

## Jewish Folk Song Music

Fine Recital by Idelsohn Choral Group

WHEN Cantor Berele Chagy began to chant his synagogue melodies in this country, he also brought with him numerous Jewish folk songs. His recital of these—all too rarely—aroused interest in the wealth of musical lore we possess in this direction. Various musical groups have met from time to time since then, but the most outstanding and prominent is the A. Z. Idelsohn Choral section of the Association of Jewish Groups. On Sunday night last the amateur singers were heard in their second concert in the Selborne Hall, under the able baton of Mr. Jerry Idelson.

It was interesting to note the size of the audience. This was indeed large for a function of this kind and indicated the love for folk melodies on the part of our people.

The singing of the "Mai Komashmelon" from the words of A. Reisen and the melody composed by A. Kipnis—himself a great folk singer—proved one of the best contributions to an excellent programme. This folk melody, which is based on the cantillation of the Prophets, has a haunting appeal. The choir gave a fine interpretation of "Hemerl"—that sing-song of pain and poverty of a labourer.

Whilst the choir has undoubtedly improved as a result of further months of practice, it must be admitted that here and there there is still to be noticed a jaggedness. In view of the high standard which this choral group has set up, a further criticism might be made. This has reference to diction. Whilst the harmony of the folk songs was well rendered, the audience was unable to make out the words which were being sung. This is serious, because music in many a folk song is only secondary to the words. It would be not inadvisable for the choristers—many of whom do not know the Yiddish language—to learn the words of the songs thoroughly before they are permitted to hear the melody.

Similar criticism cannot, however, be lodged against the soloists. Mr. Freed's enunciation in "Reb Dovid'l" was excellent and Mr. Misha Soloway and Miss Ruth Levy gave a delightful rendering of "Margaritkelech," assisted harmoniously by the whole choir. Mrs. Lena Morrison's leading singing in "Hemerl" and in other items was specially noteworthy. She is the possessor of a really charming soprano voice.

The quartette's (Bessie Marks, Esther Goldberg, S. Horwitz and M. Tabatznik) rendition of "Nochumke," a humorous song, was extremely well done and the singers were not allowed to leave the platform until they had rendered an encore. It would be most advisable for Mr. Idelson to arrange for more quartette, duet and soloist work for his future programmes. Here diction and characterization can be more emphasized to the better enjoyment of listeners.

The playing of Eli Karlin—a young violinist who was accompanied by his still younger brother, Roy Karlin—was not only notable for a fine performance. It was interesting because of the young artist's interpretation of the music of Achron and Bloch, two of the most gifted Jewish composers of the day. The choice of the items was, therefore, particularly suitable.

The concert ended with two Palestinian songs in Hebrew. These aroused great enthusiasm. More songs of this nature would be welcomed.

Altogether the second concert of Jewish folk music was a pronounced success and the audience showed its appreciation in no uncertain terms. At the end of the performance, a baton was presented to Mr. Idelson, the honorary conductor, as a mark of appreciation on behalf of the members of the choir.

D.

### Johannesburg Women's Zionist League

**Hillbrow Branch.**—A literary afternoon of the branch was held on the 27th ult., at the residence of Mrs. Kavin, Parktown, at which there was a record attendance.

Mrs. Braude read an interesting paper on current events and also an account of a friend's impression of the recent Zionist Conference held at Bloemfontein.

An interesting paper on "Jewish Women in the Ancient and Middle Ages" was read by Mrs. Kwitz and then Miss Kavin read a paper on "Jewish Women in Modern Times," which was greatly appreciated. A discussion followed the speakers' remarks.

Mrs. Goldstein proposed a vote of thanks to the speakers and the hostess.

### The Grodno Society

A reception was given recently by the Grodno Society, Johannesburg, at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Robert Lesuse in Berea. The purpose was to welcome Mr. Isaac Jacobs (now of Durban), and a foundation member of the Society of which Mr. Lesuse is President. There was a large gathering.

Mr. Jacobs, in expressing thanks to the honour which had been accorded him that evening, congratulated the Grodno Society upon its growth. In 1928 it began activities with a membership of six; to-day there were well over 100 members. The Society was performing good work in assisting the sick and needy amongst those who had come from Grodno. It also created a spirit of brotherhood amongst the *landsleit*. Several musical items were rendered and the function proved a most happy one.

Phone 33-6215. P.O. Box 3808.

## THE TRANSVAAL CONFECTIONERY Co.

FOR  
Q  
U  
A  
L  
I  
T  
Y

BUNS & FANCY ROLLS.  
ASSORTED FANCY CAKES  
AND PASTRIES.

POPPY SEED AND NUT  
LOAF, ROLLS, STOLLEN,  
STRAUSSEL, KRANTZ  
KUCHEN AND NAPF  
KUCHEN, STRITZELN.  
BREAD of all descriptions.

WEDDING AND  
BIRTHDAY CAKES  
our speciality.

We Pack and Rail all classes  
of Cakes and Confectionery.

Orders promptly executed.

39 Kerk St., JOHANNESBURG

### Zionist Conversazione on Board the "Duilio"

Jewish National Fund Remembered  
on the High Seas.

A MOST interesting function took place in the dining-room of the tourist class on board the "Duilio," when a number of South Africans were returning from Eretz Israel. The function was in the nature of a conversazione and a number of interesting speeches were delivered on impressions of Eretz Israel. As was to be expected the tourists who had recently seen the wonderful achievements of the Jewish National Fund in Eretz Israel took advantage of this occasion to make a special collection for the Keren Kayemeth Leisrael. Under the able chairmanship of Dr. I. J. Balkin and with Mr. G. Saron as the secretary, the goodly sum of £25 13s. was collected and will help to redeem land in Eretz Israel for the eternal possession of the Jewish people.

This function will be commemorated by a special inscription in the Golden Book of the Jewish National Fund and detailed acknowledgment of the donations collected will be published in due course together with regular J.N.F. monthly receipts.

DO NOT ORDER SALAD OIL OR FRYING OIL ORDER

**"UNIVERSAL" SALAD OIL**

Guaranteed by the Old Firm who are Wholesale Suppliers of your

HERRINGS, SPRATTS, OLIVES, ANCHOVIES, CUCUMBERS, Etc., Etc.

**PATLANSKY BROS. & PATLEY**

132 Jeppe Street, Johannesburg.

Phones 33-6218. P.C. Box 378.

CUTHBERT'S FOR LADIES AFTERNOON DRESS SHOES