

## The Niedzielski Concert.

### AN EVENING OF CHOPIN.

Mr. Niedzielski played to a crowded City Hall on Tuesday evening last and the large audience rose to a particularly stirring "God Save the King"; after which the pianist settled down to the First Scherzo in B Minor played with characteristic brilliance that emphasised the almost dramatic content inherent in Chopin's Scherzos.

Two light Mazurkas followed contrasting blithely with the opening piece and the Ballade which came after; then the Ballade gave the utmost opportunity to the polished technique and freedom which are Mr. Niedzielski's notable gifts.

A singing Berceuse and the Waltz in E Flat Major closed the first part of the programme.

Then came the highlight of the evening—the Sonata in B Flat Minor, op. 35. Most of us are familiar with the Funeral March but the pianist's dramatic almost vengeful interpretation communicated itself to an audience obviously affected. The Sonata in its four movements is perhaps not so widely known and the finale with its "filigree" effect played as Mr. Niedzielski did it with scintillating work from his fingers, came almost as an anti-climax to his stupendous March.

The concert closed with the Rondeau in E Flat Major, a Fantaisie-Impromptu and the Polonaise in A Flat Major—a stirring ending to an interesting evening of Chopin.

And then a Spanish dance—Albeniz's "Sequidillas," played with sure brilliant fingering compensated for the rather too familiar No. 2 Hungarian Rhapsody of Liszt's, which were the two encores.

Cape Town will look forward with the greatest pleasure to next Tuesday's concert when Mr. Niedzielski will offer a more varied programme. Aware of the tragic circumstances in the world to-day, we are grateful to a fine artist for a magnificent performance.

J.C.

## Paarl Lemaan Zion Society.

Under the auspices of the Paarl Lemaan Zion Society, a meeting took place at the Talmud Torah Hall, Paarl, on Tuesday evening, July 22nd, in commemoration of the anniversaries of Herzl and Bialik. Mr. A. J. Volks presided over a small attendance.

Mr. S. M. Levin contrasted the Zionist approach of the two great leaders. He dwelt for some time on the greatness of Herzl's contribution to Jewry and discussed the manner in which Herzl would have reacted to the present situation. He stressed the importance of Zionist work during war-time and the necessity for land acquisition.

Mr. B. Padwich spoke feelingly of the work of Bialik and made frequent reference to his poems. Bialik had expressed his dissatisfaction with Galut life and had issued a clarion call for action. His life both in and out of Eretz Israel had been an inspiration. After dealing with aspects of Herzl's life Mr. Padwich concluded by referring to the great need that Eretz Israel would fill in Jewish post-war needs.

The meeting concluded with a vote of thanks from the chair.

## Book Reviews.

"THE MALADY AND THE VISION: An Analysis of Political Faith." T. R. Fyvel. (Seeker & Warburg.)

"It is easy to analyse the past. But the present can only be seen through a fog." These words from the epilogue of this thought-provoking book, in large measure, can serve to indicate its nature and its purpose. Mr. Fyvel, in the midst of war, has attempted to answer some of the questions that are so troubling men's minds: "Why has the War come upon us?" "What will be its end?" "What can be done to avoid its repetition?"

Mr. Fyvel paints in broad outline the major political movement of the past few decades and shows how inevitable was the Great War. He goes on to point out how the failure to make the Peace really effective led directly to a renewal by Germany of its desire to dominate the world. This portion of the book is open to the criticism that the author has only chosen such facts as will enable him to establish his main thesis. But whereas one may cavil at his treatment of certain subjects, e.g. his complete and utter condemnation of Stalin's Russia and all its acts, one is driven by the logic of events to agree with his ultimate conclusions. The rise of a Fascist Italy, Nazi Germany, Soviet Russia—all dictatorships based upon the doctrine of the supremacy of the State—is shown in its proper perspective.

"Each shows the same form of society, where the State, like a gigantic Moloch, owns its citizens, property, body and soul and a bureaucracy owns the State. All three are governed by ruling groups collected round the figure of a great and dynamic dictator; ruling groups governing for no better reason than that they have seized power, but, if one looks closely, all adrift, without any true policy, trying desperately to find a balance somewhere."

And because they are adrift without any true policy these dictator States have the same need to destroy freedom of thought and liberty of expression; they can exist only if mankind is regimentated and dragooned into the acceptance of a particular belief.

Mr. Fyvel examines the reasons for the birth of this type of State and he finds one main cause in the failure of Democracy to live up to its own standards. He shows how under the capitalist—the plutocratic—system, a class has been able to seize and hold control for its own selfish ends. The failure to support Republican Spain and struggling China against Imperialist aggression; the failure of the post-War British Government to give its subject races—Indians, West Indians and Africans—real freedom are but evidence of this greed for power by the powerful ruling class of Great Britain. It was this desire to maintain power which led the Baldwins, the Chamberlains, the Halifaxes and the Londonderrys to view with equanimity the rise of a gangster class. The hope that it might enable the plutocratic class to continue to reign—even though it carried the risk of the downfall of the whole Empire—was its justification. "The present can only be seen through a fog." But Mr. Fyvel does not hesitate to attempt to see

through the fog of the present into the future. He has a vision—it differs but little from that of most thoughtful men. But the author is to be congratulated on his courage in putting it forward at this stage. It is good in the days of gloom and despondency to look forward to better and brighter times. Mr. Fyvel does so and he sees the possibility of a new and better world for the creation of which he pleads in passionate and convincing manner. There are evils to be overthrown—in England itself the public-school system and the unearned-income class; in the world at large, a great and revolutionary change in Britain's relations with other countries.

Space will not allow one to enter into the details of Mr. Fyvel's new order. The reader must go to the book itself for the details. He will find the study of "The Malady and the Vision" stimulating and interesting. But more; he will find it instructive to an unexpected degree. It is full of information; full of provoking assertions and replete with good sense.

Of particular interest to Jewish readers will be his views on the place of the Jews in the new truly Democratic world and on the attitude of Allied states to the anti-Nazi Jewish refugee.

This book should be read and studied; each of us will have a part to play in the shaping of the New World. It is essential that each of us should clarify his views on the shape of the things that are to be. Mr. Fyvel's treatise will prove of the greatest assistance in this respect for it demands clear thinking about modern problems and, at the same time, sets a goal at which to aim.

"THE CURIOUS CONTINENT AND OTHER STORIES." By Leonard Flemming. (Galvin & Sales Ltd., Cape Town.)

South Africa's farmer-author, Leonard Flemming, has long ago acquired a wide reputation for his fine sense of humour, which is reflected in all his writings. His latest volume, "The Curious Continent and Other Stories," is well up to his usual standard and contains some delightful verse as well as prose. "Some of this book," we are told, "was written during the dreadful time of drought and depression that broke most of us on the land in 1931-32-33. Some of it was written when the present war was about to break out and it is appalling to think that this good and lovely world is being drenched with blood again and that lines which I wrote as a short preface to 'A Fool in the Veld' in 1914 and 'More Veld Foolery' in 1918 could be used as a preface for 'The Curious Continent' in 1941."

Nevertheless, in spite of this Leonard Flemming is always full of buoyant optimism and the articles in this book are all most entertaining and cheering.

His outlook is well expressed in the little poem "May, 1941," at the beginning of the book.

## DEATH.

BIALL—Hilda, passed away suddenly on 22nd July. Deeply mourned by her husband and children. Shiva at "Hildasheim," Exner Avenue, Vredehoek, Gardens.