

In and Around the Town.

58 Burg Street,
Thursday.

25TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATED.

To celebrate the Twenty-fifth Anniversary of the inception of the Hebrew Helping Hand Association the President and Committee of that body invited the supporters and friends to a reception which was held on Sunday. It was a very interesting gathering and, as someone remarked, a very unique one. Various speakers traced the history of the Association back to the early days, but there were many details that might have been brought to light. For instance, the first meeting called for the purpose of considering the advisability of establishing a Helping Hand Association was held on the 18th June, 1903, and was called on the initiative of Mr. L. Pinn. The meeting was held at the residence of Mr. Broomberg, in Roeland Street, and here gathered the Rev. A. P. Bender, Messrs. H. Liberman, Sitner, Broomberg, I. Friedlander, Cosay, Jacobs, Muslak, Berman, Cohen and Pinn. Of those gentlemen who attended that meeting three are still with us. Mr. Broomberg at present is in Johannesburg, whilst on Sunday night we had the pleasure of seeing both Mr. Bender and Mr. Pinn at the reception.

SOME COMMUNAL STALWARTS.

The first Hon. Secretary at the time was the late Mr. Louis Alexander, a brother of Advocate Morris Alexander, K.C., M.L.A. Those present at that first meeting formed themselves into a committee, and between them collected the sum of £100, which was then deposited in the bank. Bye-laws were framed, and it was decided to fix the maximum sum to be loaned at £5. A year later the sum of £193 5s. 9d. stood to the credit of the newly-formed Association. The capital has steadily grown until, as was announced on Sunday, it is now £6,000. In 1906 Mr. Pinn was successful in interesting several communal workers, and thus the Society was strengthened by the inclusion of such stalwarts as Mr. A. Rosenthal, Mr. Isaac Ochberg, Mr. S. Shaskolsky, and at a later date Mr. Rostofsky. The first President of the Helping Hand Association was Mr. H. Liberman, and he was followed by the late Mr. Herman (of Herman & Canard), and then the late Mr. I. Friedlander, father of Mr. Alfred Friedlander, and in whose office in Long Street subsequent meetings were held. Mr. I. Friedlander was also Hon. Treasurer for a number of years. One of the Hon. Secretaries in the early days was Mr. Max Millner.

EASTERN EUROPEAN RELIEF WORK.

The Federation of Jewish Relief Organisations, with headquarters in London, is a very important organisation, and was formed with the object of assisting the suffering Jews in the Ukraine, Poland and other

countries. The President is the Very Reverend Chief Rabbi, Dr. J. H. Hertz, and the Vice-Presidents, Mr. Herbert Bentwich, LL.B., Haham Dr. Moses Gastor, Rabbi Sir Herbert Gollancz, and Mr. James A. de Rothschild, with Dr. D. Jochelson as Chairman. I have just heard from the Secretary of the Federation informing me that they are now launching a winter campaign in aid of the Jews in the famine areas of the Ukraine and Bessarabia.

According to reports received, the situation in those countries has intensified in gravity. Gloomy as were the anticipations as to the hardships of the winter season, these have been far surpassed by the grim reality. Destitution, disease and even death are stalking in these areas, and before the winter ends there is no knowing how many Jewish victims will fall before the terrible onslaughts of hunger and epidemic. As the result of its last appeal, made at *Rosh Hashonah*, the Federation has been able to initiate a service for the supply of food and fuel against the hard winter. Yet, with all its activities, the Federation is still inundated with appeals for help, and it is this fact which has compelled the Committee to inaugurate this special Winter Campaign.

A MESSAGE FROM LLOYD GEORGE.

A number of prominent public men and women have sent special messages to the Federation in connection with this Winter Appeal. Mr. Lloyd George has written the following letter:—

"I have always taken a deep interest in, and felt a profound admiration for, the Jewish community. The work of the Federation of Jewish Relief Organisations in relieving afflicted Jews must have the support and sympathy of all humane men of whatever creed. I wish the Federation all success in the great and urgent task which it has in hand, and trust that its appeal will meet with the generous support it deserves."

THE DUCHESS OF ATHOLL.

A very moving plea on behalf of the women and children has been received from Her Grace the Duchess of Atholl, M.P., Under-Secretary for Education. She writes as follows:—

"The pitiable story of the distress and suffering amongst the Jewish people in Eastern Europe is one which must surely appeal to all, whatever their nationality or creed. The picture of broken men, destitute women and starving children, eking out a miserable existence in underground hovels, cannot fail to make a deep impression. May the efforts which the Federation of Jewish Relief Organisations are making to alleviate this distress have the warm support of all those who have the welfare of humanity at heart."

OTHER MESSAGES.

Support to the Campaign is also given by the Right Honourable T. P. O'Connor, "Father" of the House of Commons, whose message runs:—

"I have never known a Jew who was not willing to help generously the suffering of every race. I cannot think, therefore, that the Jewish sufferers in the Ukraine and Bessarabia will not receive from their own people, and from other races, the sympathy they have so freely given always to the poor and suffering of every race and every creed."

A handsome contribution to the funds of the Federation was made by Mr. John Galsworthy, the famous novelist, who wrote in an accompanying letter:—

"I have read with horror of the distress among the Jews in the Ukraine and Bessarabia. I am glad to send my gift, and an earnest hope that you will succeed in raising sufficient funds among the Jewish communities in England to stem such a terrible tide of suffering. Generosity is proverbial in your race—a race among whom I have many friends, and for which I have very great respect. My best wishes for your efforts."

Another notable figure in the literary world, in the person of Mr. Edgar Wallace, the great playwright, has had his sympathy aroused by the frightful sufferings of the Jews in the Ukraine and Bessarabia. Mr. Wallace has also forwarded a donation to the Federation, and says:—

"The terrible condition of the Jews in the Ukraine and Bessarabia is certainly not a matter which concerns only the Jewish people—it is a tremendous tragedy which appeals instantly to humanity, and, if their creed has any significance at all, to every Christian."

Energetic steps are being taken by the Federation to promote the success of the Campaign.

THE OPENING OF SCHOOLS.

Monday, the 28th of January, saw the opening of our schools and the return of children from their holidays. It is wonderful how much additional length children seem to acquire in these six summer weeks, while the amount of tan and sun-

burn they put on gives them a happy holiday look for at least another six weeks.

The first day is of great importance to all school-going children. For some it is the first day at a new school, for some the first day in a new class, and for some it is the very first day of all. At last the serious, dreaded, yet longed-for moment has arrived, when, grasping mother firmly by the hand, the little child is brought into the august presence of the principal.

I remember a delightful little story told me by a mother who accompanied her only little son aged six to school for the first time. The child had been entered the previous day and had now only to be deposited at the school gate. The nearer they got to the school the slower became their progress, but it was the mother whose feet were dragging. As they reached the gate the school bell rang. The child snatched the bag from his mother's hand and with a shout of "Good-bye, Mum" ran.

Fearlessly, joyously, he had cut himself adrift from the maternal bond, and, with never a thought of her, he was gone. The mother cried all the way home. She was heart-broken at the callousness of the child. She felt she had lost her first-born!

HEBREW FOR ALL.

I had a chat with Miss Van Gelderen, the Principal of the Girls' Central School, the other day. She is very enthusiastic about a new scheme which the Rev. Mr. Bender, the Chairman of the School, has made possible, whereby every Jewish girl in her school will take Hebrew lessons. The fee will be so low as to be within reach of all. The scheme is to be worked entirely in conjunction with the Talmud Torah, who are supplying the teachers. Lessons will be conducted in the afternoon, and will follow right on at the close of the afternoon session. This will mean that every child will have completed all her lessons by 3 p.m., and will have the rest of the day free for play.

Miss Van Gelderen informs me that lessons will be given three times a week, leaving two afternoons

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**WELCOME
AS RAIN
AFTER
DROUGHT**

OBTAINABLE IN NIPS NOW

**CASTLE
LAGER**

IN AND AROUND THE TOWN.

(Continued from page 69).

and the week-end free for sports. There will be no written homework, and the method employed is to be the Direct Method. The teaching of Hebrew songs will be a feature of these classes, which, she hopes, will be a source of pleasure and lasting benefit to the girls.

It is her aim that ultimately the girls should read Hebrew for pleasure and not merely because they are compelled to do so. Those few children who are taking lessons with private teachers or at classes other than those of the Talmud Torah are, of course, not asked to join the school classes.

MISS MIRJAM SYMAN.

Miss Mirjam Syman, who has sprung into prominence as the result of the purchase by Durban of her bust of Sastri, is at present on holiday at Muizenberg. She has only been in this country for eighteen months, and is deeply interested in our native and Indian types.

Miss Syman contradicted the statement made in a local daily that Sastri had given her one lengthy sitting. He was at his busiest these last few months, and, though he was willing to sacrifice his lunch hours to sit for her, she felt that this was asking too much. Zastri thereupon had numerous photographs taken, from which she was able to work. She further acquainted herself with the philosopher-statesman's personality and features by watching him closely from a front seat at every lecture and public function at which he appeared. After each scrutiny Miss Syman hurried home and worked feverishly from memory.

It is a tribute to this young Jewish artist that the city of Durban has purchased her work of a man who has made such a deep impression on the whole country.

THE JAZZ SINGER.

It is easy to see why "The Jazz Singer" makes such a powerful appeal. Not only is the story simple and the acting of first rate quality, but there is behind it something else—a symbolic element which makes it the story not only of Jakie Rabinowitz and of his brilliant interpreter, Al Jolson, but also the story of almost every modern Jew. It shows the great, the almost universal struggle between a man and his people, between the traditions of the past and the exciting novelty of the present and future.

A singer has to choose between Kol Nidre in synagogue on Yom Kippur and a triumphant appearance on the music-halls. So dramatically is this psychological situation handled, so equal are the forces working at first that the problem holds every onlooker in its grip. How it is gradually worked up to a powerful denouement is one of the most masterly pieces of film-crafts I have ever seen.

The musical accompaniments to this picture are unique in this country. A record of Al Jolson's voice is broadcast and the illusion created by the picture of the interior of the synagogue and the Chazan singing Kol Nidre synchronised with the actual voice is perfect and one never to be forgotten.

The incidental music, which includes "Eli, Eli" and "A Yiddish

Mother," is artistically and sympathetically rendered by Mr. Miller's orchestra, and would in itself constitute a pleasing programme.

"The Jazz Singer" is a first-class picture, the music is excellent, and the whole show eminently worth while.

TALKING FILMS IN PALESTINE.

Talking films are becoming a feature these days, and it is interesting to note the progress that is being made in various countries. I hear that talking films are meeting with popular favour in Jerusalem. The first in Palestine was made in Bethlehem and in Jerusalem by a travelling company belonging to the Fox Film Corporation of America (one of the leading Jewish concerns in U.S.A.), which was accompanied by Rudolf Friml, the composer of the "Vagabond King" and "Rose Marie." The Jerusalem film was made in the citadel of David, and includes a sound film of the playing of the police band. In Bethlehem the company took a sound picture of the Christmas Day celebrations, with street scenes and the ceremony in the Church of the Nativity. This company, I hear, is proceeding to Egypt, India, China and Australasia, to take sound films in those countries.

A LINCOLN RELIC.

The fate of Jews' Court, a portion of a ghetto in which the Jews of Lincoln lived in the 12th century and which the Corporation a few months ago decided to demolish for slum clearance purposes, was discussed at a recent Lincoln City Council meeting. The Finance Committee reported that they had received a deputation from the Lincolnshire Architectural Society, who had urged that the Court should be preserved, and suggested that it should be sold at a small price to a responsible body, or that the Corporation should restore it. The estimated cost of restoration would be £600.

The Committee suggested that, subject to the approval of the Minister of Health, the property be conveyed to the Society as a gift, on condition that they would restore and maintain it to the satisfaction of the Council, and undertake that it would not be used as a dwelling house.

ANCIENT GHETTO. DEMOLISHED.

The last houses remaining on the south side of the Judenhof, near the Berlin Town Hall, have been purchased by the City of Berlin, the "Berliner Tageblatt" states, for the purpose of erecting modern business houses on the site. The Judenhof was the ghetto of medieval Berlin. Like all ghettos, it was enclosed by a wall on which the backs of the houses abutted, and at night it was shut off by heavy iron gates. The ghetto lost its real purpose when the Jews were expelled from Berlin in 1573. When they were readmitted, they were allowed to live in any part of the city they wished.

A PRESENTATION.

An interesting function took place at the Union Brush and Broom Factory on Monday afternoon, when Mr. I. D. Fryde, the general manager, was presented with a handsome brass bowl by the staff and factory hands to celebrate his mar-

riage to Miss Lily Heselson, which event took place on Tuesday, and which is reported in another part of this issue. The presentation was made by Mr. Jack Heselson, who spoke of the happy relations which existed between Mr. Fryde and every one who were employed by the factory. The works manager, Mr. Graham, added a few appropriate remarks. Mr. Fryde returned his thanks with a brief speech, and expressed his appreciation of the thoughtfulness of the staff in giving him their beautiful gift.

ZIONIST PROPAGANDIST.

Mr. P. Cornfeld, who arrived by Monday's mail-boat, the "Armada Castle," is the new propagandist for the Zionist Federation. Mr. Cornfeld, who is well known in Palestine journalistic circles, was met at the docks by representatives of the local Zionist Societies, and formally welcomed in the name of South African Zionism.

Other arrivals by the mail-boat were Mr. Mark Warshaw, Mr. B. Silverman and Mr. M. Feinhols and his daughter Dorothy. It will be recalled that Mrs. Feinhols recently died in London, after having undergone a serious operation. Mrs. Feinhols was a daughter of Mrs. Leve, an old social worker of Cape Town, who was connected actively some years ago with the Philanthropic Society and the Aged Home. Mr. and Miss Feinhols are staying at the Bay View Hotel, Muizenberg

THE JEW IN SOUTH AFRICAN LITERATURE.

(Continued from page 73).

Having a heart drunk with visions of glory,
When fifty per cent. on my table remains;
I'd have no poet to sway his lute o'er me,
A fig for the head that such nonsense contains;
I'd be a Rothschild! immortal in story,
As the fellows who live by their stanzas and brains.

2.

Tell me of Southneys and Scotts—they are ninnies
To foolishly trifle with time as they do;
Give me the music of soul-witching guineas
While they address lays to the "summer skies blue."
What, if they scribble like Virgils or Plinies,
At sixpence per line in each London review?
I'd be a Rothschild! and laugh at the ninnies,
Whose brains such absurd undertakings pursue.

3.

Commerce shall wave her proud flag o'er the ocean,
When the wreath and the minstrel have vanish'd from here;
Rhymes may give to the muse their devotion,
But mine is concentrated in consols and renets.
Of Tempé and Castaly I have no notion,
Oh, they give song the importance of sense;
I'd be a Rothschild! with every emotion,
Awake at the tune of pounds, shillings and pence.

(To be continued.)

THE HELPING HAND ASSOCIATION.

(Continued from page 75).

Twenty-fifth Anniversary of the Society, he would be glad if they would come forward with a donation no matter how small. He was glad to say that Sir Harry Graumann had donated £25 (applause), and he hoped that this lead would be followed by many more. (Applause.)

A further appeal was made by the Chairman, to which several of those present responded.

During the evening Miss Goldblat and Miss Kate Neumann contributed musical items, which proved very entertaining. Miss Neumann sang, with much effect, "Mountain Lovers" and "Arise, Oh Sun." The catering was in the hands of Messrs. Emdin Bros. The proceedings then terminated.

The Kidney's Vital Work.

JOHANNESBURG READERS SHOULD LEARN TO KEEP THE KIDNEYS ACTIVE AND WELL.

The kidneys are Nature's safety valves. All the blood in the body is constantly coursing through the kidneys, to be freed of poisonous matter. It is a heavy enough task when the kidneys are well, but a cold, chill, fever, or some thoughtless exposure is likely to irritate, inflame and congest the kidneys, and interrupt the purifying work.

Then aching frequently begins, and is often accompanied by some irregularity of the urine—too frequent passages, sediment or retention. Thousands testify to the wonderful merit of Doan's Backache Kidney Pills, a remedy for the kidneys only, that has been used in kidney troubles for fifty years. You will make no mistake in following this Germiston South resident's advice.

On 16th January, 1923, Mrs. D. J. Venter, Crown Road, off Boksburg Road, Germiston South, Johannesburg, Transvaal, said: "A rheumatic pain in the small of my back tortured me for three years. It was simply awful, and gave me no heart for anything. Headaches troubled me, and I was subject to dizzy spells. At times the rheumatism affected my feet, and they became so swollen that I could not wear my boots.

"The treatments I underwent were of no use, but it was different when I used Doan's Backache Kidney Pills. They did me good from the first, and now I am quite well."

On 9th August, 1928, Mrs. Venter said: "I've been very well and strong since I used Doan's Pills some years ago. They are splendid.—(Signed) D. J. Venter.

Ask distinctly for Doan's Backache Kidney Pills, the same as Mrs. Venter had. Sold by all dealers 3/3 a box. Sole Proprietors, Foster-McClellan Co., Box 1297, Cape Town.

Fountain Bottle Depot
3, HOUT STREET, CAPETOWN
Telephone — 6134 Central.