

DR. REUBEN ROSENFELD.

WHEN the Anglo-Jewish Association, conjointly with the *Alliance Israélite Universelle* of Paris, either maintains or subsidises schools in various centres of the East, in order to provide poor Jewish children with the opportunity of acquiring a modern education, it knows perfectly well what it is about. There is amongst those children a great deal of sterling talent, which, without the means of development, would be lost to them and lost to the world. Give them a chance to develop their God-given faculties, and it is almost certain that they will be able to gain honourable positions for themselves, if not distinguish themselves in the various walks of life. A practical proof of this assertion has just been furnished by the young gentleman whose name we placed at the head of this article.

Nine and a-half years ago Nathan Rosenfield, with his wife and six children, left his home in Simferopol in the Crimea in order to seek his fortune in Australia, or, at all events, to find in this country that freedom and security which was a very uncertain quantity in his own. His eldest son, Reuben, was then 16 years old. He had received some education at home, and had even distinguished himself in the Jewish and subsequently in the Government school, but it was far from what would be called a liberal education in the modern sense of the word. Not one of the family could speak a word of English when they arrived in Melbourne. The father being in poor circumstances naturally looked out for some employment for his eldest son. A stonemason was soon found who was willing to teach the boy his trade. He would take him on trial for a fortnight, and

if he suited would require him to work twelve months for nothing, and to give him 5s. per week for the next twelve months. But the occupation did not suit the boy, nor was he fit for the occupation. Then a trial was made with the tailoring trade. Here also he was required to work for the first twelve months for nothing, but a few weeks sufficed to prove that young Rosenfield would never make a tailor. At length he was given to a saddler, and at this trade he worked for the next three years. But the boy was evidently anxious to prepare himself for something higher. He therefore entered the Working-man's College, where he spent his evenings in the study of English, Latin, Algebra, Euclid and kindred subjects, working during the day at his trade and studying at night. Then a Mr. Boot, of Little Bourke-street, came upon the scene, who gave young Rosenfield further assistance in his studies, keeping him sometimes engaged till 2 o'clock in the morning. The result was that at the end of three years' hard work Master Rosenfield entered for Matriculation in seven subjects and passed in every one of them. He now abandoned the saddling trade, and after a short interval, during which he taught at the Melbourne Hebrew School, he entered the University as a medical student.

His five years' studentship were a period of continuous struggle to him. His father, being poor and hardly able to earn sufficient to maintain the rest of his family, could give him little assistance. But

maintain the rest of his family, could give him little assistance. But young Reuben struggled on manfully, and by private teaching and the help of one or two friends, one a Christian, managed to get through his medical course. Year after year he passed the prescribed examination ; not once did he fail. He had never occasion to resort to the supplementary examinations in December. Honour work he would not take up. It was too risky for him, as he said because he had not the opportunities that many of his fellow students had, having to work for his living all the time. But steadfastly and without faltering he made for his goal, which he reached in October last, when he took his medical degree. He has since had a position as *locum tenens* on board the s.s. *Damascus*, and is at present acting in a similar capacity at Broken Hill. The father, who is a fruit dealer by trade, is naturally proud of his son, and well may he be. Dr. Reuben Rosenfield is a credit not only to his parents but to the community generally. He has proved what a Russian Jew may do if he be but given a favourable opportunity.