

**Symphony Concert Success**

FINE PIANO PLAYING BY ISADOR EPSTEIN.

THE programme presented by the Johannesburg Symphony Orchestra for their first concert of the present season at the Wanderers Hall, on Thursday last, consisted of two Schubert items and one from the ever-satisfying Beethoven. The programme began with the piquant melodies of the "Rosamunde" overture. Here the influence of Vienna is surely inescapable.

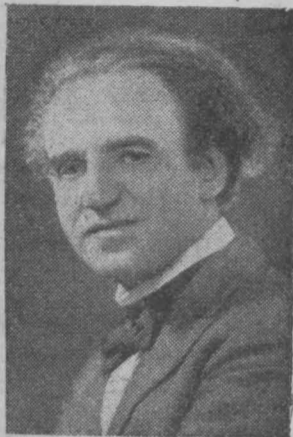
Whilst our musical palate still tingled, we were launched into the great Fantasia in C by the fine playing of Isador Epstein. When this performance was over, Joseph Traunek, the conductor, shook hands with Epstein, the soloist. Had good taste and space permitted, the audience would have done the same thing. The prolonged applause visibly pleased the pianist who surely could never have enjoyed a more sincere tribute from a discriminating musical audience.

Schubert, it is said, always stuck fast in the last movement of this grand work, and on one occasion consigned it to the devil. Epstein certainly had the fire and the power, and with Traunek directing his willing executants, under the leadership of Max Weinbrenn, towards keeping the flame high, the result was a blazing success. Isador Epstein seemed to be inspired on this evening and gave a splendid performance of a unique composition—a performance which will be long remembered.

The Seventh Symphony of Beethoven, which followed the interval, found the audience well disposed to enjoy one of the master's popular works. Popular in the sense that requests for its performance spring from affection inspired by memories of spontaneous pleasure. Traunek squared up to his task, patently capable and determined, and conducted his forty-six players through all four movements with the minimum of gesture and the maximum of understanding. He laid down his baton at the end to face an assembly that with hands said more than it could have in speech.

A thoroughly enjoyable evening, and one that, in the words of the Society, will help to increase the practice and appreciation of symphonic music.

H. G.



Isador Epstein.

**Prostration in the High Festival Service**

From Capt. ISRAEL LEVINSON (Johannesburg).

To the Editor of the "Zionist Record."

Sir,—Saddening is the thought, at this solemn season, that some of our ancient and time-honoured rites and ceremonies are heedlessly and thoughtlessly allowed to sink into desuetude. All must admit that the annual national and public expression in the synagogue on the Days of Awe of our fealty to the Supreme King of Kings in kneeling and prostrating ourselves before Him, is impressive in action and inspiring in effect.

In the grand Abodah Service of the Kippur we read: "Now when the priests and the people—(I wish to emphasise the 'and')—that stood in the Court heard the glorious and awful Name pronounced out of the mouth of the High Priest, in holiness and purity, they knelt. (Here the rubric gives the instruction: 'The Congregation kneel') and prostrated themselves and made acknowledgment, falling on their faces and saying: 'Blessed be His glorious Sovereign Name for ever and ever.'"

And in the "Ethics of the Fathers" do we not find mentioned among the miracles which were wrought for our fathers in the Temple: "Though the people stood closely pressed together, they found ample space to prostrate themselves"?

Well do I remember as a child the impression created on me when for the first time I saw the whole congregation fall on their knees in noisy adoration.

What do we see now in our synagogues? We are content to perform this solemn and sacred rite by proxy, leaving it for the Chazan to do; and, on occasion, we may even note an amused smile on the faces of some of the worshippers what time the Reader is assisted to his feet. Ichabod! Ichabod!

May I plead for the immediate resuscitation and individual resumption of this ancient ceremony of giving expression to our homage to our Father and King.

Yours, etc.,

Israel Levinson.

**JEWISH GUILD (Johannesburg).**

On Sunday, the 29th inst., at 8.30 p.m., the Guild has arranged for a lecture by Mr. L. H. Penn whose subject will be "My Impressions of Eretz Israel." He will give a detailed account of his experiences in Palestine which he visited recently, and will be illustrated with cinematograph pictures. Admission is free to members of the Guild.

**Habonim Activities**

East London.—As a result of the recent tour undertaken by the organiser-secretary, this district has become a Habonim centre. A new Gedud has been established here, which has begun work in earnest. It is hoped to establish additional Gedudim there in the near future.

Western Province.—From Capetown comes news of a very successful concert held by the combined Gedudim at Capetown and subsequently repeated at Paarl.

Items and plays of Jewish interest were enthusiastically received by an appreciative audience on both occasions, and the concert has done much to foster the growing interest in Habonim in both Capetown and Paarl.

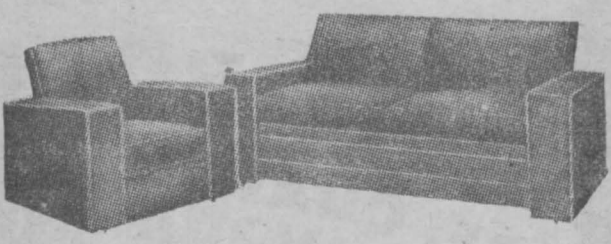
Gurim.—During the past year the Gurim or Junior Movement of Habonim has been launched on what promises to be a most successful career.

The Gurim Movement caters specifically for children of ages ranging between 7 and 11. The cultural work is being adapted to suit the needs of these very young people, and throughout the country there has been an eager demand for the formation of Gurim Gedudim.

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