

Fine Singing by Madame BelmasEXCELLENT CONCERT AT THE
"METRO"

The combined talents of Dr. Alexander Kitchine, Madame Xenia Belmas and Mr. Hermann Becker went to form a thoroughly enjoyable performance at a concert presented at the Metro Theatre last Sunday evening.

Under the fine conductorship of Dr. Kitchine, an efficient orchestra gave outstanding renditions of several popular musical works, including Liszt's "Hungarian Rhapsodie II," which was played as a finale, and excerpts from "Carmen."

Madame Belmas, who combines a fine soprano voice with an exceptionally winning platform manner, captivated her large audience from the commencement of her varied programme, being accorded vociferous applause on both her appearances and exits. She sang, delightfully, several songs, including the "Jewel Song" from Faust and "Mi Chiamano Mimi" from La Boheme.

Madame Belmas is, undoubtedly, an operatic singer of exceptional ability and talent, and her performance at this concert was a musical treat for Johannesburg concert-goers.

The concert also featured some excellent cello solos by Mr. Hermann Becker, rendered with all the delicacy and feeling for which this artist is famous.

On Tuesday next Madame Belmas will give a concert at the City Hall in Pretoria. The next concert in Johannesburg will take place on Sunday evening, September 2, at the Metro Theatre.

P. L. B.

TALMUD TORAH DANCE IN ORANGE GROVE.

Under the auspices of the North-Eastern Hebrew Congregation and Talmud Torah, a dance will be held on Saturday, the 25th inst., in the Communal Hall, Ninth Street, Orange Grove. The Ambassadors' Personal Band will be in attendance and an enjoyable time is assured to all present. It is hoped to raise a substantial amount on behalf of the Talmud Torah as a result of this function.

Young Chazan at Arcadia

CONDUCTS SERVICE AT ORPHANAGE.

Master Oscar Hurwitz, of Pretoria, has achieved fame as a result of his demonstration of *chazonuth* at the Jewish Orphanage, Arcadia, on the evening of Friday last. He is fourteen years old and has shown unmistakable signs of a natural gift for *chazonuth*. His voice, a sweet but powerful alto, inspired his youthful audience, particularly when he rendered "Vayechulu hashamayim" and "Hashkivenu."

The signs of appreciation which were accorded him at the close of his conduct of the service are all the more noteworthy since Arcadia boasts a large number of youthful amateur *chazonim* who consider themselves authorities on synagogue services.

Hebrew Speaking Circle

At a joint meeting of representatives of the Jewish Guild and the Hebrew Speaking Circle, held on Thursday last, the terms upon which the Circle was to become a section of the Guild were decided upon. This union marks a most important advance in the history of the Circle, and it is hoped that since it is part of so well-known an institution, the Circle will receive full moral and financial support from the Jewish population of Johannesburg.

On Monday, the 26th inst., beginning at 8.30 p.m., a reception will be held at the Jewish Guild in honour of the Chief Rabbi, Dr. J. L. Landau, on his return to South Africa.

Jewish Guild

The musical art section of the Johannesburg Jewish Guild is presenting an interesting entertainment at the Guild on Sundays, 26th August and 2nd September, when "Soup to Nuts," a musical revue of unusual type, and described as a menu full of fun, laughter and song, will take place. The producers of this medley are Miss Charmion Kantor, the well-known local jazz pianist and Mr. Louis Ostrowiak. Miss Gerty Schneider will be the ballet mistress. The cast includes several experienced artists, and crowded houses are expected.

The Summer Heat-wave.

THE summer is now well advanced and it is very hot. The sun is fierce and relentless, and blazes day after day from a cloudless sky, and bakes and parches the earth. A heat-wave shimmers over the plains, and the bare hills reflect the light in a painful glare. These are the "Dog Days" of Palestine, and activity and energy are at a low ebb. The Law Courts close to-day for a month, and the ranks of the professions and the civil service have become very thin.

Jerusalem has cool nights, and Tel-Aviv and Haifa, of course, have the sea. So people from inland go to the coast and say that only the sea can save them, and Jerusalem is getting quite filled up with people from Tel-Aviv who breathe in the cool air from the hills and pray for a kind fate to enable them to live permanently in Rehavia. But the great bulk of the population carries on bravely under the trying conditions, and the weather is allowed to interfere very little with the work of the country. Of course, certain concessions are made to the heat. You may walk up and down Tel-Aviv and not see a man wearing a coat or jacket. Worthy people and notables wear their sleeves rolled down and have a tie knotted loosely round their necks, but the common herd abandon all that. They wear sleeveless vests, and have their necks open.

Jerusalem, which is a far more conventional city, is inclined to frown upon all this exposure. You see many men in cloth or serge suits, complete with tie and



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Benoni Visits the Aged Home

The Mayor and Mayoress of Benoni were among a large number of representative members of the Benoni Jewish community who paid an official visit on Sunday afternoon to the Witwatersrand Jewish Aged Home.

They were received by Mr. Louis Cohen, the vice-president of the Home, Mr. A. W. Katzen, the hon. secretary, and other members of the committee. They were shown over the Institution, introduced to the inmates and staff, and spent a very pleasant afternoon. They expressed themselves delighted with everything they saw.

Mr. L. Cohen, the chairman of the Benoni branch of the Aged Home, and Mr. and Mrs. Nestadt, the Mayor and Mayoress, voiced the appreciation of the guests when all were seated at the tables partaking of the tea and other refreshments served to them, and appropriate speeches were also made by Mr. Louis Cohen and Mr. Katzen.

GLIMPSES FROM ERETZ ISRAEL.*(Concluded from page 13.)*

Arab villagers. No one ventures to say a word. Where will you find empty Jewish hands to do the work? Then you see that the inhabitants of Transjordan are flocking into Palestine, where they simply walk into employment. It seems to you a pity that our people are not allowed to fill some of these vacancies. Then you read the reports of industrial concerns, meetings of companies, chambers of commerce; in each of these the acute labour shortage is dealt with as the only fly in the ointment and as the only retarding influence in the galloping progress and prosperity of the country. Then you read that many buildings cannot be started because of the lack of hands. Then you read that in some factories double and treble shifts are being worked in a vain effort to cope with orders, and that it is only the state of the labour market which prevents great new premises from being erected and the floor-space from being doubled and trebled. Then, to crown it all, you read in a report by the Government Agricultural Department itself that the crops in certain areas cannot be gathered owing to the scarcity of labour, and you say to yourself,—cannot we reasonably expect the Government to issue twenty-five thousand certificates in October? The bustling activity of the country would swallow up these immigrants swiftly and effortlessly, and call out for more.

hard collar and waistcoat. The orthodox section wears the same clothes all the year round, and I often marvel at and admire the fortitude with which the Chassidim and Prushim wear their black frockcoats under a temperature and in a humidity undreamt of in Johannesburg or Capetown.

But it is "Gazoz" which saves the Yishub in summer and that keeps the heat at bay. In case you have not been to Palestine, let me explain that "Gazoz" is an effervescent drink consisting of fruit syrup and soda. The soda is always the same, but the fruit syrup is obtainable in innumerable flavours and colours. A "Gazoz" machine consists of a great number of glass bulbs, with a soda pump in the centre. The many colours make a fine display. If you ask for a Gazoz, simply without stipulating the name of the fruit, then the stall-keeper will hold a tumbler under each of the little taps leading from the bulbs, and then squirt the tumbler full of soda. But each man drinks to his taste, and you may ask for a lemon gazoz, and a cherry gazoz, or even a pineapple gazoz, and the colour will be different each time, although I am not so certain about the taste.

The chief merit of the drink is that it is cold and wet, and Palestinians drink it all day. What "Mitz" is in winter and spring, gazoz is in summer, and I have heard people boast that they drink ten to twelve glasses a day. A single gazoz stand in a busy spot, say in Machlat Benjamin or Herzl Street, sells from two to three thousand gallons a day, almost literally enough gazoz to float a battleship.