

OUR READERS' FORUM.

The Immortality of Judaism.

By I. D. FRYDE.

Movements in America and elsewhere have lately been started with a view to religious unification, and in some measure have been supported and encouraged by members of the Jewish faith. How heartily we Jews would co-operate in a movement that has for its object the recognition of and respect for each other's religion, be it Judaism, Protestantism, Catholicism or any other religion, but let us keep well away from any movement to assimilate mankind into one belief. It is spiritually impossible and extremely dangerous. Once a Jew, always a Jew is more true than even we Jews realise, and it is as chemically incompatible to successfully blend a Jew with a Gentile as it is possible to find in any pharmacopoeia.

Since Judaism is a Godly gift, it must be as indestructible as any naturally occurring matter on this earth, and though we see Jews apparently discarding their religion for some other faith or perhaps living an atheistic life, that inextinguishable spark of Judaism will persist even if only as an invisible smoulder, but it will eventually burst forth into flame in the second, third or fourth generation, with a renewed force and enthusiasm.

Since the most influential force in human life, viz., marriage, has never yet had the effect of weakening the resisting force of Judaism, then we must seriously and earnestly recognise Judaism as being absolutely indestructible. The very fact,

however, of the Jewish religion being a God-given faith seems to unfortunately give our people the right to play "ducks and drakes" with their religion. Believing that God is slow to anger and ever merciful, they satisfy their religious conscience by an occasional—usually annual—visit to the Synagogue. Some, however, go more often, perhaps on the Jewish holidays. They soothe their troubled minds by making their children learn Hebrew or joining a Jewish Society that usually results in the child neglecting its studies. They treat their religion in a spirit of "benevolent tolerance," but when trouble overtakes them they cling to their religion with an inseparable power, and, happily enough, their God whom they have so sadly neglected and even forgotten in their hours of joy never fails them in their hour of misery. Facts such as these render the Jewish religion immortal. Thus we see men and women who throughout their lives here never carried out their religious obligations, hopefully in their last moments picking up the almost lost threads of their religion and praying to God for salvation. Others who have brazenly discarded their religion are glad to go to their eternal rest with the words "Shema Yisrael" on their lips. We can therefore afford to laugh at religious renegades and converts. A man or woman legally born in the Jewish faith can no more radically change his or her religion than can a leopard change its spots.

Popular Wedding.

DEBOVSKY—LEVY.

The marriage of Miss Tilly Dembovsky, eldest daughter of Mr. and Mrs. A. Dembovsky, to Dr. Harold Levy, eldest son of Mr. and Mrs. Levy, both of Cape Town, was celebrated in the Great Synagogue on the 12th February, by the Rev. A. P. Bender, assisted by Cantor L. Kirscher.

The bride, who was given away by her father, looked charming in a frock of georgette and satin embroidered with sequins and beads. Her veil was of Brussels net over a Medici cap of pearls and she carried a bouquet of lilies.

The bridesmaids were the Misses Ray and Minnie Dembovsky, sisters of the bride, who looked charming, both wearing green and lemon combined with pink.

The flower-girls were Miss Audrey Grossberg, Miss Eva Dembovsky and Miss Effie Gordon.

The duties of best man were ably carried out by Mr. Levy, brother of the bridegroom, while Dr. Dave Cohen acted as groomsman.

The unterfuhrers were Mr. and Mrs. Levy, the parents of the groom,

Mrs. Levy looking smart in a costume of green lace and georgette, and Mr. and Mrs. Dembovsky, the latter looking charming in a beige georgette and lace costume.

The pole holders were Messrs. I. Levy, B. Levy, A. Kairovsky, and H. Segal.

After the service the guests, who numbered well over 500, assembled at the Banqueting Hall, where the reception was held, and then followed dancing to the strains of Marks' Orchestra.

Among those present were Dr. and Mrs. Cohen, Dr. and Mrs. Bernstein, Dr. Goldberg, Dr. and Mrs. Weinberg, Mrs. H. Jaffe (Somerset Strand), Mr. and Mrs. Katzellenbogen (Pretoria), Miss Minnie Jaffe, Miss Mary Sweke, Mr. and Mrs. Stodel, Mrs. Kaplan, Mrs. B. Myers, Mrs. Perel, Mr. and Mrs. Abrahamson, Mr. Kogan and Mr. and Mrs. Kerbel.

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