

JOHANNESBURG SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

Brilliant Playing by Mark Hambourg

THE first concert given by the newly-augmented Johannesburg Symphony Orchestra proved the musical event of the 1937 season. Vast numbers of music-goers thronged the City Hall on Tuesday night. Long queues waited patiently outside the hall for admittance, and half-an-hour before the concert was due to commence, the doorkeepers announced that the house was full. An atmosphere of tense expectancy prevailed, for the programme promised, in addition to orchestral items, the appearance as soloist of Mr. Mark Hambourg, the brilliant pianist.

With a better orchestra at his command than he had ever conducted here before, Mr. Joseph Traunek proved himself more than equal to the occasion. The eagerly awaited Beethoven's Piano Concerto No. 3 succeeded in satisfying even the most exacting taste. Mr. Hambourg was given ample opportunity in the solo passages for technical display and sensitive interpretation. He is a pianist who knows how to extract the fullest value from his instrument. The orchestral background served to throw his playing into the necessary relief.

An interesting item was Wagner's "Tannhauser" overture, with which the programme opened. Here the orchestra convinced that its re-organisation had been a step forward in musical history in Johannesburg. In the rendering of Schubert's Symphony No. 7, a high plane of orchestral exposition was achieved.

To Mr. Traunek and Mr. Hambourg, who set a new standard for musical achievements here, the greatest credit is due.

A "Simchas Torah" Ball

The "Ez Chajim" congregation, which is the German refugee Hebrew congregation, is holding a "Simchas Torah" ball in the Elgin Hotel on Wednesday, the 6th inst. There will be dancing from 8 p.m. to 1 a.m., and cabaret turns and competitions for which prizes will be given, will be held. A small nominal fee will be charged for admission, the proceeds of which will be in aid of the congregation.

A Grand Concert

The "Hashomer-Hatzair" Organisation of South Africa is to celebrate the second anniversary of the movement in this country by holding a grand concert at 8.15 p.m. on Saturday, the 9th inst., at the Jewish Guild Hall.

Germiston

A highly successful function was arranged by the Germiston Women's Zionist League at the residence of Mrs. A. S. Bernstein, of Kinross Street. Mrs. H. Davidoff delivered an interesting lecture on "Zionism as I saw it in America."

Senekal

The 13th annual Zionist ball was held on the 11th ult., and attracted many dancers from Senekal and surrounding towns. The function was both a financial and social success, the net proceeds being approximately £57. The committee congratulate the lady members of the society on the results of their efforts.

AN APPEALING JEWISH PLAY

The mingling of the tear and the laugh—so characteristic of Jewish life—was the main feature behind the appealing domestic comedy-drama, presented by Sarah Sylvia and her company at the Standard Theatre during the week. "The Three Sisters," one of Leon Kobrin's best plays, is an example of the keen insight of this popular American playwright into the Jewish life of the new world.

The play revolves over a simple theme—a Jewish home in which there live three sisters and a brother. The eldest sister, Miriam, is deeply concerned that her sisters should be married and happy, her own life, one full of disappointment, having lost all interest for herself.

The plot rises to high dramatic moments which are well played up to by the dominating character, Miss Sarah Sylvia, in the role of Miriam. The delightful winning simplicity and quietness of her acting stamps Sarah Sylvia as a true interpreter of the subtleties of Jewish life.

Boris Abramoff in the role of Charlie Wasserfoigel, contributed a remarkable piece of acting. It was he who provided most of the comedy, and his appearance during the acts met with much acclamation. "Uncle Nachim," the old and benevolent family uncle, played by Mr. H. Hirsch, portrayed the warmhearted, elderly Jew with his little peculiarities but beaming with goodheartedness and kindness. Eve Shapiro, the 'modern lassie' in the play, took the part of the coquette with much ease although her pronunciation was too Anglicised.

All in all, the play was a welcome contribution to the cultural activities of the local Jewish community, the music, song and dance being in harmony with the plot and doing much to add to a pleasant evening.

S.H.

Mr. B. Weinronk

Mr. B. Weinronk, the well-known worker who has devoted himself for many years to the interests of South African Zionism, is returning to this country on an extended visit from Palestine, where he now resides. He will stay in Port Elizabeth with members of his family.

Previous to leaving Palestine, a dinner was held in Mr. Weinronk's honour in Tel-Aviv. There was a representative gathering present and appreciation was expressed for the active interest Mr. Weinronk has taken in the life of the Yishuv. Representatives of the "Unity and Peace Movement" were at the dinner and presented Mr. Weinronk with the golden emblem of the society.

Thaba 'Nchu

Mr. E. Dreyer, chairman of the local branch of the S.A. Jewish Orphanage, has forwarded to that institution the sum of £2 3s., £1 2s. being subscriptions collection from local members, and £1 1s. special donation by Mrs. H. M. Smith.

Somerset West

A meeting was held in connection with the J.N.F. on Sunday, the 12th inst., at the Commercial Hotel. Mr. Jaffe welcomed the speakers, Dr. Kark and Advocate G. Gordon. Dr. Kark appealed to members to contribute towards the J.N.F. Advocate Gordon stressed the fundamental importance of the National Fund. He stressed the need for land in Palestine to be held in trust by the Jewish people in perpetuity, and referred to the evils of private speculation in Palestine.

BULAWAYO ACTIVITIES

(From Our Own Correspondent)

The High Festivals.—The growth of the local community was evident during the High Festivals, when the synagogue was crowded to the utmost capacity. On the evening of Rosh Hashonah there were not sufficient seats for all the worshippers. Rev. A. Weinberg officiated and he was assisted by Messrs. S. Kivelowitz and M. Baron. Rev. M. I. Cohen delivered most inspiring sermons on both days of Yomtov.

An interesting innovation was the children's service held in the Guild Hall. Over a hundred children attended the service and several of the older pupils officiated.

Zionist Society.—A special meeting was arranged by the Bulawayo Chovevei Zion recently, at which reports were presented by our delegates at the Zionist Conference. Mr. O. Kaufman presided. Miss Rose Rabinowitz dealt in particular with the atmosphere prevailing at the Conference and with the deliberations of the W.Z.O. Conference. Rev. M. I. Cohen discussed in detail the political debates. Mr. A. Lewin, a visitor from Johannesburg, addressed the audience in Yiddish, and referred in particular to the Zionist Labour section at the conference. Mr. C. Gershtater proposed a vote of thanks to the speakers.

Yiddish Section.—A special Yiddish section of the Guild Literary Circle has recently been formed in Bulawayo. The section, which is headed by Mr. S. Gotz with Mr. Gordon as secretary, was inaugurated at a special meeting which was held recently. There was an enthusiastic gathering and a strong committee was formed. The section intends to provide lectures and dramatic performances in Yiddish as well as to support a Yiddish section of the local memorial library.

On September the 7th, Mr. A. Lewin gave an address under the aus-

pices of this section on "Social Life in South Africa." The speaker dealt with recent developments in the Jewish community in South Africa and described in particular the position of the Jewish community. Mr. Poswal and Rev. M. I. Cohen addressed the meeting. Mr. Poswal presided.

Farewell to Mr. Bina.—Mr. Bina, an energetic and popular speaker in Bulawayo, has recently left the Colony with a view to settling in the Cape. Prior to his departure a special farewell function was arranged in his honour by a number of his friends. Messrs. C. Gershtater, D. Fryde, M. Myers, E. Loewen, S. Gotz, Kagan, B. Mirbach and Rose Rabinowitz delivered farewell addresses and a special presentation was made to Mr. Bina on behalf of his friends by Mrs. M. Bina. During the evening a collection was made for the purpose of planting trees in the Herzl Forest in Bina's name.

Young Israel.—Rev. M. I. Cohen and Messrs. H. B. Ellenbogen, H. E. Lazarus were the guests of the Young Israel Society at a "Guest Evening" held on the 28th September. Mr. Ellenbogen gave an interesting talk on the anti-Zionist movement in the Union of South Africa, and concluded with a full account of his reminiscences of the early days in Bulawayo. Anecdotes of the activities of the "Idlers' Club"—the first Jewish club in Bulawayo—were much appreciated. Mr. L. Lazarus dealt with the activities of the Hebrew Congregation and urged the youth to take a keener interest in congregational affairs. Mr. Cohen discussed the present position of Jewry and upon a number of points raised by the previous speakers. Mr. Fisher, President of the Young Israel Society, presided.

FROM TOWN & COUNTRY

News of Jewish Activities Throughout South Africa

From Our Own Correspondents.

Benoni

An interesting symposium on "The History of Zionism" was held at the Hebrew Hall on the 9th ult. The speakers were Mrs. Matthew Levy and Mrs. J. Fredman.

Bethal

During the last J.N.F. box clearance in Bethal, Mrs. M. Wulfsohn's box yielded the excellent amount of £5. This reflects great credit on the box-holder concerned.

East London

Mr. David Lazarus, hon. secretary of the East London Zionist Association, and a communal worker of long standing, was elected to the East London City Council on the 9th ult. on a record poll.

There were four vacancies and six candidates. Mr. Lazarus is to be heartily congratulated on his success.

Middelburg (Tvl.)

The S.A. Jewish Orphanage has received from Mrs. N. Brozin, the local hon. representative, the sum of £2 2s. 6d., being subscriptions collected from local members.

Harrismith

On Saturday, the 21st ult., the eldest son of Mr. and Mrs. Lever, read a portion of the Torah at the local synagogue. After the service all present adjourned to the house of the Barmitzvah where refreshments were served. The following evening Mr. and Mrs. Lever entertained their friends at a dinner and dance at the Masonic Hall. Several hundred guests were present.

Rev. Beloch proposed that the Barmitzvah who ably responded to the other toasts had been honoured, Mr. Alfred Brasch, the hon. secretary of the local Habonim, made a presentation to the Barmitzvah on behalf of the Harrismith Habonim. The evening Mr. Morris Freudenreich auctioned a bottle of whisky which realised the sum of £16 15s. in the S.A. Jewish Orphanage.

The proceeds mentioned have been received by the Orphanage per Mr. Lazarus, the hon. secretary of the local branch, being included in a remittance from him of £22 10s.

SUPPORT ZIONIST RECORD
ADVERTISERS