

Mr Laszlo Schwartz.

AN ENGAGING PERSONALITY.

An altogether engaging personality is Mr. Laszlo Schwartz, the eminent Hungarian violinist, who is at present in Cape Town, where he is appearing at the Tivoli. He has a deep rich voice, which is as fascinating as it is melodious, and he speaks with ease and confidence on any subject on earth, whether it be on cabbages or kings, impressionistic art, Jewish criminals in America or British policy in India.

"This is my third tour round the world," said Mr. Schwartz, in an interview with a representative of the *S.A. Jewish Chronicle*. "and it would be a shorter story to mention the places I have not seen than those I have. It is my last tour," he added, "I shall stay in your country for a while—I like open spaces."



MR. LASZLO SCHWARTZ.

Mr. Schwartz then imparted some interesting information. "I want to scribble," he said. "I am rather keen on it." It appeared subsequently that he was very keen on it, a fact which was testified to by the large file of "scribblings" which he had contributed to South African papers alone during his stay of about two months only in this country. Mr. Schwartz is particularly interested in Jewish subjects, and he has written an extraordinarily large number of these for the Jewish Press. "I have travelled so much," he said, "and as a result I see the Jewish problem in a way that seems all my own. At present I am busy writing two books of Jewish interest, and I hope to bring them out shortly. They are 'The Gypsy Jew' and 'The Grinning God.'" From his account of it it would seem that the second was in the form of a satire.

The articles which Mr. Schwartz produced revealed another interesting fact—that he is also a very clever caricaturist. The bulk

of his articles are interspersed with caricatures of his own creation. So that, what with his playing the violin, his various musical compositions—and there are a large number of these—his writing and his drawing, he is more than versatile.

Speaking of Jews generally, Mr. Schwartz said:—

"There is something missing in the young Jew to-day, and as a consequence there is something missing in the average Jewish home. There is too much smugness, too little emotionalism. Even our Jewish artists lack emotionalism for the most part, and this spoils their work. Only two or three of them have cultivated that natural emotionalism and spontaneity that is inherent in them."

Questioned with regard to South African Jewry, Mr. Schwartz said that his greatest disappointment was the fact that they were so impervious to the influences of art, were so little interested in it. There was, however, artistic talent among the Jews here. "But why," he said, "don't you get up and show what you can do?" Why not collect the Jewish artists in South Africa, who to-day were scattered all over the country performing in various societies, he suggested, and form one big organisation—raise them above the amateur level, put them on a professional basis, and make the Gentiles round about sit up? This was a way of earning the respect and recognition of our neighbours.

In response to a final question, Mr. Schwartz said that he hoped to give one or two recitals in Cape Town on his own. It was his object then to give renderings of a large selection of Hebrew and Jewish music.

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Bnoth Zion Association.

An entertainment for children to celebrate the Succoth Festival will take place on Sunday, October 12th, at 3 p.m. at the Zionist Hall, Hope Street, Cape Town. An interesting programme has been arranged, including an address by Mrs. Greta Bloomhill and musical items by the children of the Hebrew Kindergarten.

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