

In and Around the Town.

100, St. George's Street
Thursday.

JEWES AND SPORT.

At frequent intervals the assertion is made that Jews have failed in the arts and science, and this view was recently propounded in a London weekly journal. It has also often been said that laws are inconspicuous in sport. Obviously these are biased statements made by people who do not wish to recognise that the contrary is the case. We are told Jews play a very insignificant part in sport, and that the race has not produced any outstanding figure on the playing fields. This contention can be easily disproved by the mention of many names of co-religionists who have held their own in the various branches of sport in England, America, South Africa and elsewhere. Particularly in this country is Jewry well represented. There are few games in which Jews are not found in the front rank. The cult of sport is one that has a great attraction for modern Jewry. College and 'varsity, provincial and national sports gatherings amply bear this out. Cricket, football, boxing, swimming, all have devotees belonging to the Jewish community. There are worthy representatives in every branch of athletics.

IN ART AND SCIENCE.

But it is in art and science that the Jew is pre-eminent, despite statements to the contrary. When one points to a Jewish genius, one is met with the reply, "Oh! but he has disavowed his religion." May be in some instances this is true, but a person born a Jew remains a Jew, no matter whether the rites and ritual of Judaism have been abandoned, no matter whether he has ceased to subscribe to Judaistic beliefs. Our detractors can only use that argument. It is a mere quibble. It is nonsensical to say that the Jewish race has failed to produce men and women of outstanding ability and genius in art and science. A great deal of space would be required to list all those of the Jewish race who have contributed, in a marked manner to the arts and sciences, and I do not propose to set out here the many illustrious sons of Israel who have played their part in bringing the arts and science to their present day state.

ILLUSTRIOUS CO-RELIGIONISTS.

Jewry does not seek a monopoly in this respect, nevertheless when the question is raised in a derogatory spirit an answer must be given. We are proud of the part played by Jews in art, science, statecraft, commerce and in every walk of life, and we are prepared to meet with facts any statement that implies that the Jewish race is degenerate. Obviously these assertions emanate from a tainted source. Every country in the world contains Jews who, by their achievements, have added lustre to the country of their adoption and to the race which gave them birth. Critics who endeavour to see in Jewry a decadent race must seek elsewhere for material. They are well out of their depth here and the arguments they use can deceive no one but themselves. It is an old ruse on the part of those who do not love us, but in no boastful spirit is the answer given them. Rather is it with dignity and pride that we point to distinguished Jews and Jewesses whose achievements have been of benefit to the whole world.

RUTH COHEN.

A large audience, at the City Hall on Saturday night last, were charmed with the performance of this talented little pianiste, who played in conjunction with the Orchestra. Although her appearance had not previously been "worked up" as is usually the case when an *enfant prodigue* is to make his or her bow before the public, there was a spontaneous and enthusiastic recognition of her work; and at the conclusion of her performance she was simply overwhelmed with floral tokens and boxes of chocolates. It was indeed a triumph which Ruth achieved. She still lacks that finish which experience will give her, but her technique was well nigh perfect. That such a youthful person could produce the tone and rhythm in her playing of Mendelssohn's Second Pianoforte Concerto was a revelation to an obviously interested audience. Her interpretation was splendid and she thoroughly deserved the ovation accorded her.

BRIGHTENING CAPE TOWN.

King Carnival reigned supreme at the Hotel Edward on Friday night last, when the Cape Town Dance Teachers' Association's first cabaret was held. It proved to be a brilliant success, and the organisers deserve every praise for inaugurating a form of entertainment that has long been missing from the social life of the Peninsula. The pioneers of any movement are faced with many difficulties and obstacles, but C.T.D.T.A. have undoubtedly scored a bull's eye in their first attempt to brighten Cape Town in the social sense. Whilst one or two features might be improved upon—and there is no doubt the organisers will profit by constructive criticism that has been and will be offered them, there is nothing but praise for them for the really excellent, artistic and enjoyable production which they staged on Friday night. A large gathering was attracted by the promise of a night of fun and frolic and the carnival spirit was maintained until the playing of the National Anthem.

A BRILLIANT SPECTACLE.

The Hotel Edward is well suited for such an affair, but the indications point to the necessity of a more commodious rendezvous being chosen for the next cabaret. The dining-room had been decorated in a scheme of black and gold, and clusters of balloons, and the gay throng wearing fantastic carnival caps and other mirth-provoking tokens, danced beneath the coloured limes and spotlights to the tuneful strains of Zabow and Moller's Orchestra. The dinner tables were tastefully arranged around the walls of the hall, under the galleries, which were filled with interested spectators, and in between courses, fox-trots, charlestons, and black bottoms were vigorously indulged in. Alternately with the regular dancing, there were songs, choruses, and ballets, arranged by Miss Miriam Kirsch and Miss Levin, which were enthusiastically received and frequently recalled. The various choruses were led by Miss Isobel Brodie and Mrs. Phil Marcus, and these popular local artists deserved the unstinted ovations that greeted their efforts.

PERFECT CHORUS.

It was a thoroughly appreciative gathering and the enthusiasm reached a climax when the grand finale—"Humming" was reached. Time

after time was the well dressed chorus recalled, and it was a tired but happy band of revellers which reluctantly departed. Notice of this cabaret would not be complete without mention of the indefatigable efforts of Captain W. G. Wood, the energetic organising secretary, to whose credit a great deal of the success must be placed. Mrs. Wood, too, deserves mention for her work in connection with the designing of most of the charming costumes, and Mr. Lewis was a competent stage manager. Of course, a great deal depended upon the manner in which the chorus girls carried out their part of the programme, and their cohesion and perfect rhythm speak volumes for the marshalship of Miss Miriam Kirsch, the popular local dancing mistress. One can only hope that this cabaret is the forerunner of many more in the near future.

THE NEW NATIVE TOWNSHIP.

Judging by the number of those present out of the six hundred ladies and gentlemen who had been invited by the Mayor and Corporation to inspect the newly-completed native township at Langa on the Flats, local Jewry does not take very much interest in this important question. After all it must not be forgotten that it is to these people that we have to look to a very great extent for our servants, and though there is hardly that interest taken in "the hewers of stone and the carriers of water," that the Bible tells us we should do, the native question is one that has a very serious import on our lives and being. The township is beautifully situated and is in remarkably healthy surroundings. In fact, it might reasonably be termed "the native garden city." The quarters are very comfortable without being elaborate and if it had not been for the short-sighted policy of the Labour Department the example set by the Cape Town Municipality might have been followed with advantage to all concerned by other town councils.

THE ABSURDITY OF IT.

To my mind, it seems a little bit ridiculous that the cost of the establishment of townships such as these should be quadrupled by the insistence of the Trades Unions. The idea of white skilled labour only being used for the purpose of erecting Kaffir habitations is palpably absurd, more particularly when the increased cost of this falls upon the natives themselves. Owing to the fact that the establishment of Langa township exceeds a quarter of a million sterling the natives will have to pay more money than they did at N'dabeni, and I for one doubt whether the public will be willing to increase the wages they pay in order that the former may not be at a disadvantage. This could easily have been avoided by permitting natives to work there themselves, but the labour "Pooh Bahs" said otherwise. Still it is something to have the kaffirs coming to work from clean and healthy surroundings, and the Cape Town Municipality are to be congratulated upon the enterprise they have shown in the establishment of this ideal township.

WHY NOT?

A reader has sent me the following: "I was very interested to read your remarks in regard to various charitable institutions joining forces, in so far as the annual balls are concerned. I quite agree with you that by arranging two such functions, just as much money could be raised as is the case with the four or five dances which the public are asked to support. Apart from this, workers are scarce, and no sooner is one ball

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IN AND AROUND THE TOWN.

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disposed of than preparations are made for the following one. It is impossible for all the workers of one organisation to help every one of the affairs but, if two were arranged, the members of each institution concerned, working together, would constitute a wonderful organisation. A great deal of ground could be covered and a financial and social success, hitherto unknown in Cape Town, would be achieved. Anyhow why not give it a trial?"
I echo "why not!"

MANNEQUIN PARADE FOR WOMEN ZIONISTS.

One does not often hear of a High Commissioner and his wife holding a mannequin parade in their garden, says Mr. Gossip in the *London Daily Sketch*, so I suppose Sir Herbert and Lady Samuel are creating a precedent in the matter. For they are giving their very delightful garden in Bayswater to the Federation of Women Zionists for a garden fete on July 6th and 7th, and a mannequin parade is one of the attractions. Lord Balfour, Lord and Lady Reading, Mr. Lloyd George, Sir Alfred Mond, Mr. "Jimmy" de Rothschild and his charming wife, the Philip Snowdens, and the Chief Rabbi are among the patrons, and the object is to help the hostels and welfare centres of the Holy Land.

A JEWISH ATHLETE.

Mr. Harold Abrahams has a definite place in athletic history as the man who won the 100 metres at the Paris Olympic Games against the world's best. An accident brought about his retirement, but that accident has given a preacher of the gospel of track athletics, who almost daily does his good deed for athletic Britain. From Varsity victories he went on to achieve the world's highest honours as sprinter and long jumper. No Englishman has ever equalled his jump of 24 ft. 2½ in. in 1924 at Woolwich, and at the Games of the same year he achieved the Olympic record of 10.3-5 for 100 metres three times in thirty hours!

THE POPULARITY OF DIAMONDS.

Of many explanations of the popularity of diamonds, I like best that offered by Mr. Gordon Nathan (of Hatton Garden), who ecstatically informs the world that the value of the stone lies in the alleged fact that it is "the only symbol in nature of the highest, the infinite It is an eternal representation of spirituality."

For long this "precious" stone has been regarded as a thing of booty, but now we know it is also a spiritual joy for ever. It is, however, sad to reflect how few of us can afford to get in touch with "nature" in its highest symbolic form or be in tune with "the infinite." Our only opportunity lies in paying homage to other people's gauds.

GUILD CONCERT.

The Guild rooms have never had such a large and appreciative audience as was the case on Tuesday night. The place was packed to the doors, and they were rewarded with a programme that sparkled with good things. The Orchestra was in particularly good form, and once again I must congratulate the able conductor, Mr. George Tobias. He has brought his combination to a fine state of perfection, and improvements are evident every time they make an appearance in public. There were many present on Tuesday for the first time, and they were greatly impressed with the efficiency of the Orchestra. A very fine performance was that of Mr. E. C. Bishton, who

gave a fine rendering of "God send You back to me," on the cornet. Miss Bessie Stein was the recipient of a flattering ovation for her rendering of the song "Song of the Soul," in which she displayed charm and taste. She responded to a call for an encore with "St. Nicholas Day," which was well merited. The Dramatic Section, for the first time, staged a one act farce entitled "Phipps." This was produced by Mr. D. Levy, and was excellently done. Mr. C. Israel took the part of Sir Gerald, Miss E. Richmond, Lady Fanny, and Mr. S. Lappin that of Phipps. All acquitted themselves very creditably.

GUILD ANNOUNCEMENT.

I am asked to mention that arrangements are being made for the big July concert. The "star turn" will be the Guild Orchestra, but the following popular artists will also appear: Paganelli, Eileen Ryan, Joyce Kadish, and Bersin (the violinist about whom I wrote some few weeks ago), etc. The booking is at Polliack's and the prices are 5s. and 3s. reserved, and 1s. 8d. unreserved. This is going to be a very fine concert, and I can only tell my readers to get in early. The tickets will go like "hot cakes."

THE "SEDRA."

We read, in this week's "Sedra" of Eldad and Medad prophesying in the camp. In Numbers, Chapter 11, verses 27-29, we see ". . . . And there ran a young man and told Moses, and he said 'Eldad and Medad do prophesy in the camp.' And Joshua the son of Nun, the servant of Moses, one of his young men, answered and said 'My Lord Moses, forbid them.' And Moses said unto him: 'Enviest thou for my sake? Would God that all the Lord's people were prophets, and that the Lord would put his spirit upon them.'

Joshua wished that Moses should be the only authority in the Nation—the only prophet. Hence he appealed to Moses, ". . . forbid them" (to prophesy). But Moses, the great leader thought otherwise. His reply is "Enviest thou for my sake?" Do you think that the position of the minister, the prophet, the leader is such a pleasant one? Would God that all the Lord's people were prophets, then they might realise the responsibility of their leader."

We are, to-day, faced with the same problems and the true Jewish spirit is not the spirit of the young inexperienced Joshua, but rather the advice of the old, tried leader, Moses, who was prepared to welcome assistance in the leadership of the community rather than forbid it.

MR. GOSSIP.

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