

# In Cape Town

(From our own Correspondent.)

All communications relating to this page should be addressed to "Hasofer," P.O. Box 2373, Capetown.

## THE EDUCATION CONFERENCE.

The announcement that the Education Conference has been postponed *sine die* is a matter for extreme regret, despite the views of a number of correspondents who have recently expressed themselves in the *Record* and who hold that it would be barren of practical result.

I did not expect the projected or any other, conference to perfect our system of education magically with a wave of the wand—or, perhaps the correspondents would prefer it—with a wave of the hands, but I do not think that Rabbi Mirvish scored a strong point when he maintained, at the recent local conference in Capetown, that the enthusiasm and the atmosphere created by an all South African conference, with the attendant bustle and discussion, could not but stimulate action and eventually bring about definite improvements.

One thing is certain, that if adequate attention is not paid to the educational requirements of our children on lines suitable and necessary for local and modern conditions, our future in this country is gravely endangered.

In the meantime nothing has been heard from the investigating committee appointed by the conference held at the instance of the Gardens Synagogue some weeks ago. Is it going the same way as the larger conference? The impasse of the national conference is no reason for the relaxation of regional effort.

## THE UNITED HEBREW SCHOOL.

The annual meeting of this institution took place on Sunday, November 30th. Mr. J. Gesundheit, the chairman, presented the report, of which I gave a *resumé* in my last letter. *Inter alia*, he pointed out that they had succeeded in running a seventh standard, in which a high level of instruction was being maintained.

Mr. Woolf Harris, the hon. treasurer, in presenting the balance sheet, commented on the inadequacy of financial support from the public, and in this connection held up the example of the Gardens congregation, which contributed 5s. from each of its members.

The Rev. A. P. Bender, the president, expressed his satisfaction with the attention paid to the religious side of the curriculum, and hoped that attendance at Synagogue would be associated in the minds of the children with their studies. He looked forward to the day when that school would be regarded as a Hebrew college.

Rabbi Mirvish, Messrs. I. Mauerberger, and Sam Zackon also spoke.

Thereafter a committee was elected.

## BOARD OF GUARDIANS.

On Wednesday, December 3rd, a special meeting of the committee of this body was called to consider how to deal with the present heavy call being made on their resources. While the income is being maintained at its ordinary level, owing to the economic position, the number of applicants for relief has grown too large to cope with, and all the reserves have been swallowed up. To this meeting a number of the leading citizens were invited to help in finding a solution. It is pleasing to report that a real concern in the problem was shown by all present, and eventually a special committee was appointed to consider ways and means and the holding of a "drive." A start was made there and then, resulting in over £400, of which Mr. L. Kramer contributed £200 and Mr. P. Policansky £100.

If the organisers set to with energy there is every expectation of raising several thousand pounds for this deserving cause.

## BNOTH ZION.

The women Zionists presented an excellent programme at a social held on the following Sunday, at the Zionist Hall. Unfortunately, the warmth of the weather militated against a large attendance.

Besides pleasing musical items and finished elocution from Miss Gesundheit, there were several speakers.

Miss G. Jaches read a thoughtful and well-written paper on "The Legend of the Blue and White." Mr. Ch. Hoffe, who has just returned from a health trip to Europe, and a long visit to Palestine, gave a stimulating little speech on what he had witnessed. He told the audience of his conviction that the Jew had established himself in Palestine and was building up a beautiful life there. Whatever hardship was to a great extent to be ascribed to the insufficient support of Jewry in the Goluth.

Mr. D. Dainow, our editor, who is down at the Cape on a well-earned holiday, with his headquarters at the bracing resort of Muizenberg, was also present, and said a few words at the invitation of the chairlady, Mrs. M. Zuckerman.

## THE GUILD.

On the following Wednesday, this society celebrated its first year of existence by an "at home" at the Railway Institute, where a large number of members and friends foregathered. An active and progressive year was reported by Mr. M. Rosen, the vice-president. Rev. A. Bender, the hon. patron, congratulated the committee on the useful work which the chairman's report disclosed. Tables were arranged about the hall, and guests enjoyed ample refreshment while being delighted with two excellently staged and performed sketches entitled, "The Test Kiss," and "Mollie and the Milliner."

Much hard work must have been put in by the members who took part, and the producer, Mr. Jack Zackon. Dancing rounded off a very enjoyable evening.

## OPERATIC CONCERT.

On Wednesday, the 10th, there was a crowded attendance of Jews and Gentiles at the City Hall, where an operatic concert was given by Mr. Joel Myerson. Mr. Myerson, who was enthusiastically received, was in fine voice in a wide range of classical selections. He was ably assisted by Miss Helen Chiappini in a number of songs and duets. Mr. Eli Marx played a group of interesting solos on the violin, while Mr. Victor Hely-Hutchinson accompanied very finely throughout. One was rather disappointed, however, that there were only one or two Jewish numbers, including that good old favourite, "Kol Nidrei." Sometimes I think that our non-Jewish friends must be under the impression that this piece is our whole musical stock-in-trade, as it is "trotted out" on every possible and impossible occasion. There is a certain café in town, in fact, which has introduced the custom of playing "Kol Nidrei" on Yom Kippur. In trying to account for this quaint, or even ludicrous practice, I am at a loss whether to put it down to the fact that the manager's finer religious feelings are shocked at the attendance of the Jewish patrons at his establishment on that day, so that he chooses this curious way of pricking their conscience, or whether he is adopting a subtle way of reminding his other clients of the reason for the absence of his best customers. But perhaps what he really intends is to pay a compliment to us, and thinking the season calls for something Jewish, orders the playing of the only piece he knows of.

But after all, we have some beautiful classics and folk-songs and I feel confident that they would win the appreciation of both the musicians and their audiences, if only they were made known and were locally procurable. This is a matter the Zionist Federation might well take up by making inquiries among overseas' publishing firms, and carrying a stock of attractive pieces. Given this facility, our large number of amateur musicians would surely eagerly take up real Jewish music, and the effect would be a very valuable one from every point of view.

## HERE AND THERE.

On Monday, of the previous week, a very large crowd of fellow Zionists and other friends was present at the station to say good-bye to Miss Rebecca Gitlin, M.A., who left for Palestine. Miss Gitlin has been a very keen worker in local young Zionist circles and has frequently given well-informed papers to the various societies. Her going to Palestine will be the satisfying of a great ambition, where her fluent Hebrew will give her especial facility in participating in the life there.

HASOFER.

IT'S RIGHT if it's



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