

**HEBREW CONGREGATION  
MEMORIAL UNVEILED.**

A memorial to the late Mr Louis Lesser, J.P., of Coleraine, who recently bequeathed £1000 to the endowment fund of the Ballarat Synagogue, of which he was a member, was unveiled yesterday afternoon by his nephew, Mr L. M. Lesser, another member of the congregation. The memorial is a metal mural tablet of artistic design, and is inscribed, "In memory of Louis Lesser, J.P., who departed this life 19th June, 1921. A generous benefactor of this congregation."

Mr Lesser said that he esteemed it a great honor to have been asked to unveil the memorial, which had been erected to the memory of his late uncle. The honor was unexpected, but was highly appreciated. It was also an unexpected honor that his uncle's memory should have been thus respected. On behalf of the family he took the opportunity of thanking the congregation. From the speaker's point of view his uncle was a man who as a citizen was worthy of being remembered. To use Shakespeare's words, "He was a man." The late Mr Lesser came out to this country in the fifties, and it was not derogatory to his memory to state that his first job was shifting sand at Sandridge (now Port Melbourne). Subsequently he followed mining, going to Bendigo and Pleasant Creek. Later he heard that his brother (the speaker's father) had arrived, and they settled in the Coleraine district. He was a careful man in regard to himself, but not concerning others. Personal consideration was his last thought. His last days were made as comfortable as they possibly could be, and he lived to a great age. He took up many public duties in the small district in which he lived, taking an interest in works of benevolence and charity. He took an extreme interest in hospitals and was recognised as the champion district collector for the Hamilton institution. Before his death he remembered this congregation, the Hamilton Hospital, and other charities, and did not forget relatives who were in less comfortable circumstances in America. He sympathised with others, and although an unworldly man, at times took drastic steps to stop people who annoyed him by loose language. While he could be firm when occasion required it, he could also be as gentle as a child. Mr Lesser then formally unveiled the tablet.

The Rev. M. Rosenthal, in his address, said:—An exceptional occasion has gathered us together. Memorial services are but rarely held in our Synagogues. This honor is, as a rule, reserved for individuals who have occupied unique positions in the country

or community, for a faithful pastor of his flock, or for one who has yielded a life's devotion to communal service. To-day we commemorate the late Mr Louis Lesser, of Coleraine, where he passed a great part of life's activities, and was known in that city and district as an honorable citizen and a beneficent, generous donor. He was on the honor roll of justice of the peace for some years. But he was known in this city to a few chosen friends only. The more reason to applaud his good-hearted and noble deeds, and his unbounded acts on behalf of religious institutions. As a citizen of the Jewish persuasion he was a member of our Ballarat Jewish community, and contributed to the funds for the upkeep of our Synagogue and its allied institutions. He must have had the welfare of our Jewish institutions at heart when he bequeathed the magnificent sum of £1000 to its funds. We find a phrase in Jewish literature, "The help of God is as the twinkling of an eye," or, in other words, "Any mo-

ment, by the help of God, one's position may be improved." Our Synagogue has lost many members. Some have left their life's activities and passed on to their eternal rest. Others have left our noble city to find useful activities in larger fields and pastures new. Our late departed brother came to the rescue, and as God selects His own, in His own way, so he was the instrument of the Almighty to repair, to strengthen the breach in the funds or for the upkeep of our noble place of worship. May this bright example be followed by others. Giving is a gift, no doubt, but like other gifts, it can be cultivated or neglected. It may be cultivated until it becomes a gracious habit, or neglected until it shrivels away to the impoverishment of our whole moral nature. Our late friend, foreseeing the probable unenviable position of our institutions from a financial point of view, resolved to practise what he learnt in the shape of giving. On the tombstone of one who had become rich, and who made a not entirely selfish use of his riches, this inscription is said to have been placed:—

"What I saved I lost;  
What I spent I had;  
What I gave I have."

To the third of these he must have subscribed. Proverbs advises us, "Cast thy bread upon the waters, and in the abundance of days thou shalt find it again." Our Rabbis say thus, "In the abundance of days," refers to the world to come or life after death, when the soul of the righteous repose under

the soul of the righteous repose under the shadow of the wings of the Shechina. The late Louis Lesser has nobly carried out the advice of the great wise King Solomon, and this great heartfelt noble gift to the funds of our religious and educational institutions will plead on his behalf before the Throne of God's grace.