

S.A. Board of Jewish Education.

Transvaal Communities Visited by Mr. W. Rybko.

STANDERTON.

Mr. W. Rybko, the official instructor and propagandist of the South African Board of Jewish Education, recently visited Standerton for a few days in the interests of Jewish education.

On his arrival on Friday, October 23rd, Mr. Rybko was met at the station by the president and secretary of the Standerton Hebrew Congregation, Messrs. S. Dison and S. Seigel, and by Rev. and Mrs. A. K. Coblentz, whose guest he was during his stay.

On the Sunday Mr. Rybko examined the local Hebrew classes and delivered a brief address to the children. That evening a representative gathering of local Jewry listened with very great interest and attention to an illuminating address delivered by Mr. Rybko on the aims and aspirations of the Board of Jewish Education. The meeting, under the chairmanship of Mr. S. Dison, was unanimous in expressing the view that the functions of the Board would prove of utmost value to the Jewish youth of South Africa, and it decided that the Standerton Hebrew Congregation become affiliated to the Board and subscribe a sum of £10 10s. The chairman expressed his thanks to Mr. Rybko for his interesting address, and wished the Board every success in its laudable projects.

The Standerton Young Israel Society also were given the opportunity of hearing Mr. Rybko at a gathering arranged on the evening of the 26th ult. The subject of the address delivered dealt with Jewish education and Jewish culture, and the speaker created an impression of awakening interest in the young people. It was gratifying to note the attendance of several of the older members of the congregation at this meeting. Mrs. S. Dison, president of the society, was in the chair.

VOLKSRUST AND WAKKERSTROOM.

Proceeding to these centres, Mr. Rybko was met by the President of the Congregation, Mr. S. Berman, on arrival on Tuesday, October 27th, and the same evening addressed a crowded meeting under Mr. Berman's chairmanship. The meeting proved a great success, and one and all greatly appreciated Mr. Rybko's address.

Next morning Mr. Rybko went over to Wakkerstroom and addressed a meeting at the residence of Mr. D. Reiff, being the guest of Mr. and Mrs. Hyton during his brief stay. Returning to Volksrust he addressed another meeting, this time of the young people, Mr. S. Leites presiding. Owing to the illness of the Minister there was no opportunity for Mr. Rybko to examine the children's classes during his stay.

VRYHEID.

At this centre, Mr. Rybko's next point of call, he was met on arrival on Friday, October 30th, by Rev. Orenstein. The following Sunday he examined the Hebrew classes and the same evening addressed a mass meeting of the community in the Synagogue, Mr. A. Levy, President of the Congregation, being in the chair. Mr. Rybko's eloquent address of some two hours' duration on Jewish education, Zionism and Jewish nationalism was greatly appreciated and enjoyed.

Next day, Monday, November 2nd, Mr. Rybko conferred with the committee of the Young Israel Society on a number of important activities. As a result it was decided to hold a series of fortnightly functions, also that Young Israel take over the work of the National Fund in Vryheid. Cordial thanks are due to Rev. Orenstein and Mr. Kopman for their assistance to Mr. Rybko during his stay.

PIET RETIEF.

Arriving here on Wednesday, November 4th, Mr. Rybko was met by the Secretary of the Hebrew Congregation, Mr. B. Werner, and Rev. J. L. Rade. The afternoon was devoted to examining the children, who are under Mr. Rade's charge. After the examination, Mr. Rybko gave a talk to the children, describing his visits to other centres and expressing his pleasure at the great progress made in Piet Retief and his hope that within a very short period the children may be able to use their Hebrew as a living language.

Next evening practically the whole community was present at a social evening at the residence of Mr. Jacob Werner when Mr. Rybko gave an interesting and stimulating address on Hebrew education. Following his address several other able speakers, including Dr. Baranov, Dr. Peskin and Mr. J. Werner gave their views on modern education. The very pleasant evening only terminated at midnight.

Mr. Rybko was the guest of Mr. Jacob Werner during his stay, while he also enjoyed the kind hospitality of Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Measroch and Rev. J. L. Rade.

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Shumsky's Violin Recital.

A Boy Genius of the Violin.

There can be no doubt of the genius of Oskar Shumsky, the 13-year-old violinist, who gave his first recital at the Johannesburg City Hall on Sunday evening last. Although in his early teens, this young artist played some of the most difficult of compositions with an ease that was almost startling. His first note on the violin indicated the possession of a remarkably clear tone, which was kept up throughout his recitals during the evening. A rich mellowness of tonal beauty is the main quality of Shumsky's playing, and his memorising and mature ability are things to be wondered at in so young a player.

Shumsky can already be reckoned with as a genius of the violin and he strikes the auditor as a player who is likely to progress as he grows older. There is an earnestness about the lad which unhesitatingly indicates his great future as one of the world's greatest violin players.

A word must be said about the splendid piano accompaniment of Mr. Alex Cherniavsky. Young Shumsky was fortunate in securing the co-operation of one who is the accompanist *par excellence*.

Shumsky appeared last evening at a concert which further enhanced his reputation. He is to give a most interesting programme at the City Hall on Sunday evening next.

D.

A Ten-Year-Old Pianist.

The Talent of Elsie Todes.

Remarkable musical talent was displayed by a young 10-year-old pianist, Elsie Todes, at a pianoforte recital given by her in the Mayfair Academy of Music on Monday night before a large audience. The young musician played a programme ranging from Bach, through Rameau, Chopin and Beethoven to MacDowell's Hexentanz with unusual technical surety and with notable musical insight. So impressed was the audience at the achievement of this diminutive young player, sitting before a full-sized concert Grand Steinway, that she was compelled to add two extra numbers.

The young recitalist was assisted by Miss Florence Hewson (soprano) and Mr. Wilfred Hutchings (bass). Elsie Todes is a pupil of Miss Betty Swirsky.