



JOHANNESBURG DAY BY DAY

Invitations to meetings and functions, should be addressed as early as possible to:—

37/38, Asher's Buildings,
Fox and Joubert Streets,
Johannesburg.

P.O. Box 3995.



A YIDDISH JOURNAL.

A short while ago the Yiddish Literary Society decided to further their aims of promoting a study of the Yiddish language, and issued a monthly journal called "Dorem Africa," and the seventh number of this journal has just reached us and contains a number of very interesting articles, stories and poems.

It opens up with an article entitled "Dr. Landau's Pessimism," written by the local well-known Yiddish journalist "MI," and contains very strong and outspoken criticism of the shortcomings of our South African Jewish leaders and social workers. Other articles include "Religion or Judaism," showing the evolution of the "Cheder," the religious school, into a modern, secular one. "Yiddish in Palestine," being a record of newspapers printed in Yiddish in Palestine and the way Yiddish and its literature are treated in "Eretz Israel." "The Agudah at Work," by a writer from Poland, indicating how the very religious people try to copy the ways and practices of the other more worldly people and the results thereof. "At the other side of the Zambesi," impressions and pen pictures of Rhodesia, by W. Rybko. "Yidden Auf Erd," being the concluding chapters of R. Feldman's impressions of the Jewish Colonies and Colonists in Russia, and "A Demonstration for Yiddish," by M. I. Sewitz.

There are poems by D. Fram, D. Zager, I. L. Segal, the latter taking for his subject "A Wedding in a Native Kraal." With some notes and comments on current topics the seventh number of that bright little Yiddish Magazine leaves a good impression and is worth while reading.

HEBREW ORDER OF DAVID.

On Sunday last a delegation from the Grand Executive of the Grand Lodge of South Africa, consisting of Wor. Bro. M. J. Shindler, Grand President; Wor. Bro. Dr. C. Spiro, Immediate Past Grand President; Wor. Bro. S. Friendly, Deputy Grand President, and Wor. Bros. L. Faiga and J. Distiller, Past Grand Presidents, visited Parys, in response to an invitation received from the Jewish community.

The delegation was met by the leaders of the Jewish community, and addressed a crowded meeting in the Synagogue. The speakers spoke on the aims and objects of the Hebrew Order of David and, amidst the keenest enthusiasm, a resolution was unanimously passed "That a Lodge of the Hebrew Order of David be formed, under the Grand Lodge of South Africa," and a Provisional Committee, together with officers, were elected, with Dr. Friedman, the first secretary.

Thirty-five Foundation Members were immediately enrolled, and the Provisional Committee are busy preparing their application for a Charter, which is to be submitted shortly to the Grand Lodge.

Refreshments were served to the visiting officers at the residence of Mr. Miller, and the interesting news was received that a Lodge of the Order, with twenty-one Foundation Members, had been formed at Senekal.

The Jewish communities of Mafeking and Kopjes are also in communication with the Grand Lodge, and everything points to the possibility of the Grand Lodge being called upon shortly to consecrate six Lodges, Lodges already having been formed at Randfontein, Vryheid, Parys and Senekal, whilst Lodges are in the course of formation at Mafeking and Kopjes.

On Sunday next, the 20th inst., Grand Lodge officers will journey to Springs, to instal the officers of the Sir Herbert Samuel Lodge No. 8.

Congratulations are extended to Bro. Percy Cowen, on being appointed a Commissioner of Oaths for Johannesburg.

JEWISH GUILD.

The Annual Meeting of the Johannesburg Jewish Guild will be held on Sunday, 3rd February, and nominations for officers closed on Monday, 14th January.

The Dramatic Section of the Jewish Guild were due to produce a reading of Pirandello's play, "Six Characters in Search of an Author," but owing to unforeseen circumstances the same has been postponed until a later date, due particulars of which will be advised shortly.

A dance has been arranged for Saturday, 19th January, in honour of the Jewish Guild cricket and tennis teams, who will present to the Jewish Guild the cups won by them. The members of the Pretoria cricket team will be the guests of the Jewish Guild at this function. An excellent band has been engaged and the function promises to be full of novelties, such as a mock cricket match and special lighting effects, and a reasonable charge for members is being made, and therefore indicates that a very large attendance will be present.

The Bright Set of 1929 have arranged a truly remarkable galaxy for their grand variety concert, due to be held at the Jewish Guild on Saturday and Sunday, 26th and 27th January, under the direction of Madame Violet Hayes. The artistes who are contributing to the programme include Haydn Hemery and Lola Curosa (lady tenor), Signors Burani and Ferri (the Sistine Choir Soloists), as also Irene Holloway, Bohemian Male Voice

Quartette, Mrs. Harold Fraser, George Moss (violinist), N. Claff and Dorice Lee (vocal entertainers), Bradshaw Sisters (vocalists), Pauline Stokes (dancer), S. Eddy and Wallows (duo comedy act), Annie and Minnie Sacks (instrumentalists), Gaby Peimer (novelty jazz pianist), Ben Lipman (in the Vicar of Mirth) and the Commercial High School Orchestra will be in attendance, a thoroughly enjoyable evening being assured.

INTER-DEBATE ON HERO WORSHIP.

An inter-debate was held at the Yeoville Hebrew School-room, between the Johannesburg Forum and the Northern Suburbs Judean Society, on Thursday of last week, when, on behalf of the Forum, Mr. M. Kavnat moved "that hero worship has deplorable influence on modern life. He stated that he understood the term "hero worship" to have quite a different meaning from that used in ancient times. It was then associated with the regard of heroes, who were regarded as demi-gods, to-day the use might be anything down to a flapper's dance partner. Hero worship was to-day a form of admiration which led the worshippers to emulate the so-called heroes, whose deeds were often quite insignificant.

Mr. M. Broude, in opposing the motion, on behalf of the Judean Society, quoted Carlyle as saying that hero worship was universal. In modern life heroes were the embodiment of men's ideals. Mankind has progressed through the teachings of its heroes, and, as Emerson had written, stood to gain everything and lose nothing by worshipping at the shrine of the heroes.

Mr. T. H. Sachs seconded the motion, whilst Mr. J. Mendelow seconded Mr. Broude, and a lively discussion followed, quite a number referring to the present expert dancers as "lounge lizards."

As a result of this inter-debate, a very exciting correspondence is being conducted in one of the local newspapers, where the opinion of both sexes are being aired.

JEWISH NATIONAL FUND.

In connection with the Land of Promise Fete, which is to be held in the City Hall on 4th, 5th and 6th June, in aid of the Jewish National Fund, a wireless message has been received from the Hon. President, Mr. I. W. Schlesinger, who reached South Africa on the "Windsor Castle." The text of the message is as follows:—

"Hope bazaar aid of National Fund will meet with the success which sincere Zionists wish it to

be. I need hardly add that I will do everything possible to assist towards that end."

In addition to this stimulating message, a cable has been received from Col. Kisch, C.B.E., D.S.O., who recently visited this country on behalf of the Keren Hayesod, congratulating the Committee on their undertaking and assuring them of all support possible.

LAST SUNDAY'S BRIDE.

A very pretty wedding took place at the residence of Mr. and Mrs. G. Nathanson, St. Patrick's Road, Houghton, when Miss Sophie Abramowitz, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Abramowitz, of Riga, was married to Mr. Sam Packer, the Rev. N. Zwick, of Pretoria, officiating.

Mr. Louis Cohen ably carried out the duties of best man, and the bride's parents and Mr. and Mrs. G. Nathanson were the under-fuhrers. Messrs. J. Cohen, I. Lewis, G. Shem and M. Falkson were the canopy-holders, whilst the bride was attended by her sister, Miss Helena Abramowitz, and two dainty flower-girls, being the Misses Lucelle Falkson and Ray Abramowitz.

A large number of guests attended the reception which followed, and Mr. and Mrs. S. Packer are spending their honeymoon in a trip round the coast.

BREVITIES.

Mr. Percy Cowen, of 3 Primrose Buildings, Johannesburg, has been appointed a Commissioner of Oaths for the district of Johannesburg.

Mr. and Mrs. I. H. Lewsen, of 35 St. Patrick's Road, Houghton Estate, celebrate their silver wedding on Sunday, 27th January, and are the recipients of congratulations from a very large number of friends. Mr. I. H. Lewsen is a pioneer of Johannesburg and well known for his charitable gifts, as also for his active participation in the work of the chief communal bodies of this town.

Kazinoff, the noted bass, who recently concluded a successful tour of the Union, is leaving South Africa next month for Europe, and on 10th February will be given a farewell concert at the Jewish Guild, at which several well-known artistes have promised to contribute. Miss Margaret Fairless, the celebrated violinist, will assist, and Mrs. L. Japhet, soprano, and Mr. S. Schragger, baritone, will also contribute to the programme, whilst Mrs. Kazinoff will be the accompanist.

The recent issue of the "Lancet," the official journal of the British medical profession, refers to the death in Johannesburg recently

(Continued on page 43).



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OUT OF THE ORDINARY.

By Rozilda.

THIEF!

We found a thief upon the beach at Fish Hoek the other day, for what else can we call Miss Irma Stern, who comes to spend the day with us and then calmly takes out her colours and steals the sunshine, the sparkle, the warmth, the gay colours of bathers, the dancing movement of care-free children, the gasping retreat of a baby at whose feet the wavelets make tiny sallies?

The rate at which the artist portrays these fleeting colours and movements must be seen to be believed. She seems to see with her pencil point, registering on her paper what we do on our retina, always looking for movement rather than for repose.

In an inconceivably short time her colour sketch is complete. The elegant sweep of the Fish Hoek beach, the rocks, the colour and movement of people coming and going, the boats all are there.

A youthful Appollo, sun-tanned and beautiful, rests for a moment against a wall. Simultaneously he appears upon her paper. Already this page has been turned and a girl with her surf board under her arm walks buoyantly across the paper.

A group of silent, interested children perch breathlessly on the rocks over her head. We wish that we, too, had this gift of pencil and brush that we in our turn might steal the picture of artist and child spectators.

* * * *

Hurry on, beloved Thief!

MISS GERTRUDE GERBER.

A brilliant young man, very brilliant, very young, holding a position twice as important and responsible as his father's, said to me once:—"Now-a-days it's the young men who get all the big jobs."

I was forcibly reminded of his remark the other day, while chatting to Miss Gerber, who came to spend the day with us at Fish Hoek. As Almoner of the New Somerset Hospital, Miss Gerber holds a very responsible position. To her own discretion and judgment is left much of that wise discrimination required in the after-care of patients who are discharged from hospital, but who nevertheless still remain a cause of anxiety to themselves and their immediate dependents.

"I link up," says Miss Gerber, "the hospital with the outside world. I try to see that patients do not go back to work before they are fit. If it is the bread-winner who is ill I get assistance for his family in order to prevent mental worry. I am not so concerned about the family as about him. He is sent to a convalescent home. In the meantime I find out whether his work is not too strenuous for his reduced strength. If it is, I write to various heads of departments or other likely employers and get him a job."

Of course, Miss Gerber makes no discrimination between her Jewish and Gentile patients, but she does appreciate the fact that Jewish charitable organisations are very

liberal. Recently the Sick Relief Society paid a Jewish gentlewoman in straitened circumstances three pounds a week for several weeks. The Jewish Board of Guardians, too, is an invaluable stand-by.

"As a rule I do not go directly to them," says Miss Gerber. When she is satisfied that the circumstances are genuinely necessitous and that open investigation would embarrass and mortify the people concerned, she rings up the Rev. Mr. Bender and puts the case before him.

"Mr. Bender would give up his sleep if he knew that a family was starving."

The Board of Aid supplies needy families with groceries weekly to the value of seven shilling and sixpence; the Child Life Protection Society gives milk, meat and bread. Neither is sufficient to maintain a family without the co-operation of the other and of further helping agencies. The Samaritan Fund provides Miss Gerber with a monthly allowance of twenty-five pounds with which she purchases artificial appliances for needy cases.

About three hundred cases per month pass through Miss Gerber's hands. To deal with them effectually it stands to reason that a great deal of tact is required. That she possesses it is evinced by the success attending her efforts.

Yet for all her responsible work and her necessarily close-up acquaintance with the sordid facts of life, Gertrude Gerber is still a jolly young girl, full of enthusiasm for her work, it is true, but fond of swimming, tennis and amusement.

"I must tell you of another case before we go and bathe," she says, "a perfectly lovely one." She tells it with great gusto, but a few minutes later she is tearing down the beach and plunges into the water with all the zest of a two-year-old.

"PYGMALION."

We all love magic. That the magic may have a very ordinary explanation does not worry us, provided we have had the thrill of amazement in the beginning.

"Pygmalion" is a play full of magic. The opening scene, in which a stranger tells a miscellaneous assortment of individuals where they all come from, with astonishing correctness, might be a scene from a fairy play. The audience gasps with wonder no less delightfully than the players.

The whole theme of the play, the transformation of a flower-girl into a duchess, what is that but the old story of Cinderella, who is changed by the magic wand of a fairy god-mother into a princess? Only, instead of the old-fashioned wand, Shaw uses a modern tool, the science of phonetics. Voila!

Mr. George S. Wray as the eccentric, growling, but altogether lovable Professor Higgins, is a delightful character. His witticisms bear a spontaneous sound. "What is life but a series of inspired follies?" he asks. And there is supreme self-glorification in his voice when he asserts: "I tell you, I created this

thing out of the squashed cabbage leaves of Covent Garden."

He bullies everybody except his mother (a part ably and sympathetically played by Maude Bracewell), while Mrs. Pearce, his housekeeper (taken by Isobel James), is clever in her treatment of the *enfant terrible* in her charge.

The difficult role of Eliza is brilliantly played by Constance Burrell. Her Cockney accent is most realistic, her transition from street arab to duchess a masterly and genuine growth.

George Merritt, as the dustman, Alfred Dollittle, gives a clever characterisation of a man who is proud to belong to the "undeserving" as opposed to the "deserving" poor. His fight and eventual defeat by "middle-class morality" is one of the funniest features of the play.

The other characters contribute largely to a very fine presentation of a witty, modern drama.

LAST THURSDAY'S CONCERT.

I wonder whether the time will ever come in Cape Town when a symphony concert will consist of two pieces of music by one composer, a symphony preceded by something shorter to give atmosphere. I remember a delightful concert that consisted of two items, the Variations Symphoniques, by Caesar Franck, and the Caesar Franck Symphony after the interval.

The first part of last Thursday's concert consisted of three miscellaneous items, each interesting and delightful, but to my mind entirely unnecessary in a symphony programme. After all, one comes to hear music, not merely to spend an evening.

Mozart's Symphony in G Minor.

The programme describes the first movement of this symphony as "full of melancholy beauty." Yet to me it was cheerful, intensely melodious, whimsical and fantastic. Still, I can conceive as listening to the same music and describing it as the programme does. Music depends so very much upon the mood of the hearer.

The *Andante*, with its slow haunting melody, was beautifully rendered. Indeed, Mr. Pickerill's delicately poised conducting might be likened to the strokes of a painter's brush laying on colour.

The *Menuetto and Trio* was like a small etching full of light and shade, a delightfully rendered little picture.

The *Finale—Allegro assai* was rich allegorical and colourful, like a picture by the late Mr. Charles Sims, R.A.

The entire symphony was splendidly received by a large audience, who had the good taste not to applaud between movements. To-day the old-world charm of Mozart still casts a spell over us that places him among the world's greatest composers.

THE MOTOR SHOW AT PAARDEN ISLAND.

"If this building were thirty times as large as it is," said my Little Friend, "it would remind me of Olympia."

"I am quite satisfied with the size of this one," I retorted. "As a matter of fact, I am pleased it is no larger, for as it is my feet are so tired that I can scarcely toddle."

Even my Little Friend, who has had experience of shows overseas, agrees with me that there is no weariness like show-exhaustion. Can't anyone invent a special type of footwear to mitigate this evil? A show-shoe!

We were particularly interested in little cars—or, rather, in one little car. We wanted a car, a car for two, with a "dicky" for luggage and an extra passenger, with a large gallon mileage. We wanted a dignified little car rather fattish, with sufficient impudence to silence disrespectful remarks from other passing cars. We wanted a car that would turn easily, that was simple to manage, that would not be obstinate and refuse to go into, up, down or round awkward places. We wanted, in fact, the ideal two-seater.

We have not yet decided which of all those we saw is the one we want. But one of these days we shall make up our minds.

ROZILDA.

The "Chronicle" Cake.

No. 980.

In acknowledging receipt of the "Chronicle" Cake, Councillor S. Finburgh writes:—

"Permit me to thank you most heartily for the cordial and generous way you have dealt with my visit to your hospitable shores. To receive cakes of welcome must add sweetness to the pleasant memories I will carry away with me both of your valuable paper and its many readers."

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