

**Folk Songs**

I AM glad to see that Jewish music is being artistically cultivated by a group of earnest enthusiasts. We have such a rich store of folk, national and religious music that I have often wondered why so little of it is heard in such a musical country as South Africa. Some little time ago there was a rumour that Halevy's beautiful opera, "La Juive," would be produced in Johannesburg. This opera has been played for over one hundred years and is full of fine Jewish atmosphere. Unfortunately, the project of local production has had to be abandoned owing to the heavy expense involved in producing—even with amateur artists.

On Sunday evening at the Jewish Guild a concert of Jewish music will be held and should attract a considerable audience. At least, I am optimistic enough to express so brave a hope. The organiser is Mr. J. Idelsohn, who is undoubtedly one of the best informed and most cultured musicians in the country. His knowledge of Jewish music is unrivalled. Talent in this direction appears to run in the family, for our local musical director is a brother of Professor A. Z. Idelsohn, of Cincinnati—famous for his remarkably fine work in the realm of Jewish musical research.

**A Visitor**

THE wife of an eminent scholar is now in Johannesburg on a short visit. The visitor is Mrs. A. S. Yahuda, wife of the internationally renowned Jewish savant, Professor A. S. Yahuda. She is a sister of Mrs. J. H. Amschwitz, wife of the fine Jewish artist, and her other sister is Mrs. Mary Millin, the loyal Zionist idealist, who resides in Johannesburg. A brother is Mr. I. E. Judes, the well-known communal worker.

Recently Professor Yahuda published a work entitled, "The Accuracy of the Bible," which has attracted attention throughout the literary world. The Professor has proved beyond a shadow of doubt that much of the Bible story is historically true. For many years Professor Yahuda was connected with the University of Madrid where he was largely responsible for the promotion of Jewish learning among the intellectuals of modern Spain. He is a Biblical scholar of great distinction. Author of several volumes devoted to Biblical law and its present-day value, he is also a celebrated Egyptologist, who has revealed strong "Egyptian" influence in the Bible, particularly in its earlier portions.

Many will regret that Professor Yahuda has been unable to accompany his wife to South Africa. He would have been given a cordial reception by the Jewish community and by Universities in this country.

**Zhitlowsky**

ONE of the finest orators I have heard in my time is Dr. Chaim Zhitlowsky, whose seventieth anniversary is being made the occasion in America for an appropriate celebration.

Zhitlowsky is an extremely romantic personality in Jewish life. He took an active

**Current Communal Comments**

By  
"Hamabit"

part in the preparatory labours of the Russian Revolution—but primarily as a Jew. As a lover and devotee of the Jewish masses it was his aim to bring cheer and sunshine and enlightenment into the dark corners of the Ghetto. Being gifted with a polished tongue he appealed to his people in prophetic accents not to sell their birth-right for a mess of pottage and to stand up not only for their economic but also their cultural rights.

As a man of learning Zhitlowsky has always possessed a genuine appreciation of Jewish cultural values and this he imparted beautifully and inspiringly to his hearers. For the past three decades he has transferred his activities to America and there, too, he proved himself a great teacher of Jewish culture through the medium of Yiddish.

While some of Dr. Zhitlowsky's ideas are debatable, everybody has always admired his talents and his sincerity. Some years ago there was talk in Yiddish-speaking circles in South Africa of extending an invitation to Zhitlowsky to come to South Africa on a lecture tour, but nothing came of it.

**Reuter**

THE present visit to South Africa of prominent journalists, who are attending the Imperial Press Conference, recalls the fact that the originator of modern telegraphic communication, on a large scale, was a young German Jew by the name of Julius de Reuter. As a matter of interest, Sir Roderick Jones, the present head of Reuter's News Agency, is one of the delegates.

Young de Reuter started a pigeon carrier service and sold his information about stock prices to brokers and investors. Afterwards he came to England and applied his ideas successfully there. This brilliant organiser married a Christian wife and the family have become thoroughly assimilated. His son was created Baron Herbert de Reuter and went to Oxford, becoming a fully-fledged Englishman. The present head of the family, Baron Oliver de Reuter, has no business connection whatsoever with the famous Agency which his grandfather founded.

**A Certain Jew**

NO one has ever heard of Jacob Israelsky. There is no "Who's Who" in which his name is mentioned. This humble fellow lived for thirty years in the small town of Louisa, in Kentucky, where he had a store. He established a good name and was affectionately referred to as "Jake the Jew." His scrupulous honesty was a by-word. It

seems as if he felt that cut off from the centres of Jewish life, there rested upon him a special obligation to enhance the Jewish name. Far from synagogues, he kept the Torah in his heart.

Recently Israelsky was stricken in his store and died. For thirty years he had been a good and honourable citizen. He was taken to be buried, under Orthodox Jewish rites amongst his people. But this is interesting! The Catholics of Louisa gathered at a special mass and prayed for the repose of his soul. Thus has a humble Jew transcended all prejudice of race and religion, and his neighbours embraced his soul as a kinsman.

**Fathers and Sons**

AN unique function was recently held in Boston. It was a Fathers and Sons dinner, held in connection with a prominent synagogue of the city. There was a fine sight of six hundred men and boys sitting together in a spirit of mutual respect and admiration.

Fathers of all ages and sons of all ages rubbed elbows in good fellowship; sang songs together; listened to words of advice from men who have achieved fame and distinction in the world; applauded enthusiastically every reference made to Jewish self-respect. The lads agreed with their dads that a comradely feeling between father and son would redound to the benefit of the family and of the community.

A function of this nature is so pregnant with meaning and significance, that it might well be emulated in South Africa, where there is a definite and ever-widening cleavage between Jewish father and son.

**A Cheat!**

THERE were two Jewish beggars working together—a blind mendicant and his seeing partner. They bought a basket of cherries and agreed as gentlemen to eat one cherry at a time. Suddenly the blind man rose and in fury slapped his crony in the face.

"You are a cheat and a scoundrel!" he shouted.

"Are you crazy?" demanded the other. "If I am taking two cherries at a time and you do not protest, I am sure you must be taking three or four at a time. You are nothing but a scoundrel."

**בשר לפסח**

**NOTICE TO THE JEWISH PUBLIC.**

The Jewish public is hereby notified that

**MR. L. MELAMED,**  
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On behalf of the Beth Din,  
**B. CHIDECKEL,**  
Hon. Secretary.

N.B.—Please note, that each bottle bought as Kosher Le Pesach must bear a label with the signature of Rabbi M. Ch. Mirvish.