



**Telling Non-Jews**

I AM one of those who believe that a good deal of anti-Jewish feeling, unhappily prevalent in this country, is due to ignorance of our religion and of our ideals. There are many literary and debating societies in all parts of the country connected with churches and other institutions. These organisations would, I feel sure, welcome speakers who would acquaint them with the basic ideas underlying the Jewish tenets of faith, etc. They would find such information illuminating and instructive. Such speakers, however, do not apparently offer themselves.

I mention this matter, because I see that in England a special lecture organisation has been established for this purpose and gifted speakers are presenting outlines of Jewish ideals before non-Jewish groups. I hear that the addresses have proven successful and are much appreciated. There is an eagerness amongst intelligent Christians to learn more about Jewish aims and purposes.

I think that some such organisation might be established here. We have in our community quite a number of well-informed young men and women, who could talk well in public, and who could adequately present certain aspects of Jewish ideals to non-Jewish audiences.

**Instone**

A MAN who worked his way up from poverty to riches, recently passed away in London at the age of 80. He was Sir Samuel Instone, coal and shipping merchant. When he was fourteen his father died and the lad secured a post with the Compagnie Maritime Boulognaise, at Boulogne. He made such good progress, that at the age of 21, he was offered the management of the company's business in Cardiff. When he was 26, he and his brother began business on their own account in shipping, and made remarkable progress.

Later Instone became a director of Imperial Airways. He was chairman of S. Instone and Co., steamship owners, which has a share capital of over a million pounds. Instone was knighted in 1921. He married Alice Liebman, the well-known violinist.

Although he took no active part in Jewish communal life, Sir Samuel was a generous contributor to Jewish philanthropies. He did much during his life-time to foster airship travel in Europe and was one of the pioneers of British civil aviation.

The acting of Paul Muni in "Louis Pasteur" will always be remembered by local film fans. It was a performance indeed. This fine character actor is shortly to be seen in this country, in his latest role of "Zola." The picture has created a furore in America.

**Current Communal Comments**

By "Hamabit"

It is, of course, well-known that Muni started his career on the Yiddish stage. As a youngster he belonged to Kessler's Yiddish company and in later years was engaged by Maurice Schwarz. During the nine years he spent in the Yiddish Art Theatre Paul Muni (who was then known as Muni Weisenfreund) acted in most of the classic Jewish dramas and comedies and worked assiduously on every new part. Unlike most actors, he was unusually modest and when a part was offered to him during the reading of a new play, he would always express his anxiety as to whether he would be able to do justice to it.

There are rumours that Muni does not feel very happy in his film work, and desires to return to the "living theatre." Should he be seized by a desire to use his Yiddish, he would find a wide sphere of activity on the Jewish stage and receive a great welcome.

**Folk-Dancing**

SEVERAL attempts have been made in recent years to revive the Jewish folk-dance on the stage. Some years ago Baruch Agadati, a Palestine dancer, toured Europe and America and gave exhibitions of national and folk dancing. At first his work created a great deal of interest in Jewish artistic circles, but later the public became tired of his modernistic interpretation of Jewish lore. Instead of giving a natural portrayal of the Chassidic folk-dance, Agadati produced sharp-edged figures, dressed in futuristic costumes, against a background of rich colour schemes. Although this looked original at first, it was incapable of arousing the enthusiasm of the masses.

Recently a display of national dancing was given in New York under prominent auspices. It was noticed that amongst the thirty-five nationalities who were represented, there was not one Jewish dancing group. The organisers stated that they found it impossible to discover in New York a distinctly Jewish school of dancing!

I hear that an effort is now being made to establish a Jewish school of folk-dancing in America. One of the initiators is Miss Deborah Lapson, herself a competent performer of national dances, who asserts that excellent material is available in New York for the production of Jewish group dancing on a large scale.

**Maturity**

IT is interesting to learn that a number of Palestine-born Jews are making their mark in the administration of the country. Last month four young barristers, all born in Palestine, were appointed magistrates. They are: Dr. Shneur Heshin, a member of an old Jerusalem family who is a graduate of a Teacher's Seminary in Palestine; Mr. Sholom Cassan, until recently assistant director of the Government Land Registration Department; Mr. Max Kantorovitz, a graduate of the Palestine Law School, and Mr. Herzl Rosenzweig, a young man who was born in Petach Tikvah.

Dr. P. Corngreen, who has served as magistrate in Tel-Aviv, has now been promoted to the office of Judge of the District Court. Another magistrate, Mr. Zedeziah, has been promoted to the office of Registrar of one of the High Courts.

With the arrest and deportation of the Arab Mayor of Jerusalem, the Holy City will for some time at least be served by a Jewish Mayor. In Haifa, too, the Jewish Deputy-Mayor, Mr. David Cahan, acts as Mayor of the town. The most important towns of Palestine — Jerusalem, Tel-Aviv, Haifa, Tiberias, Petach Tikvah—are now presided over by Jewish citizens. This is proof of the civic and administrative maturity of the Jew in Palestine—a subject often mentioned in recent debates on Partition.

**Pinkassim**

I HEAR that the Jewish Scientific Institute of Wilno has appointed a special commission to study and collect the old "pinkassim" of the Jewish communities in Poland. The commission is preparing a special Bibliographical publication, which will give details of these valuable historical documents and serve as a guide for historians and research workers.

In Eastern Europe the "pinkass," which is a special book for the purpose of recording communal life, has been a well established institution. Much of what we know of the life of European Jewry during the last few hundred years has been drawn from these "pinkassim."

In this connection, I wonder whether congregations in this country maintain the custom of keeping "pinkassim" or some modern equivalent for the purpose of recording communal events. If not a special record, our congregations—even in the smallest places—should make a point of looking after their minute books, marriage registers, etc. For the future historian they will be of great value.

**"Gott Tzu Danken!"**

WELVEL meeting Feivel said to him: "Could you lend me a fiver?"  
The reply came quickly: "I haven't a fiver on me."  
"And at home?"  
"They are all, *gott tzu danken*, quite well!"

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