

"The Jewish Mind"

Lecture by Rabbi Dr. M. Romm.

THE essential quality of the Jewish mind is monotheism—the unity of God," declared Rabbi Dr. M. Romm, when speaking on "Jewish Culture" at the monthly meeting of the Union of Jewish Women held recently in Bloemfontein.

It was on account of this that there was concentrated in the Jewish mind a synthesis of all that was good. It was such thought which had influenced mankind and made modern civilisation possible.

Dr. Romm further expressed the opinion that civilisation was in fact Jewish culture, because the synthetic Jewish mind had recognised that moral principles and not physical laws governed humanity.

Accusations that the quality of the Jewish mind was quantitative were historically disproved. The building of the Temple had required the sacrifice of many possessions, and to-day Palestine stood as a fine example of the small value placed upon materialism.

Amongst those present at the lecture, over which Mrs. L. Shtein presided, were Mr. J. Gesundheit, of Tel-Aviv (who gave a short talk on present-day Palestine), and Mr. and Mrs. David Vardi.

A vote of thanks to the lecturer was proposed by Mr. Albert Abelson.

Pretoria Women's Zionist League

An enjoyable afternoon was spent by a large gathering at the Pretoria Women's Zionist League's "At Home," which was held on Thursday, the 15th inst., at the Memorial Hall.

Mrs. Ravid, the chairlady, welcomed the speaker of the afternoon, Mr. J. Friedman, whose lecture on "Lion Feuchtwanger—Jew and Artist," proved most interesting, and was enthusiastically received by all present.

Mrs. S. Sussman delighted the audience with her charming singing.

A hearty vote of thanks to the speaker and artist was passed by Mrs. Braenach.

The hostesses for the afternoon were Mesdames D. Sliom, E. Kaplan, S. Friedman and E. Braenach.

Balfour Anniversary at Kroonstad

The programme for the celebration of the 17th anniversary of the Balfour Declaration arranged by the Kroonstad Zionist Society on Sunday, 11th inst., attracted one of the largest gatherings of the community seen in recent times. Mr. S. Kaplan, Chairman of the Society, presided, and the meeting was addressed by Mr. S. Sapire, of the South African Zionist Youth Council, who, after speaking of the significance of the Balfour Declaration, concluded with an appeal to the younger set to identify themselves more closely with Zionist youth work in South Africa. Unexpected but very welcome speakers were David Vardi and Eva Yoalit, whose travels happened to bring them to Kroonstad a day or two earlier. Both were keenly listened to, and the former especially, with his whimsical expressions, showed how the national consciousness of the Jewish people was reviving. Much appreciated items were contributed by the Misses Goldblatt, Jacobson and Rabinowitz, and after the speakers had been thanked by Mr. Nieman and Hatikvah had been sung, the hall was given over to the young people for dancing. Encouraged by the success of the evening, the Kroonstad Zionist Society should lose no time in making similar arrangements to bring Kroonstad Jewry together again in such a strong Zionist atmosphere.

OBITUARY

THE REV. L. ORNSTEIN.

THE Gwelo Jewish community suffered a deep loss recently in the passing of the Rev. L. Ornstein, who had been minister to the congregation for the last twelve years.

The late Rev. Ornstein, who was 65 years of age, was a fine Hebrew scholar, and his passing will leave a gap in the Jewish life of the Midlands which will be extremely difficult to replace.

The funeral was preceded by a special service at the Synagogue, with the Scrolls of the Law held at the head of the coffin. Rabbi Nevjasky, of Que-Que, officiated at the service and at the cemetery. The whole of the late Rev. Ornstein's congregation was present at the funeral, and also the Rev. W. W. Hitchings, Dr. Ingle, Mr. J. Antoniadis and Mr. Stoffberg.

The late Rev. Ornstein leaves a widow and six children, at present resident in the United States, to mourn their loss.

Mr. V. M. ASCHMAN.

The death occurred recently of Mr. Victor Moritz Aschman, eldest son of Mrs. M. J. Aschman, of Sea Point, at the age of 36. Mr. Aschman, who was the assistant manager of the Pinelands Garden City, collapsed suddenly during a cricket practice, and died shortly afterwards of heart failure.

The late Mr. Aschman was extremely popular, and was closely associated with several cricket clubs in the Cape. Some years ago when he lived at Oudtshoorn, Mr. Aschman was a prominent member of that town's cricket club, and was also capped for the South-Western Districts at cricket.

The funeral took place at the Maitland Cemetery, the services being conducted by Rev. A. P. Bender, and Cantor L. Kirschner. Mr. Bender paid fine tribute to the character of the late Mr. Aschman, who, he said, had been imbued with a strong spirit of loyalty to his race and to South Africa. Representatives of many Peninsula sporting organisations and Jewish associations were present, and Mr. Bender expressed on behalf of those present his sincerest sympathy to the late Mr. Aschman's mother, brothers and sisters on their sad loss. The chief mourners were Messrs. Len Aschman, George Aschman and Frank Aschman (brothers), and Mr. B. Aschman (cousin).

ASSOCIATION OF JEWISH GROUPS.

THE newly elected council of the above association in Johannesburg held its first meeting of the year at the residence of Mrs. Olga Guinsberg, the chairlady, on Thursday, the 15th inst.

Plans were made for a year of active work, and schemes were devised for the formation of new groups in order to accommodate all who wish to join. The honorary secretary is Miss M. Segil, of 51 Soper Road, Berea, to whom enquiries may be addressed.

"BLOSSOM TIME" AT THE COLOSSEUM

Music plays a large part in the production "Blossom Time" which is showing at the Colosseum. The story is the new version of the life of Franz Schubert, and the film presents in the star role, the world-famous tenor, Richard Tauber, who bears a most remarkable resemblance to the famous composer. The picture is also noteworthy for the excellence of the plot and the tuneful melodies cannot fail to please all those who witness the film. June Baxter, Carl Esmond and Athene Seyler play the supporting roles in "Blossom Time."

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