

Judge Frumkin leaves Johannesburg

"SOUTH AFRICA AND THE HEBREW UNIVERSITY"

"A NATIONAL Home without an intellectual and spiritual centre is like a man without a head."

That was what Professor Einstein had written to him in a letter dealing with the Hebrew University, said Mr. Justice Frumkin, at the Carlton Hotel, on Wednesday afternoon. The occasion was a tea given in his honour by the Friends of the Hebrew University, prior to his departure for Capetown, on his return to Palestine. A distinguished gathering had assembled to bid the Judge and Mrs. Frumkin farewell. With them at the head table were Mr. Justice Greenberg and Mrs. Greenberg, Mr. N. Kirschner (Chairman of the S.A. Zionist Federation), and Mr. Justice Millin.

The University had been mainly built by American Jews, said Judge Frumkin, but one community alone could not resume responsibility for it. And other communities would resent that responsibility being taken over by one group alone, for above all, the Hebrew University was a university of the people for the people. But, once built, a university had to be maintained, and if the Jewish people had forgotten that fact, it was well that they should be reminded of it.

"Intellectually," added the speaker, "we live in such an epoch that even cultural or moral purpose is very often dependent on material conditions, and neither the university nor Jerusalem could develop or make progress if appropriate assistance were not forthcoming. The future of Jerusalem, in the higher sense, depends largely on the Hebrew University. And that Jerusalem I am thinking of is not a prosperous city materially, but a city ready for its destiny—ready to become once more the centre of culture both for Jewry and for humanity."

Mr. Justice Frumkin expressed his appreciation of the understanding audiences he had found everywhere. He was sure that South African Jewry would maintain its traditions of goodwill and would assist the Hebrew University as readily as it had assisted in other activities.

Mr. Justice Greenberg paid tribute to Judge Frumkin's devotion to the cause of the Hebrew University. He had sacrificed a private holiday to weeks of strenuous work for the institution. By his endeavours on behalf of the Hebrew University, Judge Frumkin had laid the foundation for future organised work here in that connection.

Ez Chayim Entertain Children

A happy gathering of children was present at the Elgin Hotel last Saturday afternoon, the occasion being the celebration of Chanukah by the German-Jewish community of Johannesburg. The function, which was under the auspices of the Ez Chayim Congregation, provided an opportunity for the children of the congregants to come together and to enjoy the play and the laughter provoked by an interesting programme.

The kiddies themselves provided most of their own entertainment by acting and performing. Much talent was noticeable, and the songs and musical pieces suggested many little artists of the future. The function concluded with the ceremony of the kindling the lights, and the strains of the Ma-Oz Zur brought to a close a bright commemoration of the ancient and rousing festival of Chanukah.

Johannesburg Symphony

Orchestra

The next concert by the Johannesburg Symphony Orchestra, which is incidentally the last of this season, is due to be held at the City Hall on Monday, December 20.

Jose Rodriguez Lopez, the renowned pianist, will make his last appearance prior to his departure from South Africa, and will present Grieg's magnificent piano Concerto in A Minor, Joseph Traunek conducting the orchestra. The programme will also include Weber's Overture "Der Freischutz," and Brahms' Symphony No. 1 in C Minor. It is anticipated that numerous lovers of good music in Johannesburg will make a point of attending this last concert of the season.

PROBLEMS CONFRONTING SOUTH AFRICA

PROFESSOR HAARHOFF'S LECTURE

THE penultimate lecture of the series arranged by the Witwatersrand Church Council took place at the Red Cross Hall in Johannesburg on Monday night, and attracted a moderate but keenly interested audience. The subject was "Stresses in Community Life."

The lecturer for the occasion was Professor T. J. Haarhoff—a man of great erudition and sincerity—who for an hour surveyed with considerable profundity the serious problems confronting the South African nation, particularly the political frictions aroused by the rival ideologies of Fascism and Communism. In the course of his speech, he also made many cogent comments on the question of racialism as affecting the Jews in the Union, and supplied a number of suggestions to combat the influences at work.

Advocate H. J. B. Vieyra opened the proceedings with a short outline of the subject to be treated by the Professor, remarking that in the modern world it seemed that in order to be deemed a true patriot one had to condemn others, than which nothing was less senseless.

"One wonders," began Professor Haarhoff, "if ever before in the history of the world there was a country faced by a task like ours." He instanced the work of ancient Rome which had a similar medley of nations to deal with and had achieved unity on the basic principles of elasticity, growth, tolerance and the avoidance of force to bring about development.

Racialism, he added, flourishes on abstractions, and the racist often changes when faced with actual people and facts.

To argue with a racist was useless, no argument would shake him. The only answer was contact and sharing of experience. The essential thing was to induce in him another attitude of mind, love as against fear, to appreciate life as a whole as against the idea of safety in isolation.

The myth of Aryan superiority, which no scientific examination could confirm, had been created by the stress of emotional conflict, and Fascism implied a violation of human dignity and freedom.

Dealing with the Jewish question, Professor Haarhoff said the Jew struck many people as being exclusive with his different ways, the traditions he had maintained through the ages and his capacity for success in trade. This aroused envy and he was looked on as something alien. The ordinary South African was apt to ask how the Jew would fit in the country they were building up.

A similar case was that of the Indian, who also had a very old civilisation. The cultural side in both instances was apt to be overlooked, but the speaker suggested that a powerful means of overcoming prejudices in both cases was for South Africans to explore the cultural traditions of these races by forming groups for that purpose and so seeing what contribution they could make to South Africa in the future.

Rabbi M. C. Weiler followed the Professor and thanked him for a valuable effort towards effecting harmony between the peoples of South Africa and to the Church Council for initiating the lectures. He advocated the exchange of pulpits, which practice had brought about splendid results in America, and he supported Professor Haarhoff's appeal for liberty and democracy.

The Rev. S. S. Tema presented the Bantu's attitude to the racial question in South Africa.

Pioneer Theatre's Next Show

"Jazz President"—is the title of the second production of the Pioneer Theatre which opens at the new Library Theatre on Wednesday, December 15 for a 16-days run. The subject is of interest, as it will deal with South Africa as an imaginary jazz Republic. There will be many skits of local political life. There should be large audiences for this bright political burlesque which will contain a number of well-produced crowd scenes. Mr. Leo Kerz is the art director.



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