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Letter From Israel

By J. L. TELLER

Events in Palestine since the establishment of the State of Israel on May 14, 1948, have produced multifarious and far-reaching changes affecting all phases of that country's life.

New names have moved into the headlines about Palestine: and its literature too is coming under the dominance of new names, some of whom were only slightly known, and most of whom were completely unknown, before the outbreak of the Arab-Israeli war.

Of the elder novelists, only two are known to have new works ready for publication or in progress. They are Yehuda Burla, whose novels deal with life and customs of Oriental Jewry, and S. Y. Agnon, whom the Israelis are quietly sponsoring for the Nobel Prize in literature and some of whose novels have been translated into English (The Bridal Canopy, In the Heart of the Sea, and Days of Wrath, a religious anthology). All others are now engaged in preparing final editions of their works, as though they feared, not unjustly, that any delay would mitigate against them as the reading tastes of a new generation affirm themselves in the book market.

Of the entire older generation of writers, only Burla is Palestinian-born. They have all been profoundly influenced by Central-European and pre-Revolutionary Russian writers; most of their writing has dealt with Jewish life in eastern Europe and has only at random touched the Palestinian scene. Their audience has generally been small, probably because the older readers had access

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to the Russian and European writers whose influences the Hebrew writer reflected, while the young native Israeli was completely uninterested in novels dealing with European-Jewish experience which he has been taught by his elders to regard as humiliating and moribund.

Ranging in age from early twenties to mid-thirties, the new generation of writers are all native Israelis and their writing deals exclusively with the native scene, more specifically with the most recent events in Israel,

Jewish underground resistance to British mandatory rule and the Arab-Israeli war.

Because this literature deals with their own experience, the young Israelis are its avid readers, and books by new writers sometimes hit a sales figure of 6,000 and never less than 3,000, which is quite high considering that perhaps no more than half of Israel's adult population has a good reading knowledge.

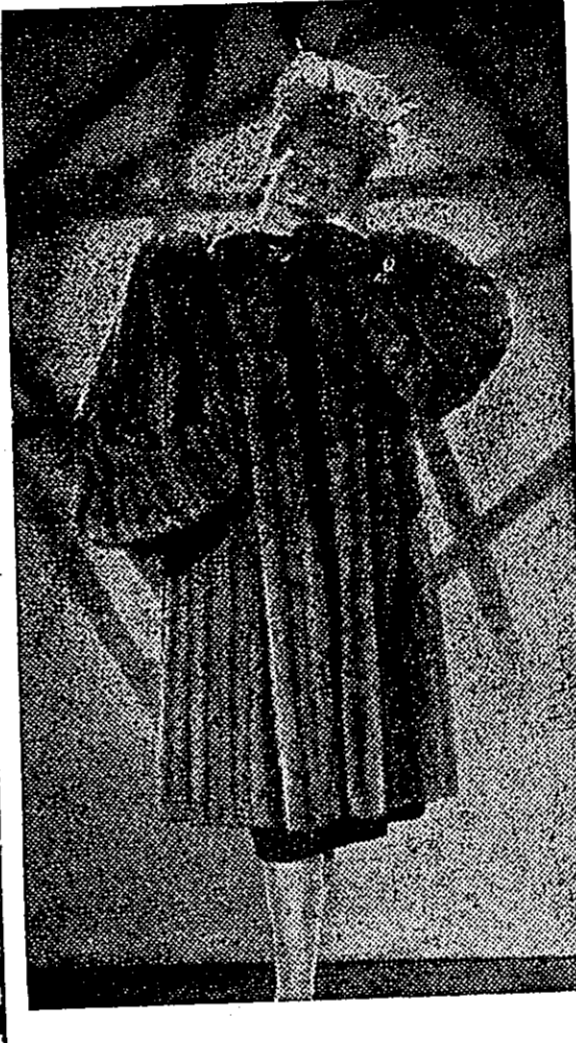
The new writers have produced few full-length novels, and not a

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CLUB NOTES

All Winnipeg ladies have been invited to join in knitting and sewing for Israel on Tuesdays and Wednesdays between 1 and 5 p.m., at the Zionist headquarters, 1127 Main street. The sessions are held under the auspices of the Blue Mogen Dovid committee.

Rebecca Steff chapter of Hadassah will hold their meeting and Chanukah social at the home of Mrs. Fanny Unrode, 356 Atlantic avenue, Monday, Dec. 19, at 8:30 p.m.

Aliyah chapter of Hadassah will hold a meeting at the home of Mrs. R. Soronow, 86 Matheson avenue, on Tuesday, Dec. 20, at 8:30 p.m. A Chanukah program is planned and Mrs. A. Chiel will be present.

Chaim Steinberg branch, Young Women's Mizrahi, held a social meeting on Monday, Dec. 5, at the home of Mrs. E. Bogdanov, 464 Flora avenue. Next meeting will be held on Monday, Dec. 19, at the home of Mrs. M. J. Brovender, 102 Matheson avenue.

Lehava chapter of the Pioneer Women will hold a Chanukah party at the home of Mrs. Mildred Drabinski, 560 Atlantic avenue, on Monday, Dec. 19, at 8:30 p.m. Guest for the evening will be Mrs. A. Chiel.

Herzlia chapter of the Pioneer Women will hold their next meeting and open social on Monday, Dec. 19, at the home of Mrs. Gertrude Tessler, 156 Matheson avenue.

Business and Professional group, National Council of Jewish Women, will hold their regular monthly dinner meeting at the Homestead, on Wednesday, Dec. 21, at 6 p.m. Miss Ruth Doern, director of social services for Winnipeg, Dept. of Veteran's Affairs, will speak on "My Recent Trip to Newfoundland - the People and Their Customs."

Muter Ferein Council of the I. L. Peretz Folk schools will hold their annual Chanukah supper in the Peretz hall, 418 Aberdeen avenue,

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JEWISH MUSICAL CLUB PLANS GALA CHANUKAH CONCERT DEC. 18



Sarah Udov will appear as soloist with the Jewish Community choir and orchestra who are holding

their annual Chanukah concert at the Playhouse theatre on Sunday, Dec. 18, at 8:30 p.m. The choir will be conducted by Cantor Benjamin Brownstone and the string orchestra by Jascha Resnitsky.

In presenting their second annual Chanukah concert, the Jewish Musical club do so in the hope that it will be in the spiritual and cultural traditions of our faith, making a contribution to the musical education of the community.

The Jewish Musical club, consisting of local artists representing a cross section of our community and organizations, will present a concert to please the most discriminating of music lovers, with the larger part of the program consisting of Jewish melodies and lyrics.

Tickets may be obtained from club members. (The program appears on page 2 of this issue.)

Queen Esther chapter of Hadassah will hold a Chanukah social Monday, Dec. 19, at 8:30 p.m., at the home of Mrs. W. D. Rich, 284 Kennedy street.

Movies of the unveiling of the general memorial in Shaarey Zedek cemetery will be shown at a general meeting of the Legion branch to be held in the club-rooms, 1414 Main street, on Monday evening, Dec. 19.

A membership rally will be held in connection with the meeting and every member has been urged to bring a new member. A smoker will follow the meeting.

Miriam chapter of Hadassah will hold a Chanukah luncheon at the Zionist headquarters, 1127 Main street, on Monday, Dec. 19, at 1 p.m. Convenors are Mrs. Fanny Ash and Miss Beatrice Choslowsky.

A. Krendel, 427 Boyd avenue, gave the Pioneer Women's council \$25 towards their building fund . . . and will give the receipt to his children as traditional "Chanukah Gelt." The Pioneer Women's coun-

cil urges others to follow this example.

Regina, Sask. - Hebrew Ladies Benevolent society will hold their annual Give or Get luncheon in the form of a turkey luncheon, with old fashioned macholim, Dec. 21, at 1 p.m., at the Talmud Torah hall. Convenors are Mrs. S. Becker and Mrs. B. Zalkind. In charge of reservations are Mrs. M. Reiner, phone 29 951; Mrs. I. Mintz, phone 22 869. Mrs. B. Zurif at the register, Mrs. F. Schacter at the money basket. Assisting are Mesdames D. Silverman, S. Bercovitch, B. Kreef, S. Fisherman, B. Grodsky, S. Ratner, I. Mintz, A. Hamer.

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decided to hold a Membership Rally in the Beaver hall of the Hudson's Bay Co., on Tuesday, Jan. 17. An interesting musical program has been planned. The convenor of the affair is Mrs. S. S. Peikoff, and patronesses with her will be members of the executive board. Women interested in furthering the art of music in the community have been invited to join. It is not necessary to be a singer or an instrumentalist to qualify for membership.

Musical groups were under discussion and in order to acquaint all organizations with the work and objectives of the J.W.M.C., Mrs. J. Erlichman was appointed chairman of a speakers committee. Committee members will address various communal organizations.

lands whose armistices with her must soon be renewed. The United Nations sanctification of their demands over Jerusalem must be viewed as nothing less than a timely call to arms; than a new blood scent inviting them to the much talked of second round.

On the credit side of the ledger, of course, are the people of Israel and the spirit of Jerusalem. Jerusalem has the quality, even up until a few months ago, of a frontier outpost still shaking off the armour of war. In Jerusalem, home defense units carried off victories, saw fighting, and experienced shelling generally reserved for front line combat troops. Jerusalem's Jews are by right and by sacrifice, as a community, the aristocrats of Israel's war. And Jerusalem's Jews have determined that Jerusalem shall remain Jewish.

The vigor of their faith was not won earlier without grave losses . . . (recounted by our correspondent on page five of this issue). They are prepared to suffer again for their faith . . . and on this Chanukah, world Jewry again dedicates itself to back them in their decision.

Prospective members may contact Mrs. J. Resnitsky, Mrs. M. D. Spivak, and Mrs. Esther Sirken-Lipkin, or any member of the executive board.

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Hebrew Calendar

7510 - 1949-1950
Chanukah, 1st Day Dec. 16
Chanukah, 2nd Day Dec. 17
Eish Chodesh Tebeth Dec. 21
Chanukah, 8th Day Dec. 23
Fast of Tebeth Dec. 28

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