

MR. MOSCOVITCH AT CAPETOWN.

Ever since his arrival in South Africa, when he was welcomed on behalf of the younger members of the Jewish community by the Capetown Maccabean Association, Mr. Moscovitch has been the great topic of conversation and the subject of general interest. His visit to Capetown was eagerly anticipated by the Jewish community, which desired to pay honour to him who had brought honour and renown to the Jewish people.

Mr. and Mrs. Moscovitch arrived in Capetown on Tuesday, August 14th, and that same evening Mr. Moscovitch appeared in "The Great Lover." The theatre was crowded, mainly by Jews, who had come to offer a hearty welcome to the great Jewish artist. But this was no exceptional night, for performance after performance saw crowded houses greet the masterly display of emotional acting. The last night of the season, Monday, August 27th, saw a "special night," under the auspices of the University of Capetown Students' Representative Council and the Maccabean Association. And just as hearty as was the welcome by the young people, so was the send-off. But there was this difference—the latter was tinged with regret that South Africa was to lose Moscovitch, and with hope of his speedy return.

On Sunday, August 19th, the combined Zionist societies offered a public welcome to Mr. and Mrs. Moscovitch at a public meeting held in the Alhambra Theatre. The hall was packed to the door, and tremendous enthusiasm prevailed, which showed itself in roars of applause and cheering on the entrance of Mr. Moscovitch.

Mr. I. Schwartz, the president of the Dorshei Zion Association, who presided, in a few words welcomed the distinguished guests.

Adv. M. Alexander, K.C., M.L.A., spoke of the greatness which clung to the name of Maurice Moscovitch, who had carved out a unique position for himself in the English-speaking world. From being the idol of the Yiddish theatre, Moscovitch, by sheer force of will and wonderful ability, had become the greatest living English actor.

Dr. I. Olsvanger, speaking in Yiddish, analysed the true function of the artist, and in a brilliant speech showed how the really great artist owed a great deal to the experiences of past generations, which became part and parcel of his very being.

Mr. Moscovitch, who was received with tumultuous applause, spoke of the rise and fall of the Yiddish theatre in America. The theatre had become commercialised, and because he felt he could no longer do anything to raise the status of his art, he forsook the Yiddish stage for the English. His address was punctuated with laughter at the many apt stories and pithy epigrams.

On Wednesday afternoon, August 22nd, the University of Capetown Students' Jewish Association had the pleasure of entertaining Mr. Moscovitch. Prof. Ritchie, Acting Principal, presided, and introduced the visitor. Mr. Moscovitch spoke of the English theatre as it is to-day and of his rendering of Shylock. He again expressed his regret that the stage

had become a commercial enterprise and had suffered so much from the change.

Mr. David Ordman, president of the S.J.A., expressed the appreciation and thanks of the students to Mr. Moscovitch for coming up. After the meeting a number of the students were privileged to meet the famous actor at an informal tea party.

On Sunday evening, August 26th, the Maccabean Association were "at home" to their members. The guests of the evening were Mr. and Mrs. Moscovitch. The Old Synagogue Hall had been tastefully decorated by Mrs. A. Hoffman, Miss B. Policansky and a band of eager helpers.

Mr. Adv. Herbstein, who presided, offered a hearty welcome to the guests, who were being entertained mainly because they had proved such excellent members of the Jewish race.

Dr. Olsvanger touched the same note, and spoke in praise of the outlook of the growing youth of this country, which was searching in its own history, literature and art for examples they could follow.

Mr. Adv. Alexander, in an entertaining speech, spoke of his early attempts at acting and play-writing and assured Mr. and Mrs. Moscovitch of the really hearty feelings of the younger generation for the true Jewish artistry exemplified in the guest.

Mr. Moscovitch, replying to the speeches of welcome, contrasted this reception by the younger Maccabees with one given to him by the Order of Maccabees in London last year. On that occasion he said what he felt, and that was that he had been ignored by his fellow Jews until the Gentile world had discovered him and lauded him to the skies. The younger Maccabees, however, with a newer, fresher outlook, were refusing to be submerged in foreign cultures, and were returning to their own. Mr. Moscovitch, in his inimitable style, gave the meeting some confidences about himself, declaring that in spite of "The Great Lover," with his hundred loves, he was a respectable householder, with grown-up sons, and that he had a wife with whom he had lived some thirty-two years.

Various ladies and gentlemen, Misses Zin, Joffe, Agranat, Isaacson and Messrs. Kourland and Adolf Hallis rendered musical items, which added very greatly to the enjoyment of the evening. Distinctions are invidious, but mention should be made of the kindness of Adolf Hallis, the famous Jewish pianist, in consenting to play. Mr. Hallis and his wife are here on a short visit, and it was a unique occasion in the history of the Maccabees to entertain two such great artistes.

Messrs. Turtledove and Ordman expressed the gratitude of the members to the artists.

Refreshments, under the able management of the Misses Cosay, Levinsohn, and Gitlin were served, and a delightful and memorable evening was brought to a close by the chairman wishing Mr. and Mrs. Moscovitch and Mr. and Mrs. Hallis Godspeed, a pleasant voyage and a quick return to South Africa.

Mr. and Mrs. Moscovitch have charmed everybody who has had the good fortune to meet them. By their unflinching interest, their geniality, and their homeliness they have made many friends who regret their departure, and look forward to their return to South Africa next year.