

Violinists.

IT is upon a very valuable and unique Stradivarius that Mischa Elman is rendering his classical interpretations of the great masters during his present tour of South Africa. There are not many folk alive to-day who still remember the visit to this country of another renowned Jewish musician.

I refer to Edouard Remenyi, who led a romantic and adventurous life. He was born in Hungary in 1830 and graduated with honours from the Vienna Conservatory at an early age. In 1848, he became adjutant to a well-known Hungarian general, and fought under Kossuth in the war with Austria. When the insurrection failed, he escaped to America. Some years later he visited Weimar and sought out Franz Liszt, who at once recognised his genius and became his friend and guide. After an amnesty, he returned to Hungary, when he became solo violinist in the band of the Emperor of Austria.

Remenyi was, however, of a restless disposition, and wanted to see as much of the world as he could. So he made a world tour and finally settled in San Francisco, where he died on May 15, 1898. It was in the course of that wanderlust that he visited, in 1887, this country, and his concerts attracted more than the usual notice, for, in fact, he went where few, if any, violinists of his ability had been before.

Remenyi was also fond of collecting old and valuable violins, and thirty out of the forty-seven of the latter were discovered in South Africa. Most of them, it is said, were of the Stradivarius make, which, it is believed, had probably belonged at one time to the Huguenots who found their way to the Cape in the seventeenth century.

A Queen.

IN THE plethora of reports reaching here of the unhappy position of our co-religionists in many countries, it was a pleasant relief to hear of the remarkable scene which took place recently at the historic Jonas Daniel Meyerplein in Amsterdam. The occasion was the display of Jewish loyalty and affection for the House of Orange on the occasion of a visit made by the Queen of Holland. This gracious lady was accompanied by Princess Juliana and Prince Bernhard.

On arrival, the Royal Party was greeted by a choir composed of twelve hundred Jewish children. On the Queen's carriage arriving in front of the new synagogue, she addressed the Jewish communal leaders and expressed her acknowledgement of the tribute paid to her by her Jewish subjects.

In a letter received in South Africa a correspondent in Amsterdam referred to the happy atmosphere which prevailed on the great occasion in the streets of the Jewish quarter. These were gaily decorated with the Dutch colours and the route was deeply lined with thousands of Jews who

Current Communal Comments

By "Hamabit"

cheered the Royal Family with vigour and enthusiasm. In Holland our co-religionists have exactly the same privileges as other citizens, and the loyalty and devotion of the Jew to the land is well recognised.

Shelter.

THERE must be many of our folk in this country who, on their way as immigrants to South Africa, have spent some days of comfort at the Jews' Temporary Shelter in White-chapel. This institution has recently celebrated its fiftieth anniversary, and in this connection it was recalled that officials of the Shelter have in the course of its existence met more than 1,180,000 at the docks and the railway stations, and taken them in tow. The institution has accommodated during the same period 126,500 persons who had been detained in London in the course of their journey to overseas lands.

At the beginning of its career the Shelter had to cope with a large exodus of Jews from Roumania and Russia, who passed through London on their way to America. Then came the great war, when Jewish refugees from Belgium found a home in the Shelter. Now it is giving refuge to many German Jews. The story of the Shelter is indeed the story of Jewish immigration and wandering during the last half century.

Before the present Shelter was established, a little home for the refugees was run in London by a Mr. Simcha Baker, an interesting type of old English Jew, who devoted his life to charity. He founded a "Beth Midrash" where poor people were given a home to sleep. Zangwill used to visit the place, where he found material for his Jewish character studies.

The Shelter is always in need of help, and many in this country, who are to-day in good circumstances, should think of the institution which gave them comfort in their wandering days, and send along a little financial encouragement.

A Paper Hanger.

AN INTERESTING event recently occurred at a meeting of the Paperhanger's Union in the city of Philadelphia in America. This group of good loyal working men, who are rather proud of their profession, have taken umbrage at the statement that a certain Nazi dictator was a member of their craft. They desired to repudiate this, and in explaining their position, the paperhangers adopted a

resolution which made it clear that "that egotistical, barbarous and anti-labour dictator might have hung paper at one time, but that does not qualify him for the honourable title 'paperhanger.'" The only thing he has hung in the last ten years is the liberty of the German people."

There are certain diplomats and statesmen who might welcome the present "leader" of a great country, but that he should call himself a paperhanger is deeply resented by a group of workmen who are proud of their craft. It is all rather interesting!

"Forward"

I THINK that American Jewry can indeed be proud of its Jewish press. The leading and most popular Yiddish daily, the *Forwaerts*, has recently celebrated with great pomp its fortieth anniversary. In 1897 Abe Cahan, a young immigrant from Vilno, arrived in New York, where he worked as a propagandist amongst the Jewish trade unions. At that time Jewish immigration was in its infancy. The new arrivals were simple folk, who worked in the sweat factories on the East side. Cahan soon realised the necessity of a special newspaper for the masses of the people and started the *Forwaerts*. Since then it has developed into the biggest Jewish newspaper in the world, and I believe it is considered the biggest labour paper in any language.

Though nominally a labour paper, the *Forwaerts* caters for all tastes and its columns are widely read by the *balebatim* class in America. With the exception of its staunch and outspoken anti-Communist policy, the paper gives expression to all shades of Jewish opinion.

What has always interested me in particular is the literary and art section of this great paper. It is an open secret that writers like Sholem Asch, Zalman Schneour and J. Singer owe their success—indeed their very existence—to the pages of the *Forwaerts*, where their novels are regularly serialised. The Yiddish book market is so poor that it could hardly afford to maintain these great writers.

The art section of the paper publishes every Sunday a veritable store house of reproductions of present day as well as historical Jewish events. The newspaper is housed in its own magnificent building on the East Side. It also owns its own wireless station—W.E.V.D.—which is the leading labour station in America.

No Scandal.

THE shammas of Berdicher was a great gossip, and dearly loved to spread scandal. He simply could not keep a still tongue in his head.

In due time he died. As he was being buried the chazan of the shul, a very old man, whispered in his ear: "I know what a *plappler* you are! When you come to the other world, don't tell the Almighty that there is still going about in Berdicher a healthy old fellow of eighty-three."

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