

Cantor Berele Chagy.

Johannesburg's Congregation Engages World-Renowned Chazan.

THE Beth Hamedrash Hagodel (Orthodox Congregation) of Johannesburg has engaged Cantor Berele Chagy—the famous and world-renowned *chazan*—as reader. Cantor Chagy is due to arrive in Johannesburg in August, and will conduct the services at the forthcoming High Festivals. A special choir is being organised, and will be finally trained by the cantor on his arrival.



The famous *chazan*, who possesses a remarkable voice, is well known throughout the world on account of his fine gramophone records. At the age of four Chagy sang in the choir of his father, who was also a *chazan*, and he has thus been brought up from his earliest youth in the atmosphere of *chazonuth*. He conducted his first service at the age of eight at the Dwinsk Beth Hamedrash, and joined the choir of the Riga Chazan Rosofsky when

he was nine years old. He was known for many years as the wonderful boy *chazan*, and accepted his first post at the age of eighteen as *chazan* of the Smolensk Synagogue, with the consent of the famous Lubawitcher rabbi.

Chagy's first American post was in Detroit (Michigan), where for five years he was cantor of the leading synagogue. From there he went to the leading synagogue in Boston (Mass.), occupying this post for four years. From Boston he journeyed to New York, where he was cantor at the famous *Adath Yisroel* congregation. From time to time he has visited all the larger centres in America, giving concerts which have been attended by crowded audiences. Cantor Chagy is a leading member of the Cantors' Association of America.

THE HABONIM HANDBOOK.

THE development of the Habonim movement in South Africa is further illustrated by the publication in a first edition of 2,000 copies of the Habonim (S.A.) Handbook. This contains the skeleton programme of the movement as adapted for South African conditions and as intended for use among the Bonim and Bonot themselves.

The handbook is priced at 6d., and may be obtained from Habonim Headquarters, 17 President Buildings, Von Brandis and President Streets, P.O. Box 2942, and the Book Department, S.A. Zionist Federation.

The publication is an excellent one. The instructions, signs and terminology employed in Habonim activity are lucidly set out and clearly printed. Congratulations must be extended to the S.A. Habonim Council upon the publication of this useful and interesting work.

SEE "WHITE CARGO."

Playgoers in Johannesburg are offered the last opportunity of seeing that remarkable play, "White Cargo," at His Majesty's Theatre. It is undoubtedly one of the most powerful plays ever seen on the South African stage. There is some brilliant acting on the part of Mr. Godfrey Tearle and the members of his London company. The play is unique in that there is only one female character, and she is a primitive denizen of the West Coast of Africa.

Gifts for Hebrew University.

MR. M. HASKEL, the well-known South African Zionist, recently sent a valuable collection of specimens of South African minerals to the Hebrew University in Jerusalem. This gift has been gratefully accepted by the institution in a letter received by Mr. Haskel to hand by this mail.

The example set by the above donor might well be emulated by others in South Africa. The Hebrew University would be glad to receive specimens of all kinds of minerals and metals to add to the scientific equipment of the University.

Our readers are again reminded that the University will gratefully acknowledge any gift of books to be added to the University library.

Ovation for Heifetz.

Imposing Audiences at Plaza Theatre and City Hall.

THE size of the audiences at the Plaza Theatre on Sunday night and at the City Hall on Wednesday evening was a splendid tribute to Jascha Heifetz, the world-renowned violinist.

When it was first announced that Heifetz would come to South Africa, the news was received with considerable hesitation, for this artist is at the height of his fame, and the opinion was expressed that it was a great sacrifice for him to come to a country so far distant from the centres of Europe and America. Heifetz, however, chose to come, feeling confident that there was a high standard of musical appreciation in this country. The demonstrative manner in which he has been received in Capetown and Johannesburg is certainly an assurance to him that he was not mistaken.

The magnificent playing of Heifetz has aroused the plaudits of his audiences, and his work leaves but little scope for the critic. The latter's task becomes one of appraisal of an artist who has reached the supreme height of craftsmanship. The violinist is assisted by a pianist who must be the finest accompanist in the world to-day. Isador Achron for the last fourteen years has travelled with Heifetz all over the world, acting as his accompanist. As a result, the audience hears a musical combination which is unique and rare.

It is indeed pleasant to learn that Jascha Heifetz will be giving another concert at the Plaza Theatre on Sunday evening, the 19th inst. No opportunity of hearing this great genius of the violin should be missed by any lover of music in the Golden City.

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Obituary.

Mr. M. H. ISAACS (Johannesburg).

THE death occurred on the 8th inst., after a long and painful illness, of Mr. M. H. Isaacs. The deceased, who was born in London in 1885, came to South Africa in 1921. He served throughout the Great War at the Woolwich Arsenal, and in 1929 returned to Johannesburg with Mrs. Isaacs to take over the management of the Witwatersrand Jewish Aged Home. In this work he built for himself a reputation as a conscientious official deeply interested in the aged folk under his charge.

About six years ago Mr. Isaacs contracted eye trouble, which two years ago developed malignantly. Notwithstanding the utmost care and attention bestowed on him, the disease finally proved fatal.

The late Mr. Isaacs was of a kindly and retiring disposition, and was loved by all who came in contact with him. To his widow—the matron of the Aged Home—and to her two sons, the deepest sympathy is extended in their sad bereavement.

WESTERN SUBURBS LADIES' MIZROCHI ORGANISATION.

Under the auspices of the above organisation, an address will be delivered by Mr. J. Gerstenkorn on "The Recent Developments in Eretz Israel." The meeting will be held at the Lyceum Bioscope, Central Ave., Mayfair, on Sunday, the 19th inst., at 8 p.m. Members and friends are cordially invited.

A Special **STOUT** to Mark a Special Occasion
CHANDLER'S 45th Anniversary Brew