

# CURRENT

# COMMUNAL

By "Hamabit"

# COMMENT

### Unnecessary

I WAS rather sorry to see that an official opening of an exhibition of Jewish paintings took place in Johannesburg on *Shevuoth*. Although it is true that the opening ceremony was performed by a gifted and cultured non-Jew, the function itself was of a specifically Jewish character and should not have taken place on the day of a Jewish Festival.

Dealing with this topic, I recall that a considerable amount of adverse comment was made when the tennis courts of the Balfour Park were recently officially opened on a Saturday afternoon. There are many who feel that the Sabbath day was desecrated by this action.

One should not be too squeamish in these days when liberal views pervade even the most orthodox religious circles. At the same time, however, there is such a thing as a respect for tradition and regard for custom. There is also the need to consider the feelings of others.

It is, therefore, a pity that the two official functions mentioned above should have taken place, one on a Jewish Festival, and one on the Jewish Sabbath. I am convinced that both these incidents could have been avoided, without in any way endangering the success of the events themselves.

Greater care should be taken by organisers of functions within the community not to hurt the feelings of those who still have a high regard for orthodox custom and tradition.

### Duveen

AN INTERESTING personage was Lord Duveen, who passed away a few days ago in London at the age of sixty-nine. He was formerly Sir Joseph Duveen, and was created the first Baron of Millbank in 1933.

Duveen was a noted authority on art, a discriminating collector and a generous donor to art galleries. From 1929 to 1936 he was a trustee of the National Gallery in London. He had also been a trustee of the famous Wallace Collection since 1925. His reputation as an art connoisseur secured for him an invitation to act as trustee of the Museum of Modern Art in New York in 1934, and he served in that capacity until his death.

Duveen was also an honorary member of the councils of the various famous continental art collections. In

Great Britain he did some splendid work in the encouragement of art, and was the founder of the British Artists' Exhibitions Organisation, whereby lesser-known British artists were given an opportunity of exhibiting their work. Some years ago he published an interesting volume entitled, "Thirty Years of British Art."

Among the Britishers his name is better known on account of his munificent gifts to art galleries. I remember well the great interest aroused by his presentation in 1926 to the Tate Gallery of several galleries for modern foreign works. He also donated a gallery devoted to the paintings of John Sargent. It will be recollected, too, that in 1937 Duveen added a further new building to the Tate Gallery in which are to be found three large and two smaller galleries for modern sculpture. Some seven years ago he donated to the National Gallery an additional gallery for Italian primitives, and in the same year he endowed a Chair for the History of Art in the London University.

Born in Hull, England, of Jewish parents who had arrived there from Holland, the late Lord Duveen was a well-known figure both in England and on the Continent. In his passing the arts of painting and sculpture have lost a valuable friend and patron.

### Violins

MUSIC lovers—and especially those who have a particular liking for the violin—will be interested to hear that this instrument is now being made in Palestine. In a room in Tel-Aviv Dr. Eliahu Rappoport and two girl students are engaged in manufacturing these latest Palestinian wares.

Recently Mr. Z. Haftel, the concert master of the Palestine Symphony Orchestra, tried the violins and pronounced them to be of exquisite tone. Dr. Rappoport is hoping for a large export industry. He has already produced twenty-five violins, some of which have been shipped to South Africa. Violin-making was once a monopoly of Germany's, but people no longer wish to buy Nazi goods.

Dr. Rappoport gets his wood from various countries but says that Palestinian eucalyptus is adequate. This violin-maker has lived in Palestine for many years, and was once an agricultural labourer, a settler at kibbutz Beth Alpha, and a teacher. He started his new vocation of violin-making only recently,

### The Archives

I HAVE just received a detailed description of the recently opened new wing of the Jewish Agency buildings in Jerusalem. This wing, which houses the Zionist archives, is likely to become one of the most attractive sights of Jerusalem, and Zionist tourists will find contained in these archives fascinating exhibits of great interest.

The Zionist archives now contain over twenty thousand files, and seven thousand books and pamphlets written in forty languages, including Chinese and Hindu. Of the rare specimens there is a copy of the first edition of Pinsker's "Auto-Emancipation." This edition was printed in 1882. In 1914, thirty-two years after publication, there were still over six hundred copies, of a total of one thousand, unsold. The Zionist Organisation was not in a position to buy out the remainder and the publishers burnt the lot. A somewhat similar fate befell the first edition of "Rome and Jerusalem," a copy of which is preserved in Jerusalem. When the book appeared, members of the author's family who were assimilated German Jews, decided that Moses Hess must have gone mad. They bought out the whole edition and set it on fire.

Amongst historic Zionist letters there is one written by General Smuts, and a large number from the pens of other famous statesmen, including Lloyd George and President Roosevelt.

### "Explicit"

A MELAMED in old Lithuania secured a position in a Talmud Torah institution in a village some distance away. On arriving there he found he had forgotten to bring along his shirts, so he sat down and wrote to his wife:

"My dearest Hannah, please send me 'your' shirts. I say send me 'your' shirts, for if I asked you to send me 'my' shirts, you would be sure to send me 'your' shirts. So, therefore, I write you to send me 'your' shirts, in the hope that you would be sure to send me 'my' shirts."

When the parcel arrived the melamed found that his wife had sent him her shirts.



Kerk Street      Telegrams: "Langham"

Lovers of good living  
All agree there is  
No place like the Langham for  
Good solid comfort and a  
High standard of service.  
Anyone will tell you it's a  
Marvellous place to stay.

## AMALGAMATED AFRICAN HOTELS LTD

- LUTHJE'S LANGHAM - JOHANNESBURG
- HOTEL ASSEMBLY - CAPE TOWN
- HOTEL EDWARD - DURBAN
- HOTEL ELIZABETH - PORT ELIZABETH

J.I.T. 978

## BANISH FOOD MONOTONY BY USING—

## MONI'S & FATTI'S

- MACARONI
- VERMICELLI
- SPAGHETTI
- SOUT PASTES
- SEMOLINA

## PURE EGG LOKSHEN SOUP FLOATS in . . Various Shapes & Sizes

Obtainable from all Grocers

## MONI'S & FATTI'S

## MOSMARK MATZOS

South Africa's Best