

A Good Sign

AS one concerned in the more peaceful development of congregational life on the Rand, I am keenly interested in the news that Dr. J. L. Landau will preach at the Beth Hamedrash Hagodel on Sunday next. This is the first occasion during his long and serviceable career that this distinguished and scholarly rabbi has occupied the pulpit at the ultra-orthodox synagogue.

Such an event, I presume, has come about with the consent not only of Rabbi Isaac Kossowski, the recently imported Rav, but also the committees of the United Hebrew Congregation and the Beth Hamedrash Hagodel. In this connection, I have heard that Rabbi Kossowski had actually been invited to preach at the Yeoville Synagogue on Sabbath last, but was reluctantly robbed of an opportunity of doing so on account of his objection to the existence of a mixed choir in that particular synagogue. One can hope that Rabbi Kossowski will shortly be occupying the pulpit of the great synagogue in Wolmarans Street.

There can be no doubt that Dr. Landau's first pulpit address at the Beth Hamedrash Hagodel will attract a large congregation. I am delighted at this evidence of growing sympathy and understanding between the two most important Hebrew congregations on the Rand.

"My Struggle"

COPIES of Hitler's autobiography—"My Struggle"—have reached this country and are being sold at certain book establishments. One cannot object to that, although the circulation of this volume can only create a further amount of "poison gas" against us.

What I object to strongly is the fact that announcements, dealing with the publication and seeking sales, are being circulated throughout a number of South African schools. This is being done by the local agents of "My Struggle," who appear to think that the book is of "educational" value.

The circulation of such a volume by a reputable firm here is giving it an air of respectability and there is no doubt that a number of copies are being disposed of. Incidentally, much space, I understand, is devoted in Hitler's autobiography to the "poison" of Jewish blood. I feel it is our duty to offset this calumny by the publication of a work on the contributions of the Jew to civilisation. We need a thoroughly documented, up-to-date, scientific, but properly written book on this subject in English—one which would focus the interest and attention of thinking people. It should be a virile and popular book and I wish that a man like Mr. Maurice Samuel would find time to write it.

Lennox Loewe

THE late Mr. Lennox Loewe, who passed away a few days ago, was for many years a familiar and popular figure in Johannesburg Jewry. He was of a quiet and unassuming nature, and

Current Communal Comments

By
'Hamabit'

of late years did not come much to the fore in the public life of the Golden City.

Mr. Lennox Loewe, who came to South Africa over three decades ago, was one of the pioneer enthusiasts of the Zionist cause in this country, and, in this capacity, his name has been recorded in Dr. Sokolow's monumental *History of Zionism*. He was proud of his personal touch with the founder of modern political Zionism and greatly treasured his correspondence with Dr. Theodor Herzl.

A son of the distinguished Dr. Louis Loewe, Orientalist and private secretary to the equally distinguished Jew and philanthropist, Sir Moses Montefiore, Mr. Lennox Loewe, too, by his public work in the early days of the local Jewish community, upheld the traditions of his family in South Africa. Jewry here has suffered a great loss in the passing of so interesting a personality.

Religious Intellectuality.

SOME years ago Dr. Joseph Klausner, world renowned Hebrew scholar and professor at the Hebrew University, published a life of Jesus in Hebrew. The book represents the first complete and unbiassed biography of Jesus written by a Jew and it created much interest in both Jewish and Christian circles. It was translated into several European languages and the English version was prepared by an Anglican minister, the Rev. Herbert Danby, of St. George's Cathedral of Jerusalem. Dr. Danby said in his introduction to the English edition that "the Christian reader, and especially the Christian scholar, will be thankful for the material which the book provides for the better understanding of the Jewish mental and historical environment in which our Lord worked and lived." The book sold well and many Christians enjoyed reading it.

Recently, the Polish-Jewish weekly, *Opinia*, began to publish Dr. Klausner's work serially and immediately the Catholic clerics raised a furore. The book was "blasphemous" and "insulting" to Christianity, they said. After a formal complaint had been lodged by a Polish Cardinal, the Government confiscated the numbers of *Opinia* containing the first chapters of Dr. Klausner's work and it also prohibited the sale of this book in Hebrew. One can understand the objections of Polish priests to this book as mental pabulum for their communicants. They do not want the Polish youth to read a rational biography of Jesus. However, to attempt preventing Jews from reading this book is a wasteful task. Now that the

church has proscribed it, Polish Jews will begin to read it more zestfully than ever before.

The entire incident gives one a fair conception of the state of religious intellectuality in Poland. The most interesting phase of this incident is the fact that "Bibliotheca Sacra," the Bibliographical journal published by the Vatican, praised Dr. Klausner's scientific approach to the life of Jesus, but it seems that

Polish priests are too busy to read the literature emanating from the Holy See.

"So Long Ago"

I WAS interested to learn that preparations are now in hand for next year's "Passion Play" at Oberammergau and it has been decided that the Aryan actors playing the parts of Jews will be permitted to "make-up" like Jews for the strange reason that the play "relates the events which occurred a sufficiently long time ago."

This reminds me of a story I heard recently that when a Nazi clergyman asked those in his congregation who had Jewish parents, to leave, half rose from their seats and departed. Jesus was then supposed to have stepped from the Crucifix at the Altar and informed the Pastor that he regretted that he, too, would have to leave, since his father and mother were both Jews.

In their "screwing-up" campaign the Nazis are meeting with an extraordinary number of difficulties. These would be really amusing, if they were not, unhappily, so tragic!

Pot-Pourri

ARNOLD SCHOENBERG, the distinguished composer, is one of the valuable exiles for whom America will have to thank Germany.

Two of the better-known actresses of the Yiddish stage in New York are *shickshes*.

Thomas Mann—exiled German Nobel literary prize-winner—has refused to collaborate in the literary monthly, edited by his son, Glaus, and sponsored by his brother, Heinrich.

No country in the world has ever had a class of immigrants who brought as much capital with them as those now arriving in Palestine.

Jews entering Palestine are finding Hebrew a strange language. The Hebrew word "dog" means fish, whilst "he" means she, and "who" means he.

The Zionist Organisation in America is losing a large percentage of its workers to Palestine.

A theatre in Berlin is playing Ben Levy's "Springtime for Henry," but has Nordicised the author by giving him a German name.

Handsome.

TWO Jews were looking at the magnificent tomb of a member of the Rothschild family.

"Mmm!" said one of them rocking his head. "The way some people live!"