

FROM TOWN AND COUNTRY

From our own
Correspondents.

Contributors to these pages are kindly requested to study the need of brevity in their Reports. Furthermore, all contributions should be written on one side of the paper only, and for preference should be typed double spacing.

BETHLEHEM.

A special Chanukah service was held at the local synagogue on Sunday, the 14th ult. The service was conducted by Rev. M. Altshuler.

In the evening, a successful Chanukah celebration, organised by the ladies of the committee of the Hebrew Congregation, took place at the new Park Hotel.

After the school children had rendered songs in Hebrew and Yiddish, Rev. M. Altshuler delivered an address on "Judaism and Hellenism" which was highly appreciated.

The following then contributed to the evening's entertainment: Miss Ellen Aronowitz, Mrs. J. Jacobson, Miss Gwene Goldberg, Mrs. S. T. Meyers, Miss Rosie Menkowitz, Miss Yetta Kristal.

A bed-jacket made and donated by Mrs. H. Goldberg, was raffled, and realised £14, which will go towards the funds of the synagogue.

Thanks are due to Mesdames H. Goldberg, T. Levenstein, R. Tom, G. Tobias, E. Eisenberg and N. Shifrin for their strenuous work. Thanks are also due to Mr. and Mrs. S. T. Meyers for lending their dining hall.

GERMISTON.

There was a large gathering present at the Chanukah celebration held in the Synagogue Hall on Sunday. The evening commenced with the kindling of the lights by Rev. W. H. Wysheik, the whole gathering standing during the ceremony. The singing of *Maaz Zin* followed.

Addresses were delivered by Rev. W. H. Wysheik and Mr. Zvi Hareven, and the Young Israel chorus sang *Mizmor Shir Chanukath*. A rich and varied programme of Hebrew songs, recitations and Palestinian dances was then given by the scholars of the Talmud Torah, which was followed, after the interval, by items rendered by members of the Young Israel Society.

The dancing of Miss E. Zion and Miss L. Lipschitz was much admired, while the recitations by little Miss J. Huftel, Miss E. Melman and Miss T. Margolius evoked much applause. Especially good was the sketch of an old-fashioned Jewish lady by Miss M. Dunsky.

An "at home" at the residence of Mr. and Mrs. M. Huftel, in aid of the Wing Fund of the Jewish Orphanage, resulted in the sum of £21 being raised.

MIDDLEBURG (Tvl.).

On Sunday, the 4th inst., on the occasion of the *Bais Milah* of the son of Mr. and Mrs. S. Levin, Rev. W. Woolf the Mohel, collected £15 for the S.A. Jewish Orphanage. A bottle of champagne was presented by Mr. N. Brozin, auctioned by him, and bought by Mr. S. G. Gruschlawsky in the name of the child.

THEUNISSEN.

On Sunday evening, December 13th, a farewell social was given in honour of Mr. Herman Fuchs, who is about to take up permanent residence at Uitenhage. The function was under the auspices of the Zionist Society, and Mr. A. Epstein, on its behalf voiced the general feeling at the loss which the community in general and the Zionist Society in particular was sustaining. Mr. Fuchs had always been a devoted Zionist and had frequently shown his fervour in act and deed. He was one of their oldest residents, and his departure would sever close personal bonds. He wished him every success in his future abode. Mr. Kotzen, the hon. secretary of the Society, supported Mr. Epstein's remarks. An enjoyable dance followed, during which Mr. J. Braun proposed a toast to the health and future prosperity of their guest, the company receiving the proposal with acclamation and musical honours. In a brief response, Mr. Fuchs thanked the Society for the honour done him and also for the set of pipes which the president, Dr. A. Bernstein, had handed him on the Society's behalf. He would also watch their efforts for Zionism with the closest attention. Though sorry to lose contact with them, he would always be with them in spirit.

The chairman then thanked Mr. and Mrs. B. Cahl for the use of their hotel and the Ladies' Committee for providing refreshments.

VENTERSDORP.

A Chanukah social was held by the Zionist Society at the residence of Mr. and Mrs. A. Friedman, Plein Street, on Thursday, the 18th December. This was the first function given by the Society since its inauguration. The attendance was very good, and the proceedings went with a swing.

After the candles were lit by Rev. Marks, the social was duly opened by Mr. S. Brasch, the chairman of the Society, and thereafter "Hatikvah" was played by the Mooi River Orchestra. An address was delivered by Rev. Marks, in which he remarked upon the general significance of Chanukah and gave a résumé of the sterling deeds which led to the celebration of this Jewish festival.

A musical programme was then given, the items of which consisted as follows: Miss Judith Cohen, Eastern dance; Misses M. Sher and M. Shakinofsky (visitors from Potchefstroom), violin and piano duet; Miss Celia Newman, song (Schubert's "An die Musik"). The article, "What is Chanukah?" in the *Zionist Record* of the 12th December, was then read by Dr. L. I. Myerson, and closely followed by all present.

Dancing was then indulged in, and refreshments served. *Hatikvah* was once more rendered at the conclusion of the proceedings, which lasted for nearly four hours. The thanks of the Society are mainly due to Mr. and Mrs. A. Friedman, for so kindly giving the loan of their residence, Mr. and Mrs. N. Sher, and Miss G. Levitan, to whose tireless energy and efforts the social was such a success, and also to those ladies who gave their aid.

VEREENIGING.

On Thursday evening, 18th ult., Mr. D. Mierowsky, Director of Education, addressed a public meeting of the Vereeniging community, under the chairmanship of Councillor Klaff.

In the course of an address which lasted about one and a half hours, Mr. Mierowsky described the parlous condition of Jewish education in South Africa. He dwelt at some length on the numerous obstacles in the way of Jewish education, and particularly on the apathy and indifference on the part of parents towards the Jewish education of their children. After enumerating the various remedies proposed by the Board of Jewish Education for an improvement in the condition of education, he spoke of the supreme importance of Jewish culture for the maintenance and development of Jewish life on this sub-continent.

In the course of his address, he made a powerful appeal to the Jewish women to help in the work of Jewish education in the area. A portion of Mr. Mierowsky's address was devoted to the tasks that confront the members of the Young Israel movement.

Mr. Mierowsky's address was listened to with deep interest, and the thanks of the audience were conveyed to him by Mr. Berkowitz, past Mayor of Vereeniging.

At the conclusion of the address, the visitor dealt with a number of questions which were put to him, and a most inspiring evening was finished by the serving of refreshments and an impromptu dance.

VOLKSRUST.

Sunday, December 14th, was a red letter day for the local community. It was Shekel Day and the record number of 57 shekolim were disposed of by the Misses Essie Berman and Betty Stock; this leaves far in the shade last year's figure of 40 shekel-payers, which was itself a record.

During the morning an examination of the Hebrew Schools took place, and the prizes were presented by Mr. Baigel.

In the afternoon a Chanukah concert was given, organised by Rev. Bitzik and his pupils, which proved a great success. The candles were lit by Master S. Levy, who was accompanied by the choir. Beverly Mannheim, Freddie Lazarus, Thelma Rafel, and Morice Berman recited; the choir sang Hebrew and Jewish songs; and a Hebrew sketch, which was much appreciated by all, was given by Masters Sidelsky, Lazarus, Levy and Leites. The President of the community, Mr. S. Berman, on behalf of his Committee, thanked Rev. Bitzik for his zealous work with the children, and the singing of *Hatikvah* terminated the concert.

In the evening the whole community was the guest of the President at his residence, and a substantial sum was collected towards Paroches.