



The Social Idea in Modern Jewish Thought

Dr. I. N. Steinberg's Lecture to the Jewish People's College.

A LECTURE on the "Social Idea in Modern Jewish Thought" was given to the Jewish People's College by Dr. I. N. Steinberg on Thursday, April 30. The lecturer took as his starting point for the modern era, the French Revolution. He explained that the modern era in Jewish life could be broadly distinguished from earlier epochs by the fact that the religious idea (in its traditional form) was less active and was replaced by the social idea. By this term he implied something wider than specifically Socialistic principles. The centre of interest had moved to the social life and social conditions of the Jews and to an attempt to ameliorate these.

From this point of view the "Assimilation" which was advocated with such zeal and passion in Germany and elsewhere in the early 19th century had a deep significance. Although to-day it is a discredited ideology, it was then advocated as a means of liberation for the Jewish people, as a method whereby they could escape from the narrow Ghetto to the wide culture of Europe. Eventually it was found that the remedy for Jewish social ills did not lie in this direction and so two other movements arose, both of which had in common—in contrast to assimilation—that they desired to preserve a specific Jewish culture. The one was the movement of Jewish Nationalism which (as advocated, for instance, by Pinsker) saw no hope for Jews while they remained among the nations and, therefore, set out on the search for a separate independent Jewish state. The other movement, the Volkist—expounded by Dubnow—sought to preserve a cultural Jewish autonomy in the various lands of the Galuth.

Both of the nationalistic movements looked to Jews themselves to ameliorate the Jewish situation. A different ideology, however, that of the Socialists, looked for that amelioration in the amelioration of the conditions of mankind in general. Jewish ills were regarded by them as merely one aspect of the ills of mankind. Two schools of thought developed amongst Jews, that of the Bund, which aimed at improving Jewish conditions in the lands of the Galuth on the spot and tended to become virtually nationalistic; and that of Borochof, which advocated the fight for a better social order on two fronts, both in the Galuth and in the Jewish Homeland.

In reply to questions, Dr. Steinberg said that in his opinion the true social revolution would only be achieved when the religious idea once more came to reinforce the social idea. Only then would there be that true idealistic motive which could create a new social order.

Jewish People's College

Under the auspices of the Jewish People's College, Dr. A. Syngalowski will lecture at the Johannesburg Library Lecture Room on Thursday, the 14th inst., at 8.10 p.m. The subject of Dr. Syngalowski's address will be "Three Basic Motives in Early Yiddish Literature (1750-1880)."

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Johannesburg Maccabi Sporting Sporting Activities

Ladies' Hockey.

The match took place at the Durban Deep grounds. For the first half the play was very fast and the sides evenly matched. Unfortunately, the right back, C. Millner, was hurt early in the game and after half-time was not allowed to carry on. The score then being (1—1).

The second half was very exciting giving Maccabi many anxious moments, but the goalie, D. Bailey, played a splendid game and the final score of (4—1) to Roodepoort does not give a true reflection of the game, as Maccabi were continually pressing, but unfortunately their shots went wide.

Team: D. Bailey; C. Millner and I. David; A. Gluckman (Capt.), A. Hurwitz, and L. Rafel; F. Zidel, G. Isaacs, E. Cowan, M. Smith, and T. Friedlander.

Miss S. Carelinsky and W. Shapiro, the referees, travelled with the team.

House-to-House Collection For United Talmud Torahs.

The United Hebrew Schools of Johannesburg are holding their annual Talmud Torah Sunday house-to-house collection on Sunday morning, May 10.

The "United," the largest institution of its kind in South Africa, controls a network of nine leading Hebrew schools in the city and provides a comprehensive Jewish education to over 800 Jewish children of the community.

The cause of Hebrew education should commend itself to the generosity of the Jewish public. It is hoped that the canvassers will meet with a ready response and that this year's collection will be a record one.

Johannesburg Symphony Society

A Sixteenth Concert.

A rich fare was offered to the large audience at the Wanderers Hall on Tuesday evening when the sixteenth symphony concert of the present series was given by the Johannesburg Symphony Society. Mr. J. Traunek conducted, with Mr. Max Weinbrenn as orchestra leader.

The orchestra gave a delightful rendering of the Entr'acte Music from "Rosamunde," by Schubert. The main orchestral item was Symphony No. 41 in C Major, by Mozart. This was splendidly rendered and aroused enthusiastic applause from a discerning audience.

The soloist of the evening was Mr. José Rodriguez Lopez, who gave an adequate and pleasing rendering of the famous Concerto for Piano and Orchestra, Op. 16, A Minor, by Grieg. Mr. Lopez showed himself to be the possessor of a fine technique and good tone. His rendering was appreciated and aroused great applause.

S.A. Jewish Orphanage Annual Distribution of Prizes.

The public are invited to the S.A. Jewish Orphanage, "Arcadia," Oxford Road, Parktown, for Sunday afternoon, the 10th inst., at 3 p.m., when the Barmitzvah of 14 Orphanage boys will be celebrated, and the annual distributions of prizes will take place. The Rosebank 'bus passes the Orphanage gates.

THE MOISEIWITSCH RECITAL.

On Wednesday next at the City Hall, Mr. Benno Moiseiwitsch, the celebrated pianist, will give his first recital during his present visit to Johannesburg. It is expected that there will be a large audience present to listen to the "poet of the piano"—as Moiseiwitsch is called on account of his beautiful renditions of great compositions.

On Sunday next, Mr. Moiseiwitsch will be heard in a recital at the Colosseum theatre, which will be crowded for the occasion.

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