

Current Communal Comment

By "HAMABIT"

Constructive

At least one constructive suggestion emerged from the acrimonious discussion at the annual general meeting of the Johannesburg Chevra Kadisha last Sunday morning. This was the idea thrown out by Mr. Henry Kirsch that a trained social worker should be appointed to investigate cases which applied to the Chevra Kadisha for relief. Mr. Kirsch paid a tribute to the members of the Chevra Kadisha for the conscientious manner in which they gave both time and energy to investigating cases that applied for help. His contention was, however, that only a person who had made a proper study of sociological problems, and who possessed the necessary technique to investigate cases seeking relief, could properly assess the amount of assistance needed, and suggest the best ways and means of giving this.

I was very much impressed by what Mr. Kirsch said. Within recent years I have noticed a growing tendency on the part of our young people who embark on a University career, to turn to the social sciences. Several of our young Jewish girls and boys, with a sincere interest in sociological problems, have qualified or are qualifying themselves to become expert workers in this field. To-day, therefore, I think there would be no dearth of trained material upon which the Chevra Kadisha could draw if it decided to follow up Mr. Kirsch's most valuable suggestion.

When the adjourned meeting of the Chevra Kadisha is continued in the near future, I sincerely hope that this concrete and constructive proposal to appoint a trained social worker will come up for discussion, and will receive the consideration it merits.

Song-Smith

AMERICA'S outstandingly popular song-smith has done it again. I refer, of course, to Irving Berlin. Some time ago, I mentioned in these columns that Berlin had written and was about to produce for the benefit of the American Army Emergency Relief Fund, a musical entertainment called, "This Is The Army."

In the first world war, Berlin, then a sergeant, made history with his staging of "Yip Yip Yiphank," a musical entertainment with only soldiers in the cast. It lingered for a generation in the memory of the soldiers and citizens of the last war.

Some of its songs gave the nation fighting spirit. To-day, when America is involved in a second world war, Berlin is once again at work interpreting and inspiring the service men.

His new show, "This Is The Army," is at present playing to capacity audiences at the Broadway Theatre, New York. It, too, like "Yip Yip Yiphank," has only soldiers in the cast. Three hundred soldiers from virtually every camp in the country have been assembled to take part in it—costumes, scenery, in fact everything outside of Berlin's own work, was and is being done by men in uniform. It is believed that this production will net more than a million dollars for Army Relief.

Berlin was born in Russia fifty-four years ago. His father was a rabbi. When he came to the New World with his wife and eight children, Moses Baline (that was his name) became a cantor. In his sons the elder Baline instilled more than music. He gave them a philosophy of life—that philosophy Irving Berlin has translated into song in his great work for the benefit of the fighting men.

Music

WHAT would you think if I told you that, in the very thick of war, a group of soldiers was "putting in time" learning—music!

No, it's not a "story": it's perfectly true. At the Palestine Conservatoire of Music in Jerusalem, a number of soldiers, officers, and nursing sisters, who have come to the Middle East from England, New Zealand and Australia, study music during the short intervals of their leave in the Holy Land. One British major comes every fortnight from Trans-Jordan to Jerusalem to take composition lessons, and pieces which he has composed have been rendered at a concert given by the Conservatoire for its pupils and friends.

Numerous Palestinian pupils in the Conservatoire of Music have joined the Army, and some who fought in Libya, have been back on leave looking well and fit. One of them, Yehuda Efrati, for two years the leader of the Conservatoire Orchestra, who has been in the Western Desert for more than a year, has now been transferred to a Palestinian military band.

I was interested to learn that several other former students of the Con-

servatoire, who are now serving in the Army, may also be given an opportunity to join these bands.

Yiddish Theatre

I LEARN with regret from a friend in New York that David Levinson has passed away at the ripe age of 72 years.

The death of Levinson marks the close of a romantic period in the Yiddish theatre in the United States. David Levinson was a famous actor who toured the United States for most of the 40 years of his residence in that country as the star and director of Yiddish productions, including versions of Shakespeare and other classics.

Born in Riga, Levinson came to the United States as an actor in a German wandering troupe. Later, he joined the Yiddish stage in Chicago. Just before the first World War he was head of a Yiddish repertory theatre in Cleveland.

The Yiddish theatre, I am afraid, is falling upon lean days.

While the High Festival period of former years usually marked the resumption of the Yiddish theatre in a score or a dozen different houses, this year's reopening saw only six Yiddish plays scheduled to open, two in the Bronx, two in Brooklyn and two in Manhattan.

The old-time Yiddish play titles are still being used, however, to judge by William Siegel's "Forgotten Women," Max Kledder's "The Boy from Argentine" and "Oy, Is Dus A Leben!" The latter is a musical specially shaped for Molly Picon, who thus returns to the stage, where she won her first and greatest fame.

Pleasant Job

ACCORDING to one of the tales carried from Europe and reprinted in the "Canadian Unionist," Hitler and Goering were visiting an armaments plant and Goering told Hitler that German workmen were losing faith in their Fuehrer. This Hitler denied and going up to a workman, handed him his own revolver and said:

"To prove your loyalty to me, shoot five of your comrades."

The man obeyed immediately and killed five Germans. Hitler was delighted, and smiling at Goering said:

"Where do you come from?"

Swiftly the man answered: "Warsaw."

Johannesburg Women's Zionist League
Johannesburg Zionist Association
5th LECTURE
in the new series on
Zionism in a Changing World"
ADV. L. A. PINCUS
will speak on
"ZIONISM AND MODERN
WORLD POLITICS"
at the
CORONATION HALL,
Claim Street,
On MONDAY, 7th DECEMBER,
at 8.15 p.m.
Admission:
1/-

THE ANGLO-PALESTINE BANK, LIMITED

Established 1902.

Capital and Reserves
£1,075,000

London Office: Stafford House,
20 King William St., London, E.C.4
BRANCHES:

Tel-Aviv, Jaffa, Jerusalem, Haifa,
Hadar-Hacarmel, Tiberias, Safed,
Petah-Tikvah, Hedera, Rehovoth.

Every Banking Facility for
Business with Palestine

AFFILIATION:
The General Mortgage Bank of
Palestine, Limited, Tel-Aviv.

ROOF PAINT
FADELESS RED ROOF
We stock the popular
"RESISTO" Brand.
Cheapest in the long run.
84 OTHER SHADES FOR GENERAL
USE ALSO AVAILABLE.
F. J. WILKINSON
PAINT AND HARDWARE
278 Louis Botha Avenue, Orange Grove,
JOHANNESBURG.
(Phone 45.1627).

NOTED FOR
PACKING
REMOVALS
STORAGE

STUTTAFORDS
JOHANNESBURG

PHONE
22-3333
for
free estimates