

News Items, Invitations, etc., should be addressed to the Resident Correspondent, Box 1204, Cape Town.

CAPETOWN COMMENTS.

THE COMING "SUCCOTH."
AN INTERESTING BIRTHDAY.
GENERAL NEWS.

(From Our Own Correspondent).

Things have been quiet so far as social activities are concerned, naturally owing to the High Festivals. The "Yom Kippur" services at all the local places of worship were attended by large congregations, and the solemn season came to a close on Saturday evening. The succeeding Festival of "Succoth" will be ushered in on Wednesday evening and many fine booths have been erected for the occasion. The children of the Cape Jewish Orphanage have erected a beautiful "Succah" and friends of the Institution will experience much pleasure upon visiting the symbolical structure, entirely the work of the orphans, under the supervision of the Matron, Mrs. R. Myers.

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On Wednesday, the 15th instant, Mr. A. Rosenthal celebrated his 79th birthday, and was the recipient of the hearty congratulations of his host of relatives and friends. Mr. Rosenthal for many years has been prominently identified with local charitable work. For a considerable time he was Treasurer of the Aged Home and President of the Helping Hand Association, and it was on these two organisations that he centred the major portion of his energies. Whilst, for health reasons, he was unable to continue holding executive office, Mr. Rosenthal had never ceased to take a keen interest in them as a member of the Committee. All sections of the local community will unite in expressing the hope that Mr. Rosenthal will be spared to see many more birthdays.

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On Tuesday night, at the Central Hotel, Paarl, on the occasion of the Installation of the Worshipful Master of the Britannia Lodge (E.C.) two young Jewish brethren received signal distinction. Bro. S. Myers was created Inner Guard and Bro. I. Silbert was raised from the ranks direct to the important position of Director of Ceremonies. The former, the genial host of the Lodge, was responsible for the dinner following the Installation and he proved to be a capable and discerning caterer. Amongst the visitors were Very Wor. Bro. S. Sandler, P.P.G.I. (who accompanied the deputation from the Provincial Grand Lodge (N.C.)), and Bro. L. A. G. Neumann (Muizenberg).

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Dr. Julius Herman lectured on "The Evolution of Modern Drama" on Friday last at the South African Library. Dr. Julius Herman has made a special study of drama, and his book on "Bernard Shaw: The Man and his Work," published under the pseudonym of Herbert Skimpole, is of recognised value with its useful study of the great dramatist's long series of plays. Dr. Herman's essays on various literary subjects, entitled "The Music of South African Life in its relation to the culture of Europe," has just been published.

The Rabbis Appeal.

FOR THE UPBUILDING OF PALESTINE.

It is interesting to note that a lengthy appeal has been issued by Rabbis in Great Britain and Ireland, through the English Zionist Federation, on behalf of the re-building of Palestine. We do not think it necessary to give a list of the names of those numerous rabbis, but it is only fair to state that it seems to include everyone from the Chief Rabbi down to the Lamden of a small orthodox chevra.

The appeal (in part) runs as follows:—

"The Jewish people has, in the course of nearly two thousand years, passed through various lands of exile, enduring at times untold sufferings and persecutions, even the cruelties of the Inquisition and of the Ukraine massacres. The Wandering Jew has been driven from country to country in his search after a place of refuge for body and soul.

"Numbers of our people have, from one cause or another, yielding to despair, turned away from us and gone over to other camps. But the great majority remained faithful to our holy 'Torah' and to the ideals of our Prophets, both in former generations and in modern times; upon them rested the spirit of the martyrs who sanctified His Name; these have all, with a strong hope and firm conviction, waited for the great Day of Redemption on which will be fulfilled the sacred prophecy: 'And the children shall return unto their border'—the Jewish people will return to its own country. It is this passionate hope in the return to Zion that has given our people its vital strength: it is this that has been its fount of life, which has given it both consolation and the power of unceasing endurance. At last we are privileged to see in our own time the Light of Salvation. And if we have not yet attained complete redemption, if we do not yet behold the era as foretold by our ancient sages in their expositions of the words of the Prophets, we have, nevertheless, reached a time that may be described as the beginning of the Messianic epoch.

"The time has now come to build up our Land. We appeal to our fellow-Jews in Great Britain, which was the first country to assist us in establishing our National Home in 'Eretz Israel'; we appeal to our brethren in that country in Europe, in which Jews share equally with their fellow-citizens the blessings of social and religious liberty, and beg them not to fail to bring their sacrifice as of old upon the Jewish Altar. The time has come when the Jews of England must be among the first to participate in the great 'Mitzvah' of the re-settlement of the Land of Israel. . . . This cause stands high above religious party, the varied aspects of Judaism. It is independent of religious differences. All can and should join.

"In the name of the Holy Torah, in the name of Israel, in the name of our suffering brothers and sisters, we appeal to you to unite, with one will and one mind, in the task of helping to the utmost in the upbuilding of the Land of our fathers, our heritage of old, 'Erez Israel.'"

The irony of the position is that these orthodox rabbonim are check-mated by the very people to whom they appeal since, with the exception of the Mizrachi, coincidentally with the increase of the national spirit, the respect for traditional Judaism seems to lessen and the practice of our faith to decline.