



IN DURBAN



FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.
All communications for this page to
"Avon," P.O. Box 942, Durban.

A MUSICAL LECTURE.

"The Romance of Opera" was the attractive title which Mr. T. J. Holzberg gave to the interesting lecture which he delivered to the Jewish Circle on Monday, 18th August. This function was another of the successes scored by the Cultural Section in their work of developing the cultural interests of the community, and their effort was once again acknowledged by a satisfactory attendance.

Mr. O. Ballin, who has succeeded Dr. B. Moshal as chairman of the Culture Section, took the chair on this occasion and in the course of his introductory remarks expressed the view that the relationship of opera and good music to the majority of people like ourselves, who live thousands of miles away from the important musical centres of the world, could not be divorced from the marvellous development of mechanical music. The gramophone supplied our musical wants to-day and enabled us to hear the best music at home. This function of the gramophone he regarded as a mechanical miracle, a romance in itself. The lecturer later endorsed this view and added point to it by practical demonstrations on an H.M.V. electric model.

Mr. Holzberg traced the development of opera from an early Italian experiment of reviving the Greek chorus in musical setting, until the "singing story" evolved the theories and principles of modern opera. Opera appealed so strongly, the lecturer asserted, because it entailed a blending of three distinct arts—the stage, singing and histrionics.

The fundamental differences between the French, German, Russian and Italian schools were lucidly explained, and were more clearly illustrated by the playing of typical records. Mr. Holzberg kept his audience amused with running commentaries of a humorous nature as he proceeded, and embellished his subject with many personal anecdotes.

Among a number of thoughtfully selected records, the best were Caruso in "Il Travatore," Chaliapin in "Boris Goudonov," the famous quartette from "Rigoletto," the sextet from "Lucia de Lammamoor," Carusd in "O Paradiso," from "L'Africaine and Martinelli in Halevi's "La Jeuve."

A thoroughly enjoyable lecture throughout, and of a type that could with advantage be developed later more elaborately.

"HIKING ROUND THE WORLD."

I received a surprise visit this week from two gentlemen, Messrs. Wexler and Bornstein, who hail from the city of Chicago, U.S.A., and are now on a walking tour round the world. "World-walkers" are not uncommon these days, but one does not generally associate this pastime with Jews, but these gentlemen, having spent nine years on their world-wide travels, take their work very seriously. Messrs. Wexler and Bornstein arrived in Durban from Australia by the "Euripedes," having spent more than a year traversing the Antipodes from end to end. During their wanderings in Australia, they delivered many lectures to the different Jewish communities and were particularly successful in Sydney and Melbourne. Mr. Bornstein lectures in Yiddish, but Mr. Wexler has addressed audiences under the auspices of the Y.M.C.A. and other gentile bodies.

The travellers are gathering sufficient data and photographs with the object of one day publishing a book in Yiddish, with the title "The Natural Wonders of the World," and they look to Africa to provide them with ample material. It appears their tour is to be temporarily abandoned since Mr. Wexler is proceeding to Paris where his mother lives. Mr. Bornstein will investigate South Africa meanwhile and hopes to join his companion in Europe at the end of the year, when the two friends will once again hoist pack on back and travel through Africa from Cairo to the Cape. Mr. Bornstein is anxious to arrange public lectures, for which purpose he has a large collection of interesting lantern slides, and trusts that the kindness of the Jewish communities of Australia will be repeated in this country.

THE TALMUD TORAH DANCE.

The Young Israel Society has been first in the field once again, having seized the opportunity to be the first to arrange a function on behalf of the newly formed Talmud Torah. As usual a dance is the most popular and lucrative form of persuading people, young or old, to disburse some of their pocket money, and a dance it was which the Y.I.S. held on August 4th, at which over one hundred members were present. Miss Muriel Freed, the President, anticipates excellent financial results although the figure is not yet known. The committee expresses its gratification at the number of Circleites who were present at the dance.

A well contested debate between the Young Israelites and the circle took place on the 30th August, on the controversial topic "That competitive examinations should be abolished." Miss Freed, Mr. J. Cohen and Mr. H. Shapiro argued on behalf of the Y.I.S., but Messrs. Sol Cohen, B. Geshen and Miss P. Greenstein argued to better advantage and the motion was declared lost by Mr. M. Wolpert, who occupied the chair. Mr. Berman moved a vote of thanks to the chair and the speakers which was seconded by Mr. O. Ballin, chairman of the Circle Culture Section. Unhappily, unlike other occasions, Circleites, with the exception of the debaters, Mr. Wolpert and Mr. Ballin, were conspicuous by their absence, a state of affairs which should not exist when an inter-debate takes place.

SOCIAL BREVITIES.

The wedding of Miss Fanny Lurie to Mr. Jack Rubin, took place at the St. Andrews Street Synagogue on August 19th, the ceremony and subsequent reception proving one of the most brilliant weddings of the season. Rabbi E. M. Levy officiated assisted by Rev. N. Menachemson, and the ceremony was fully choral, Miss Florence Linder rendering a beautiful solo. The Unterfuhrers were Mr. and Mrs. B. Lurie and Mrs. R. Rubin, and Mr. and Mrs. N. Meyerowitz. The best man was Mr. Norman Rubin, brother of the bridegroom; Mr. Alec Rubens fulfilled the duties of groomsmen. The bridesmaids were Miss Jeanette Lurie, Miss Edie Lurie, Miss Lily Lurie, Miss Blume Rubin and Miss Natalie Morrison. The Poleholders were Messrs. David Lurie, David Freedman, I. Geshen and Harry Smith.

On the afternoon of the same day, the wedding was solemnised before Rabbi Levy and Rev. Menachemson, of Miss Cissie Hellenger and Mr. Julius Slevanski. The Unterfuhrers were Mrs. R. Hellenger (the bride's mother) and Mr. I. Hellenger (brother of the bride), and Mr. and Mrs. Futerman. The bridesmaids were Miss Esther Hellenger and Miss Anne Hellenger, and the canopy bearers were Messrs. Alec Hellenger, Theo Greenberg, Beryl Davidson and Alfred Stiller. The duties of best man were ably undertaken by Mr. Cyril Davidson. The service was impressive, Miss Elsie Hart officiating at the organ, while Miss Linder sang a solo on the entrance of the bride.

The engagement is announced between Essie, daughter of Mr. S. Bloom of Currie Road, Durban, to Julius, son of Mr. and Mrs. C. L. Greenberg of Rorvik Avenue, Durban.

The engagement is announced between Helene Steele of Kroonstad, and Joe, eldest son of Mr. and Mrs. M. Brookstone of Vause Road, Durban.

The engagement is announced of Milly, youngest daughter of Mrs. L. Cinamon and the late Mrs. B. Cinamon, to Edward, youngest son of Mrs. S. Levene and the late Mr. S. Levene, both of Durban.

Congratulations are extended to Mr. and Mrs. Morris Feigenbaum on the happy occasion of their silver wedding, which was duly celebrated by an "At Home" on Sunday, August 31st.

Congratulations to Mr. and Mrs. Percy Eagle of Prince Alfred Street, Maritzburg, to whom a daughter was born on August 21st.

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