for his munificent, big-hearted gift, which will remain an everlasting Monument within the portals of the Jewish Aged Home—as also to Mrs. I. W. Schlesinger for the great interest she has taken in connection with the equipping of the Wing and the lay-out of the Gardens.

THE COMMITTEE'S WORK.

A word of praise must also be given to the ladies and gentlemen who comprise the officials and committee of this institution for the manner in which they have carried out their noble task.

Jewish Quarterly Review

We have just received the January number of "The Jewish Quarterly Review," published quarterly by the Dropsie College, Philadelphia. A large part of the number is taken up by a valuable and interesting article on "The Status of Labour in Ancient Israel" from the competent pen of Judge Mayer Sulzberger. After the conquest, the bulk of the original inhabitants of Canaan remained on the soil, working for their new masters. These were the *Gerim*. Those who preferred to work on contract, for fixed times and wages were the *Toshavim* or *Sechirim*—who were thus but subdivisions of the *Gerim*. The absolute foreigners were *Zarim* or *Nochrim*. The *Gerim* played a very important part in the economical life of the country. And they progressively adapted themselves to the ideas and mode of life of the Israelites. For they were permitted to take part in the national religious festivals, laws originally imposed upon the Israelites alone were gradually extended to them, their

material well being was safeguarded, and they became more and more recognised as an integral part of the population. All this is very significant in view of present conditions in Palestine. The Hebrew who was sold into "slavery" had rather the status of the *Ger*. If a *Nochri* became a slave, he was circumcised and became a part of the Jewish family. The Hebrew genius was utterly opposed to slavery, in Israel were sown the first seeds of democracy, and slaves having adopted family worship were treated like slaves in Islam to-day. The whole article is full of interest, and educational in the highest degree. Another important article is that by Dr. Büchler on Ben Sira's conception of "Sin and Atonement". The learned doctor is steadily throwing light on Jewish thought in the period shortly before and after the birth of Christianity. There are the usual critical notices in this number. Mr. Distenfeld replies in the negative to I. Eitam's contention that there was an original *Nippa'el* form in Hebrew. Both these articles show that there is profound Hebrew scholarship in Jerusalem. The coming university will find a stimulating environment in every sense of the word. Dr. Vishnitzer contributes a valuable review of Dubnow's "History of the Jews in Russia and Poland." He shows that Dubnow is weak on the economical side and mentions many publications that supplement Dubnow in this respect. Nevertheless Dubnow's book is a notable interpretation of the past, a truly worthy and dramatic presentation of a great epoch in our history. Our martyrology is depicted with dignity, and the cultural developments with moving power. Dubnow's history is always vivid and living. Another important notice is that by Prof. Marx on the fifth edition of Stracks' introduction to the Talmud and Midrash. Stracks' work is indispensable to the serious scholar. Its enormous learning and accuracy is beyond all praise. The gifted author passed away last October and apart from his many important contributions to Jewish learning, he was a valiant champion of Judaism against its unscrupulous enemies. The Jewish Quarterly Review ought to have a much bigger circulation than it has in this country. It worthily represents Jewish learning in the English language.

"JUDAEUS."