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THE SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA SCORES AGAIN

Music-lovers gathered in full force at the City Hall on Tuesday night to enjoy the concert given by the Johannesburg Symphony Orchestra under the baton of Mr. J. Traunek.

Despite a nicely polished rendering of the overture "Euryanthe," the orchestra did not get properly under weigh until the performance of Saint-Saens' concerto for violoncello and orchestra when, with Mr. Gregor Bartonyi as soloist, this popular work was handled with a brilliance and surety which stressed the tunefulness of the great French master. Mr. Bartonyi, who was recalled again and again, played with boldness and fluency, and if he was perhaps a little facile, at the expense of warmth of feeling, his technical mastery could not be doubted for a moment.

The major event of the evening was, of course, Beethoven's Symphony No. 5, in C Minor. Here, disappointingly enough, the orchestra proved less good in its combination than it might have been. A vigorous presentation of the first movement was followed by some dignified and impressive passages in the andante, but the orchestral exposition of the second movement was somewhat ragged, and failed to preserve the essential unity of its structure. Amends for these shortcomings were made in the Finale, however, when the orchestra achieved a tumultuous and effective climax.

Perhaps the most satisfying item of all was Smetana's symphonic poem "Vltava." Here Mr. Traunek and his orchestra secured another triumph by their rendering of this rich and colourful music.

M.L.

Jewish Guild Activities

The next production of the Jewish Guild dramatic section, scheduled for Sundays, 24th and 31st October, will be Frederick Lonsdale's famous three-act farce, "Canaries Sometimes Sing." The part of Elma Melton will be played by that talented artiste, Cissy Pinchuk. Anne Lymes will be portrayed by Sylvia Herman, a promising amateur actress who revels in the part. Norman G. Friedman, a favourite with Guild audiences, will take the role of Geoffrey Lymes, while that capable actor, Harry Kahn, plays opposite Norman Friedman as Earnest Melton. The producer will be Mr. Emanuel Nathan.

A mixed duplicate contract bridge tournament will be held at the Guild on Monday, 25th inst., at 8 p.m. Handsome prizes will be given to the winners. Those who wish to attend are asked to book at the Guild Office (phone 22-2771).

A WEDDING.

At the recent wedding of Mr. M. Tager, of Villiers, and Miss Sally Rock, of Johannesburg a sum of £8 12s. 3d. was collected for the relief of Polish Jewry. The sum was handed to Rabbi I. Kossowski for distribution.

Readers' Letters

The Partition Issue

To the Editor of the "Zionist Record"

Sir,—I am a staunch supporter of Dr. Weizmann, and am convinced that he is the only one capable of guiding the Palestinian problem and bringing it to a successful issue.

Nevertheless, I cannot ignore the strong case made out by Mr. Ussishkin in his article in your last week's issue against partition on the lines recommended by the Royal Commission. I am overwhelmed by the force of his arguments, particularly as regards the knotty question of the Arabs who will remain in the Jewish land and who are reputed to own four-fifths of the land in that area.

I should therefore esteem it a favour if you, sir, or any reader, could enlighten me—and perhaps a good many others as well—as to how the difficulty could be overcome.

I am not prepared to debate the intricate question as to whether Dr. Weizmann favours partition or not. I take it for granted, as many others do, that he definitely accepted it as a basis of negotiation, and will take all pains to procure better terms, not forgetting at the same time that opportunity knocks but once at the door and, if neglected, who is to foretell when it will arise again?

Yours, etc.,

"Inquirer."

Beverly Nichols' Book

To the Editor of the "Zionist Record"

Sir,—I have just finished reading Beverly Nichols' "No Place Like Home." One of the chapters on Palestine is headed with a caption "Collective Cows," and has left me aghast and gaping. Here I have been a conscientious Zionist believing in all the rose-tinted pictures so ably painted by our Zionist propagandists about our Palestinian colonies and then suddenly I meet disillusionment in one short chapter.

Such a criticism coming from just anybody might not be so readily accepted. Coming, however, from a man like the author who is certainly not biased, it does make me sit up and take notice. Even if he has exaggerated somewhat, I still feel that he may have brought a certain amount of truth to light.

I would be much obliged if you or any of your readers, who have read the chapter and have a knowledge of the colonies referred to, would kindly reply to the statements made by the author.

Yours, etc.,

"Puzzled."

A Jewish Boarding School

To the Editor of the "Zionist Record"

Sir,—Time and again has the question been given to the public what S. Africa stands in urgent need of is a Jewish Boarding School that it was high time such a school was established.

At the recent conference of the A. Board of Jewish Education, Chief Rabbi, in the September issue of the "Jeshurun," is reported to have "severely criticised" the living in the country who sent their children to boarding schools where they were fed with forbidden food brought up in entirely non-Jewish surroundings," and appealed to African Jewry seriously to consider and establish a Jewish Day Boarding School.

To me the last sentence has a meaning, namely, that S. Africa needs no such school and that such a school is eminently desirable. But a boarding school has been in existence for years. The boarders alone number about sixty and are drawn from about the Reef and the country.

The school is a success financially and educationally and can easily be expanded within the next few years into an institution of national importance for the Jews of S. Africa. The principal of the school, who is also its treasurer, has consistently approached the Jewish community, pointing out to them that they had been advocating what was an established fact and that all that was necessary was for them to take a hand in extending the school, as consistently has the Government been given to the public that such a school was not yet in existence in spite of the fact that the school is well-known and that about £100,000 had already been spent in its establishment.

The only explanation I can give for such utterances is that, by a Jewish Boarding School is not meant a Jewish Boarding School, but one in the direction of the Jewish Boarding School Education. I fail to see, however, how a private boarding school could be based on sound general principles of education and which at the same time gives a Jewish education in a Jewish environment, can differ from such a school under the Boarding School Education.

If the Jewish community is in earnest about a Jewish Boarding School, the principal of the school under discussion will be glad to give full particulars of his view to handing it over to the Board of Education, so that it may conform to the definition of a Boarding School as set out by the leaders.

Yours, etc.,

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