

AMONG OURSELVES

By SHULAMITH

Readers are invited to submit notices of social functions, invitations and other communications to "Shulamith," P.O. Box 2000, Cape Town

Miss Raie da Costa.

The cable news received this week of the tragic death of Miss Raie da Costa has shocked not only those who knew her personally, but also the large number of people to whom she was exceedingly well known through her music.

Many of us still remember the numerous occasions on which Miss da Costa, as a child, delighted audiences with her artistic ability in dancing, music and elocution. She was, too, a frequent and generous performer at charitable functions.

Since her departure from South Africa some ten years ago, eager readers have followed her career step by step, from one success to another, and it is difficult now to realise that at the height of her career, when she was reaping the full reward of brilliant talent and technique perfected by consistent hard work, she is dead.

Miss da Costa as a syncopated-classical pianist evolved a new style of musical interpretation which has become most popular with audiences in many lands, and which will remain with us through the many records which she made. She leaves behind, too, a number of popular musical scores and well-known melodies which she composed.

Throughout her career Miss da Costa maintained a close affection for South Africa in which country she was born. Success did not spoil her and she was always eager to meet South Africans who visited London.

Our sympathy is extended to Miss da Costa's father and brother who are at present in London. It will be remembered that Mrs. da Costa, who played so important a part in her daughter's career, died in London some two years ago.

Dr. Zuckerman.

Mail news this week brings a report of an interesting and stimulating address given by Dr. Solly Zuckerman in London at the Congress of Anthropological and Ethnological Sciences which was attended by one thousand delegates from forty-two countries.

His paper has a bearing on the riddle of evolution, for it confirms the belief that man is enormously older than had been supposed. Dr. Zuckerman, in his research on monkey blood tests, has found the additional fact that serum proteins in the blood of the Old World apes and monkeys are related to each other and to man's, but not to those of new world monkeys.

Dr. Zuckerman is at present the holder of an Alfred Beit scholarship and is engaged on research at Oxford. He returned to London recently after two years' work at Yale University.

From Mrs. M. Zuckerman I heard that there is a possibility of her son paying a short visit to South Africa towards the end of the year.

Mrs. Zuckerman also told me that the latest news received from her younger son Herzl was from London, where he met his brother, Dr. Zuckerman. He attended the Zionist Youth Summer School in Wales, where, judging from reports received, he seems to have made a very good impression.

An Interesting Exhibition.

The exhibition of enlarged photographs depicting incidents in the course of H.R.H. Prince George's tour through South Africa, which was opened by His Worship the Mayor, Mr. L. Gradner, on Tuesday morning, is of interest both because of the excellence of the photography and the appeal of the subject matter.

"Through South Africa with Prince George" is the title of the exhibition, and in this case the title can be said to be comprehensive, though personally I should have liked to see more photographs taken in the Cape. From a survey of the photographs, one gets not only a record of the variety of H.R.H.'s duties, but also, as was pointed out both by the Mayor and Mr. R. N. Scott, of Kodaks, in their introductory remarks, a vivid and absorbing account of the diversity to be found in South Africa both in respect of race types and natural scenery. The photographs carry us through the four Provinces, Basutoland, Bechuanaland and Rhodesia. I think that the native studies are particularly good.

The exhibition has been successfully shown and ought to be good publicity for South African tourist traffic in the principal cities of England, and now Messrs. Kodak, Ltd., are sponsoring a similar project in South Africa, where, I am sure, the exhibition will arouse great interest.

The exhibition is being shown at 38-40, Adderley Street and will be open to the public until 4th September.

Jewish education is the life blood of the Jewish people.

A Barmitzvah.

A Barmitzvah party that was voted a huge success both by the young people and adults who were present was that of Bertie, only son of Mr. and Mrs. T. Roytowski, of Oranjezicht.

On Saturday morning Master Roytowski read a portion of the Law and Maftir at the Gardens Synagogue and in the afternoon had a special party for his friends. The large number of boys present, the majority of whom were Scouts, since the Barmitzvah himself is a keen Scouter, were highly delighted with the entertainment afforded by Mr. "Scratcher" Ross.

Mr. and Mrs. Roytowski were "At Home" to relatives and friends at their residence on Sunday afternoon and evening.

Our Kindergartens.

Confident that at last I had classified my ideas on education—ideas which had been stimulated by the recent New Education Fellowship Conference, my next move was to see how practice coincided with theory.

The lack of nursery schools is an old cry, a sad fact indeed when we consider that all educationalists are agreed that the first seven years of a child's life are so important. I pondered what such lack signified in Jewish life, when I remembered that there were two Hebrew Kindergartens in Cape Town and off I set.

Tiny tables and chairs and the colourful and interesting modelling done by the tiny tots was what I expected to find—what I was concerned about was the method of teaching, and the songs and games the little boys and girls were enjoying. And from these I realised, after several fascinating visits, that in a delightful way the children were imbibing the simple fundamentals of our Jewish national and religious life. And this was done by means of Hebrew songs, stories and play-acting to interpret the meaning of our national festivals and ceremonies in the home, and the example of the courage and idealism of our pioneers in Palestine.

On looking round I am surprised that in spite of the fact that I have so often discussed theories of education with many Jewish mothers, especially mothers of children of pre-school age, so few of them realise that in the Hebrew Kindergartens they have a way of encouraging the practical application of modern educational methods.

I am glad, however, to think that the Bnoth Zion Association were sufficiently prudent to realise that we must care for our very young members. I should like to see more Jewish parents take an interest in giving the pre-school child a foundation of Jewish fundamentals, a knowledge which will serve him well during his years of growing up, and augur well for the future of our community.

Dewar's "J.J." Whisky

As Good To-day as in The Good Old Days.