

Johannesburg Day by Day.

By "BEN HAMAGID."

Invitations to Meetings and functions should be addressed as early as possible to:
Progress Buildings, corner Commissioner and Von Weilligh Streets, Johannesburg.

The Keren Hayesod Campaign.

After the storm, the "still, quiet voice." Mass meetings, banquets, public welcomes and orations now being over, the real work of the campaign has to be performed—the steady canvass of the city. This work is, I understand, being actively pursued and the results are, all the circumstances considered, satisfactory.

Kfar Yeladim.

A distinctive branch of the campaign is the women's campaign for Kfar Yeladim. That this great work which is being undertaken by the women of South Africa has a strong hold upon their hearts, and that it can rely upon their regular and unstinted support, was shown at the brilliant function held in the Carlton Hotel here on Wednesday afternoon last, when the Women's Campaign for Kfar Yeladim was inaugurated. There was an attendance of over three hundred ladies—the number doubtless would have been even greater if the room had been larger—and a very fine spirit of idealism pervaded the function.

After inspiring addresses were delivered by Colonel and Mrs. Wedgwood and Dr. Mossensohn, the ladies showed their practical interest in Kfar Yeladim by their generous and spontaneous response, close on £2,000 being raised at the gathering itself. It is expected that this sum will be considerably increased.

Old Associates.

The main attack on Johannesburg now being over, the members of the delegation are turning attention to other points of vantage. A distinctive interest attaches to Colonel Wedgwood's visit to Ermelo, for he has ties of association with this spot dating back nearly thirty years. After the Boer War he was Magistrate of Ermelo for a time and the warm welcome which was accorded him on his visit last week by all his former associates and friends (including his old native servant, who walked twenty-one miles to see him again) was evidence of the esteem and friendship with which he is regarded. The Jewish population of Ermelo and the Eastern Transvaal generally mustered in goodly numbers, and as a result of the banquet held there the sum of £465 was raised.

The campaign was during the week also conducted in Pretoria and Benoni. Over the week-end Dr. Mossensohn, Colonel and Mrs. Wedgwood were at Durban, and thence they proceeded to Bloemfontein. The financial results of these visits are not yet available.

By the time these notes appear, Colonel and Mrs. Wedgwood will have returned to

Cape Town to embark on the "Balmoral Castle" for England. They will be able to leave with the assurance that they have won the gratitude of yet another section of the far-flung Jewish people because of their efforts on its behalf. Dr. Mossensohn returns to Johannesburg during the week, and will continue working for the campaign.

After the Immigration Debate.

Now that the Immigration Quota Bill has been passed, little remains to be said. Prior to the debate, from the general manner in which the proposed legislation had been received throughout the country, and, during the debate, from the manner in which the Opposition lent its whole-hearted support, it was a foregone conclusion that the principle of the Bill would be approved of. However, it was none the less clearly the duty of the Jewish community throughout South Africa to raise their voices against the stigma on themselves and their brethren, which the Bill implied; and this was achieved with dignity by the meetings of protest throughout the country and sincere speeches of the Jewish Members of Parliament.

As a correspondent says in the "Zionist Record," "the Bill is passed, but it is clear that the sound of its passing will echo through many a Parliamentary election in South African politics." One may hope that his further prophecy will be equally true, "that the Bill has passed, but its end will come." Meanwhile, it is the clear duty of the S.A. Jewish Board of Deputies, the Jewish Members of Parliament and all others who are opposed to the Bill to "make the best of a bad job" and get such amendments passed as will make the Bill as little objectionable as possible.

The United Talmud Torahs of Johannesburg.

Knowing the conditions that have existed in the past, one was perhaps not surprised to find a prominent advertisement in a recent issue of "The Star," headed "An Appeal for the United Talmud Torah Schools—£3,000 Required." I have from time to time had occasion to refer to the financial position of the United Talmud Torah Schools of Johannesburg. During the two years of the existence of this Union, several appeals have been made to the public and the institution is not yet on a completely sure financial footing. Yet there is no need to take a pessimistic view in the matter. The institution after all is still young and there is every reason to hope that its finances will soon be completely righted. After all it is preferable that there

should be one united appeal to the Jewish public in the place of the ten or more separate appeals which were regularly launched year by year heretofore.

Certainly the United Talmud Torahs can point to good work. The Union now maintains nine efficient schools in which 1,500 children are being educated and thirty-two teachers regularly employed. The greatest boon of all is the fact that system and ordination have been introduced into the work. A uniform curriculum is being steadily introduced and regular examinations are being held. (I hear that at the end of last year an innovation was made in that oral examinations were held in addition to written ones, and that the progress reported was very satisfactory. The highest class in the Doornfontein Talmud Torah distinguished itself especially, and a number of the scholars have now been promoted to the Hebrew College, where they can go in for advanced Talmudic study).

There are obviously many channels into which increased funds could flow—new school equipment, new and latest text books, building repairs, and bank overdrafts met. If some scheme could only be devised—some striking form of drive—which would impress the Jewish public, one feels that they would become alive to the importance of the work and set the institution on a sound foundation.

An Interesting Visitor.

An interesting Jewish visitor has arrived in Johannesburg in the person of the noted Jewish writer Almuni. As a poet and a writer in Yiddish, his works are known to a wide public. He has been engaged during the last four years on a world tour during which he has already visited thirty-two countries with a view to studying Jewish life in all its manifestations. He is a great linguist and speaks fluently a host of both European and Oriental languages. Mr. Almuni was the guest of the Yiddish Literary Society last Sunday night and made a deep impression on the audience.

The Jewish Guild.

A fine concert arranged by Professor L. Margottini, was held at the Guild Hall on Sunday night. Professor L. Danza gave the audience a rare treat in his rendering of "Tarantella" (Martucci). Miss Meg O'Callaghan was in excellent voice and won much applause. Signor Cattani also scored in the aria from "La Juive" and Miss Minnie Botha sang charmingly. Miss Marjorie Alexander and Miss Annie Cohen and Mr. Isaac Magid contributed delightful items during the evening.

On Sunday, 23rd inst., the annual general meeting of members and elections will take place at the Guild. Owing to the past year being an extremely active one, and the prospect of a still busier ensuing year, considerable interest is being evinced in these elections.

Mr. Isador Epstein.

Mr. Isador Epstein, the distinguished London pianist, who has opened a studio in Johannesburg is, I am glad to hear, doing



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very well, and has already a number of able pupils. He thinks highly indeed of the talent available for cultivation in South Africa.

Mr. Sydney Rosenbloom.

There will be general regret at the departure for America, via London, of Mr. Sydney Rosenbloom. He proposes to take up teaching concertising in the United States, indeed, has had a very advantageous offer to proceed to San Francisco.

The Late Mr. Jabob Katz.

Orthodox Jewry here is mourning the death of a noted Talmudic scholar and lecturer in

the passing away recently, at his home in Kensington, of Mr. Jacob Katz. The late Mr. Katz, who was born in Pakroy, Lithuania, in 1866, arrived in South Africa in 1902 and has been known as a profound student of Jewish law and literature. He was a descendant of a distinguished family of rabbis. His eldest son is the well-known Rabbi Motel Katz, head of the Telse Yeshivah, and a son-in-law of the late Joseph Leab Bloch, Chief Rabbi of Telse.

Mr. Katz will be sadly missed in local Talmudic circles, where he was known for his brilliant discourses in Talmudic law. He is survived by his wife and a family of five sons and three daughters.

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