

fetish of the jargon that goes under that name. They contend that Hebrew is not the national Jewish language and cannot last while Yiddish will undoubtedly survive.

Of course, this contention, while it is not new, is absolutely absurd and one of the strongest arguments that can be used against the acceptance of Yiddish as the Jewish national language is the fact that the Bolsheviki permit Yiddish but prohibit Hebrew in Poland and in Russia. That the Russian communists should do this is not surprising because their aim is to drag the Jews resident in their midst—and it must not be forgotten that something like sixty-five per cent. of the Jewish population of the world is resident in these countries—down to the lowest level of the common people. We find it difficult to understand how people who profess a love and loyalty for Judaism and especially those of them who lay claim to Jewish nationalism can make a fetish of the mixture of languages, mainly kitchen German, which goes under the name of Yiddish. Surely they must realise that it is but a by-product of the Ghetto, that not only is it a pathetic makeshift tongue of the Goluth but reflects the Goluth in its saddest, most unrefined and uncultured phases.

It is true that for many years past Yiddish has been the spoken tongue of millions of our people, we are even prepared to admit of the vast majority. It is equally true that even to-day it is spoken by millions of our people and threatens to become the only medium of expression for our brethren of Soviet Russia where Hebrew is interdicted. For these Jews we have no blame, only pity that circumstances should necessitate a continuance of the jargon. But there are other Jews in countries such as South Africa and elsewhere who, although they know another language, still persist from choice and deliberately continue the use of Yiddish. Fortunately in Palestine—in our own country—Hebrew is making rapid strides and there is little doubt that in the future—be it ever so distant—our national tongue of Hebrew will be the accepted medium of both thought and expression. But because, in years gone past and owing to circumstances over which we have no control, we were obliged to accept Yiddish as the Jewish vernacular, now when the sun shines brighter and the sky of liberty is no longer overcast, there is no necessity for our continuing the use of a language (?) which can only result in retarding our acquirement of true and thorough citizenship.

Hebrew is our language! Let us cultivate it as far as possible in our prayers and in our intercourse one with another, while English or Dutch are the tongues of commerce which we should make use of in our ordinary life!

Willie Wayback wilted slightly,
 'Flu had seized him suddenly,
 Mrs. Wayback asked him brightly,
 What he'd take to-night for tea.
 Then she heard him sneezing sadly,
 There he sat most dull and dour,
 Now he's doing not too badly,
 Cured by Woods' Great Peppermint Cure.

News Items, Invitations, etc., should be addressed to the Resident Correspondent, Box 1204, Cape Town. Business Enquiries, etc., should be addressed to the Local Office: Gresham House, 40, St. Georges Street, Cape Town. P.O. Box 2696. Phone 5710.

CAPETOWN COMMENTS.

THE BOARD OF GUARDIANS.

MRS. CARASOV'S SUCCESS.

GENERAL NEWS.

(From Our Own Correspondent).

Apropos the leader which appeared in last week's issue of the "Jewish Chronicle," dealing with the Cape Jewish Board of Guardians, the "South African Review" states: "We gather from the 'South African Jewish Chronicle' that the Jewish Board of Guardians of Capetown is in a precarious financial position. This is said to be the oldest charitable institution in South Africa, and we are sure it will not be allowed to go under. Goodness knows the Jews of Capetown are generous enough, as witness, for instance, the magnificent response to Mr. Sokolow's mission." Of course, there is no question of the Board being allowed "to go under," as the "Review" puts it: the local Jewish community will see to this. Yet it is unfortunately true that the financial difficulties of the Board are not sufficiently recognised nor are their activities generally known. The work of the Board is done quietly and unostentatiously, nevertheless it is real and indispensable.

The Street Collections in aid of the Peninsula Hospitals take place on Saturdays, and in order that Jewish ladies may assist in this deserving cause, an annual mid-week collection is arranged. This year's took place on the 5th inst., and, as usual, was organised by that indefatigable social worker Mrs. A. Stodel. The weather was, unfortunately, very unsettled, nevertheless a large muster of workers commenced duties at an early hour, and the satisfactory sum of £576 was collected. The largest individual sum was obtained by Mrs. J. Carasov, a member of Mrs. M. Rosen's section.

The Sokolow mission has left for Johannesburg, and the campaign for funds for the Keren Hayesod proceeds apace. The result attained so far has been eminently satisfactory and it is the aid of the local organisers to reach the £20,000 water mark.

The plight of our co-religionists in Poland is causing local Polish Jews much anxiety, and there are rumours of a special effort being made to relieve the distress existing in that country. Certain it is that the news received from Poland is disquieting and that something will have to be done to avert a calamity.

The first ball of the season, so far as the local Jewish community is concerned, will be held at the City Hall on the 26th inst., in aid of the United Hebrew Schools. The arrangements are in the hands of Mrs. Stodel, Mrs. Vilensky and Mrs. Ginnes. Messrs. Zabow's and Moller's Orchestra will provide the music and exhibition dancing by Mr. Monty Russell and Miss Phoebe Harris will be a feature.