

FROM TOWN AND COUNTRY.

News of Jewish Activities Throughout South Africa

(From Our Own Correspondents)

Bethlehem

There was a fairly well attended meeting of Bethlehem Zionists on Monday, March 28, when Mr. Edgar Bernstein, of the "Zionist Record," paid a visit to this important Free State centre. He was accompanied by Mrs. Bernstein and by Mr. Jack Dwoletzky, chairman of the Senekal Zionist Society, and Mrs. Dwoletzky. The meeting, which was held in the Park Hotel, was presided over by Mr. W. Kaplan, chairman of the Zionist Society and of the Hebrew Congregation, who introduced the speakers.

Mr. Dwoletzky briefly addressed the meeting, taking as his theme the necessity for close unity within the ranks of Zionism. Thereafter Mr. Bernstein delivered an address on "Jews in a Muddled World." He briefly reviewed the position of Jews in the various countries of the world, particularly in relation to the increase of anti-Semitic feeling prompted by economic chauvinism of the Nazi type. In this situation, Zionism gave the only dignified reply. Despite circumstances, there was no justification for a gloomy outlook. The revitalising force of Zionism would carry Jews through the muddled world of to-day.

Mr. Bernstein replied to a number of questions from the audience, particularly in regard to Mr. Jabotinsky's visit to South Africa. He drew attention to Professor Brodetsky's statement that chairs were waiting for the Revisionists at the Zionist Congress and the onus therefore rested upon the Revisionists to return to Congress.

Rev. H. Lidven proposed a vote of thanks to the speakers, which was seconded by Mr. P. Seligson, vice-chairman of the Hebrew Congregation. The chairman expressed the gratitude of the meeting to Mr. and Mrs. T. Myers, proprietors of the hotel, for the accommodation they had kindly provided.

On their arrival, the visitors were welcomed by Mr. and Mrs. N. W. Kaplan, at whose home they were entertained to dinner. After the meeting Mr. and Mrs. Kaplan entertained them to tea.

On the 14th of March a pleasant social evening was held at the Royal Hotel in honour of Mrs. R. Rom, who is going on a six months' tour abroad. Mr. N. W. Kaplan, chairman of the Hebrew Congregation, presented Mrs. Rom with a gift from the community as a token of their appreciation for her sterling services, and in a brief speech conveyed to her the good wishes of the community.

Thanks were expressed to the artists who rendered musical items during the evening, and to Mr. and Mrs. J. Resnik, the proprietors of the Royal Hotel, for their kind hospitality.

Boksburg

The Boksburg Hatechiya Association held a "Third Seder Night" on the 4th inst. in the Talmud Torah Hall. A large gathering was present. Miss S. Saretzky, the chair-lady, opened the evening and Messrs. I. Alter, H. L. Stonefield and the Misses M. Shapiro and H. Plett asked the "Kashes." Rev. J. Chaitowitz, Messrs. Blank (Johannesburg), S. C. Ostrofsky (Benoni), M. Sewitz (Johannesburg), ably replied in short interesting speeches. Songs were rendered by Rev. Chaitowitz and Rev. M. D. Klaff.

Mr. A. J. Saretzky proposed a vote of thanks to the speakers and to the Hatechiya of Boksburg and Boksburg North.

East London

The amount of £2 14s. was raised for the Jewish National Fund by the East London Jewish Women's Zionist League at a card afternoon which took place at the Clarendon Hotel on March 18.

The first sewing meeting of the local Women's Zionist League took place in October last year, at which Mrs. Abelman read an original paper on Zionist work and aspiration. Weekly sewing meetings have now been instituted. At these meetings the news bulletin and cultural papers are read.

Mrs. J. Fredman addressed a meeting in December on Women's Work in Palestine, which was greatly appreciated. In February, Mrs. Dr. Landau addressed a very well attended meeting of the Jewish women of East London.

In August, 1936, a card afternoon was held at which an amount of £1 18s. was raised for the J.N.F.

Nigel

At the annual general meeting of the local Zionist Society held on the 4th inst., the following honorary officers were elected:

Chairman, Mr. M. J. Plen; vice-chairman, Mrs. N. Gamsu; joint hon. secretaries and Treasurers, Mrs. H. Plen and Mrs. L. Goodman. Committee: Mrs. Bonner, Mr. Judaiken, Mr. M. Lowenstein, Dr. Meyers, Mr. P. Nochum, Mrs. Aronsohn, Mrs. Rosenthal, Miss B. Lusstgarten.

Middelburg (Tvl.)

Mrs. N. Brozin, the hon. secretary of the local branch of the S.A. Jewish Orphanage, has forwarded to that institution the sum of £2 5s. being subscription collections from local members kindly made by Mrs. M. Birman.

Pietersburg

A DELEGATION from the S.A. Jewish Orphanage Committee, consisting of Mr. B. Moss Morris, Hon. President, Mr. L. Hochstadter, Hon. Treasurer, Mr. A. Ullmann, Trustee, and Mr. J. M. Hellmann, Chairman of the Propaganda Committee, visited the Pietersburg branch of the Orphanage on the 20th and 21st ult.

The delegation met the committee of the local branch at an informal meeting at the residence of the local chairman, Mrs. B. Herman, and discussed matters of importance. The chairman, Mrs. B. Herman, welcomed the delegation and expressed appreciation at their presence, calling up the Hon. President, Mr. B. Moss Morris, to speak on the work of the S.A. Jewish Orphanage.

Mr. Moss Morris explained that the actual running of the Orphanage was not the only work done by the committee. They were also concerned with making useful citizens of every child who passed through their hands. They had been informed that the Orphanage housed few actual orphans, but the question of destitute and abandoned children was of increasing importance and the necessity for the care of these children had to be dealt with. The rehabilitation of the family idea was also part of their work, and they had a mothers' pension scheme involving the payment of over £200 a month to destitute parents to enable them to keep their children in their own homes. The After Care Department entailed a tremendous amount of thought and work and, thanks to the efforts of Mr. Edwin Cohn and his committee, was functioning successfully. At present there were no cases of children being out of work; all were in good positions affording them the promise of future advancement.

Efforts would be made in the near future to meet the growing need for a Babies Home. The upkeep and maintenance of the Orphanage, with all its various sectional activities, involved an enormous expense, and the committee looked to all branches to assist the Orphanage Committee in their efforts to meet the needs of these South African Jewish children.

Mr. L. Hochstadter, the Hon. Treasurer, drew attention to the fact that it required £15,000 a year to maintain this institution, catering as they did for the needs of all South Africa, with the exception of the Cape. He explained the Endowment of Beds Scheme and drew attention to the generous support given by the public to the "gifts in kind" section. Mr. Hochstadter referred to the efforts of the Pietersburg Branch in the past and looked forward to increased contributions from them in the future.

Mrs. Herman thanked the speakers and hoped they would be successful.



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