

A BOOK ON THE BEILISS TRIAL

"THE DECAY OF CZARISM," By Alexander B. Tager. Issued by the Jewish Publication Society of America. Philadelphia.

DESPITE its title, this ably-documented book deals mostly with the famous Mendel Beiliss case of some two generations ago. It describes in detail the unique trial of the innocent Mendel Beiliss in the Russian courts during the last years of the very reactionary Czarist régime. The case, it will be remembered, aroused at the time world-wide interest on account of the wholly unwarranted charge of ritual murder laid against an innocent Jewish worker. "No historian of the last years of Russian Czarism will be able to pass by this affair," writes the author, who is a jurist of distinction, and "no political leader can afford to ignore it in his endeavour to become informed of all the monstrosities of political reaction and national hatred which were possible under the autocratic régime of Czar Nicholas II."

The work, one may say in the passing, is largely based on new evidence concerning the Governmental machinations of the time in order to promote wide-spread anti-Jewish feeling throughout Russia. This factual matter has been obtained by the author after much research into the special archives which were thrown open to the public at large as soon as the Soviet authorities took over the government control.

Here we have the famous story in full. It was based on the activities of a certain gang of murderers led by a denizen of the underworld, Vera Cheberiak, who was responsible for the murder in March, 1911, of a little Russian boy, Andrei Yustshinsky, in the outskirts of Kiev. At the time that this murder was committed, as we now learn from the substantial evidence submitted in this book, the then Russian Government was vehemently fulminating a programme of a country-wide, political, social and economic agitation against liberal elements and, particularly, against Jews. It is good to know at first hand the startling facts connected with the case as well as the particular tendencies of the time, for as the "New York Times" declared on the occasion of Mendel Beiliss' death in New York in 1934, that

"No greater judicial farce has ever been acted than the Beiliss trial. The Russian Government used every power and stratagem to arouse Russia and the world against the Jews and the defendant, and paid no heed to the facts in the case."

With this orientation in mind, the innocent Mendel Beiliss, who was an employee of a brick factory in Kiev, was arrested and indicted for the murder. Despite all efforts by the contemporary ruling powers to secure a "legal" conviction, the Kiev jury acquitted Beiliss on October 28, 1913.

Another attraction to "The Decay of Czarism," apart from the informative appendices, are the authentic photostatic reproductions of the official communications which passed among the high Russian officials connected with the affair. These documents, to be sure, are an eloquent testimony of the amazing story of conspiracy and racial hatred which marked every phase of the trial itself. Alexander B. Tager certainly deserves our thanks and commendation for issuing such a work, which is opportune in view of similar nefarious activities in present-day Hitlerist Germany and elsewhere.

S. R.

Musical Society's Concert

Some brilliant playing of Grieg and César Franck music was heard on Wednesday night at the Selborne Hall, by Michael Doré, violinist, and Miss Aida Lovell, pianist. It was a Johannesburg Musical Society concert.

Mr. Doré, who is the conductor of the Colosseum Orchestra, is an accomplished musician and a violinist of outstanding quality. He brings forth a rich tone from his instrument. The piano work of Miss Lovell was of a distinguished character and the recital of these two artists gave great pleasure to a discerning and appreciative audience.

The singing of Mrs. Rita Weigert was greatly appreciated. Miss Marjory Starke accompanied in her usual able and unobtrusive manner.

Springs Women Zionists

The Women's Zionist League recently held a successful musical afternoon at the residence of Mrs. S. Epstein.

An interesting paper on the history of present-day Zionism was read by Mrs. Freda Kapelus. Miss Doris Lipson, a well-known local elocutionist, recited some delightful pieces, while Miss Golda Miller rendered some fine piano solos.

Mrs. Albert Kapelus read some current news-items of Jewish and Zionist interest.

Mrs. S. Epstein proposed the vote of thanks to all those who helped to make the afternoon a pleasant one.

The next function of the society is to be a card afternoon, which will be held at Mrs. Crouse's residence on the 27th inst.

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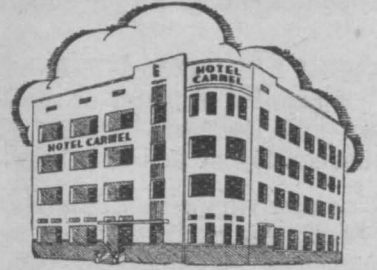
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The South African Talmudical College

A "SHILLING DAY" ARRANGED.

Under the auspices of the committee, a meeting of women interested in the progress of the South African Talmudical College was held at the residence of Mrs. J. Frame, on Tuesday, the 14th inst.

Mr. L. Feldberg, chairman for the evening, in welcoming the gathering, stressed the importance of the meeting. The object was to establish a committee of women devoted to the upbuilding of the South African Talmudical College. The immediate aim of the meeting was to arrange a Shilling Day Collection, which would relieve the financial difficulties of the institute.

Rabbi I. Kossowsky emphasised the value of the college as an institute for higher education and called upon the ladies to form a committee for the purpose of increasing the membership.

It was decided to elect a temporary committee to arrange the collection. Mrs. J. Frame was elected chairlady, Mrs. S. Karpelowsky, vice-chairlady, Mrs. F. Cohen, treasurer. Committee: Mesdames H. Friedland, Rosensweig, A. Smith, S. Kretzmer, and J. Katz.

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