Twenty-five Years Ago.

SOME HAPPENINGS OF THE TIME.

From the "S.A. Jewish Chronicle," May 6, 1902.

THE STRENGTH OF "SAMSHU."

A correspondent in China writing about "samshu" a drink somewhat resembling whisky made by the Chinese, says: "Its frightful stuff, and the man who takes two glasses and doesn't fight somebody is a cur. It turns a peaceful, well behaved man into a murderous manaic. There was no end of trouble through it early in the history of the expedition, and the most severe punishments are therefore inflicted on soldiers found drinking it, or with it in their possession. As for the Chinese vendor, he is executed summarily." When you consider the class of whisky sold at many of the local bars it is by no means surprising that the Australians should have last week painted the town the brilliant hue they did. While we were not a little surprised at the lenient manner in which, at the commencement of the outburst, they were treated by the civil authorities and the police; as their escapades become more violent and disgusting, Colonel Cooper swiftly took the necessary steps to check the tendency to violence and outrage and so saved the citizens from more unnecessary insult.

DOCTORING LIQUOR.

Still we must not be too severe upon the poor men themselves. Tired and worn out by the stress of a long and arduous campaign it was hardly unnatural that immediately upon arrival at a base of civilization they should resort to one of the first curses of a too-indulgent military authority. Rather would we blame the vendors of the vitriolic poison with which the poor Kangaroos were poisoned almost arrival. Some time a Licensed Victuallers' Association was started amid a loud flourish of trumpets, presumably for the purpose of raising the status of the trade. Since its inception, it has achieved nothing in that direction and has only succeeded in obtaining funds to retain legal advice for the benefit of those of its members who may be charged with contraventions of the licensing laws. If the authorities of the Association could only be prevailed upon, in their own interests, to take some action which might lessen the far too prevalent habit of doctoring the liquor dispensed at bars, they would have achieved a useful object and have done something to justify the existence of the formation.

IN APPRECIATION.

Mr. W. Joynson Hicks, who unsuccessfully opposed Mr. Schwann as Conservative candidate for one of the Manchester divisions, was in favour of the proposed Alien Immigration Bill. As the result, however, of information given him by a member of the Council of the Manchester Conservative Association, he gladly confessed that he saw no need for any interference in this direction by the legislature. He added that he was very much interested in the Jewish people, and on a report of the work of the local Jewish Board of

Guardians, together with a copy of the admirable address on "Loans without interest to the poor," heing forwarded to him; he wrote enclosing a cheque for £25 towards the funds of the Board. (In our last issue appeared an article on the Jews Temporary Shelter at whose dinner Sir Wm. Joynson Hicks, now Home Secretary, was the principal guest.)

A GREAT "CHAZAN."

On Friday and Saturday last the local synagogue was crowded to excess, it having become known that the Rev. S. Manne, the Chazan of the Johannesburg Park Shool was to officiate. Nor were those who attended disappointed in their anticipations of hearing a rendering of the service which should remind them of the infinite beauties of our synagogal service, and cause them to recollect the days when, as children, they attended the European Shools-and Chasanus was not a lost art!

Mr. Manne is possessed of a powerful and yet sweet voice, and has the advantage of having studied under some of the finest Chazanim in Europe; his chief charm lies in his almost perfect enunciation. Hebrew word is perfectly pronounced the beauty of our prayers is not subordinated to a desire for operatic effect, and so carefully and clearly does the reverend gentleman read, that a child with but a slight knowledge of our language, can easily follow. His reading created considerable impression and not the least complimentary of the encomiums passed, was that of the gentleman, who, at the close of the Friday night's service, ecstatically exclaimed, "Now I realise what Shabbos means."

BAD BEHAVIOUR.

An unpleasant and objectionable incident reaches us from a local Amongst a small watering place. party of the local Hebrew jeunesse doree was a young man who, though Jewish by birth, has not so far distinguished himself by his application to his religious obligations. The incident, we refer to, took place in the bar of a sea-side hotel. It was on being supplied with drinks that the individual referred to, raising his glass on high in a jocular and scoffing tone, repeated the blessing used upon partaking of bread; and followed this unnecessary exhibition, by the jabbering over and mouthing of some of our most revered and sacred prayers, for the delectation and amusement of a collection of Gentile scoffers.

Such behaviour is hardly calculated to impress beholders with much respect for a religion when they observe a votary guilty of so egregious As to the contempt they an error. must feel for the individual himself we will say nothing. One who could be guilty of so stupid a faux pas is worthy neither our censure nor contempt; and we only draw attention to the matter at all, in the hope that our ouspoken comment may have a chastening and improving effect.

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