

## In and Around the Peninsula.

### Lecture by Mr. Z. Avin.

On Tuesday evening, 16th inst., Mr. Z. Avin lectured to the Hebrew Circle at the Zionist Hall on "From Mendele to Shalom Asch."

Mr. A. Levin, the President, in his opening address, said that it was our concern to discover the character and value of the new Jewish literature, which was different from the older, but it would be premature to state that the difference was essentially a sign of progress.

One value of the modern Jewish literature with which the lecturer was going to deal was its recalling to mind the immediate past, which while still vivid in the minds of the older generation, was in great measure strange to the younger. The trouble was that the latter could not, or would not, find the time to read, or read hurriedly without gaining insight into the author's mind.

Mr. Avin spoke of the crisis which reigns in Hebrew literature to-day. There is a lack of classical writers just now when our literature can least dispense with their aid. The works published have been a means of widening and improving the old road rather than an extension of it.

The author's true function is to provide his readers with vision, to give them matter for thought, and to point the right way towards a definite goal. The inspired writer can express feelings by means of words which he uses as arrows to pierce his reader's heart.

The lecturer attributed the scarcity of good books and the difficulty of creating a modern Hebrew classical literature to the grandeur of the Bible and the works of the Ga-onim which make later writings insignificant in comparison. The literature which is being created to-day is not so much a Jewish literature as a literature in the Jewish language.

The first to pave the road for the new Jewish literature was Mendele Mocher Sefarim, but he saw his characters through dun-coloured spectacles with the result that the modern reader has not the patience to read him.

Yehudah Leib Gordon's "Jewish Women" is a work of art but prejudiced.

Mapu in his "Ahavath Zion" proved himself a true follower of the Bible, but his later work does not show the artist's skill that Mendele's work does.

Sholom Aleichem portrays the psychological aspect of the Jewish mind and has given us "Tevia der Milchiger" besides "Menahem Mendel." He it was who erected the second milestone on the path of Jewish literature. The third one was placed on the road by J. L. Peretz, who cast aside the body and occupied himself with analysing the soul. He is a master artist. His work, like

Shakespeare's "Hamlet" and Goethe's "Faust," have the some universal, all-embracing appeal as the Bible. He gave the lie to the idea that the Jew is merely a realist without any feeling for mysticism or phantasy.

Peretz's disciple is Shalom Asch, the difference between him and his teacher being that Peretz is silent, letting his characters talk, whereas Asch is afraid of profaning his characters' sanctity by breaking their silence and talks for them. He is a sceptic as shown in "The Strict Watchman."

Mr. Avin also touched on the works of Nomberg. On the whole he considered Yiddish literature as the "hamlet" type. He then went on to tell of the argument between Berdichefsky and Ahad Ha-am concerning the necessity for the creation among us of a literature such as other nations have, and explained that in Eretz Yisrael a new road for modern Jewish youth was being opened up.

After some discussion in which Messrs. G. Telem and A. Levin took part the meeting closed.

### The Zionist Conversazione.

A very successful conversazione was held in the Zionist Hall on Tuesday evening last, some fifty to sixty persons being present. Mr. and Mrs. L. Burman were to have acted as host and hostess but owing to an indisposition on the part of the former, Mr. H. M. Bloch presided over the gathering.

Mr. Getz read the Jewish news of the week after which Miss Fanny Gurland recited a speech from Euripides' "Trojan Women," and on being enthusiastically encored, a short humorous sketch.

The main feature of the evening, which was a discussion on the question of Jewish

students, was then begun. It was initiated by Dr. J. Mibashan, who is at present in Cape Town on a short holiday and to whom, as to Mrs. Mibashan, who was also present, Mr. Bloch, in his introductory remarks, extended a hearty welcome. Mr. Bloch also welcomed Mr. D. Cohen, who is on a short visit to Cape Town.

In his address Dr. Mibashan attempted to answer three essential questions—what has Judaism and the Jewish people given to the Jewish student, what has the Jewish student given to Judaism, and has the Jewish student done his duty to his nation and national spiritual treasures?

In answer to the first question the speaker pointed out that Judaism had given the Jewish student the right to call his own the oldest, most highly cultured race in existence, and to be a co-operator in a civilisation which had survived with lasting positive results to human happiness and the progress of the world.

The Galuth, that calamity to Jewry, was in a way a blessing in disguise, for in the dark underground cellars in the Eastern European homes Hebrew culture had flourished whilst the storms of persecutions had raged furiously without. It was in such cellars that the most learned students had been found. To-day we did not have this type of student but the University student who was not so keen on learning as such but as a means to an end.

In answer to the second question Dr. Mibashan recalled that it was the Bilu—a few hundred students of the Universities of Kiev, Odessa and Kharkov—who had hoisted the Zionist flag in 1882, pilgrimaged to Palestine and founded the first colony there. He mentioned the work of other East European students in spreading the principles of Zionism and in sacrificing themselves in the Zionist cause. To-day the situation had changed. In Eastern Europe the student was passing through a crisis. His bread and butter existence was imperilled, his spiritual and mental life hindered by such things as a numerous clausus, anti-Semitic agitations, etc. In Western Europe the student was more favoured economically and politically and was too happy to be a good Jew. He feared that Zionism and his patriotism were incompatible.

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In replying to the third question Dr. Mibashan dealt particularly with the South African student whose lack of interest in Zionism and communal affairs generally he deplored. The people had a right to turn to the student for guidance and leadership. He earnestly trusted that the Jewish student of South Africa would not fail in his obligations.

Messrs. D. Getz, M. Joffe, M. Wolozinsky, Rubik, S. Hurwitz, Z. Avin and B. Mirvish participated in the discussion which followed. The function was brought to a close with the singing of Hatikvah.

**Farewell to Mr. Melach Ravicz.**

On Saturday evening, 20th June, a farewell concert and banquet was given to Mr. Melach Ravicz at the Minor Zionist Hall by the Melach Ravicz Committee. There was a satisfactory and enthusiastic attendance. The major portion of the programme was devoted to musical items. Miss Jessie Zuckerman rendered several bright pianoforte solos. Mr. Ralph Koorland (accompanied by his brother) gave a number of violin solos. Mr. Boris Rome delighted the gathering with his Yiddish folk songs, and Miss Paula Cosay gave charming renderings of several popular Yiddish songs.

Mr. Morris Alexander, K.C., was in the chair, and at the outset spoke briefly on Mr. Ravicz's mission in South Africa.

Mr. Ravicz, after reciting one of his poems, spoke on the Jewish Folk Schools in Poland and Lithuania.

**Oneg Shabbos Concert.**

There was a fairly large audience at the annual Oneg Shabbos concert held in the Zionist Hall on Sunday evening last. The programme was a very attractive one and was immensely enjoyed by those present.

Those who contributed items were Miss Jessie Zuckerman, who needs no introduction as a pianoforte player of very great ability, Mr. Boris Rome, who has also delighted Cape Town audiences with his singing on numerous occasions, Mr. M. Natas, whose recitation was as homorous as ever, and Mrs. B. Hammerman who also won much applause with her reciting. A violin solo by Mr. Koorland was very much appreciated whilst the sketch, "Oneg Shabbos" in which Messrs. Losman and Reubeni took part, was most successfully staged. Miss Paula Cosay sang delightfully. Other items were a recitation by Mr. Asher, a monologue by Mr. Laden and a recitation by Mr. Losman.

A most successful concert was brought to a close with the singing of Hatikvah and God Save the King.

**Judean Central Council.**

On Sunday, 21st inst., a fairly well attended meeting of the above Council took place in the Zionist Hall.

The Chairman's report revealed that a fair amount of work had been accomplished by the Executive and the various sub-committees since the last Council meeting. The Treasurer delivered his monthly statement which was followed by the 1930 Young Israel Ball Report, both being adopted after short discussion.

What might be considered an innovation was introduced at this meeting. In order to enhance the interest at Council meetings the Executive decided to institute a series

of short lecturettes on Young Israel topics to be delivered at each Council meeting. The first of these was delivered on Sunday morning by Mr. M. Horwitz, President of the South African Young Israel Federation, who spoke on Young Israel Problems with special reference to the relations of the Junior with the Senior Federation.

On Sunday evening Mr. E. Kluk visited, on behalf of the Executive, the Wynberg and Claremont Junior Zionist Society and lectured to them on "Trumpeldor, the Jewish National Hero."

**Oneg Shabbos.**

Mr. Z. Avin will be the speaker at the Oneg Shabbos to be held in the Zionist Hall to-morrow afternoon. The subject of Mr. Avin's address will be "The Mystery of Jewish Existence."

**Eisteddfod Successes.**

The Jewish successes obtained in the S.A. Eisteddfod this week are as follows:—

Class 120a.—(Character national dancing—under 6): Ruth Sheila Shapiro, bronze medal (tied).

Class 127.—(Demi-character dancing—over 16): Mavis Harris, bronze.

Class 129.—(Eastern dancing—over 16): Mavis Harris, bronze.

Class 123.—(Character national dancing—over 16): Stanley Ernest Victor Kramer, silver.

Class 113.—(Operatic dancing—under 12): Beryl Kay, gold (tied); Doreen Nathan, silver; Ray Kirsch, bronze.

Class 117.—(Classical dancing—under 12): Beryl Kay and Doreen Nathan, gold; Ray Kirsch, silver (tied).

Class 113.—(Classical dancing—under 16): Doreen Nathan, silver.

Class 121.—(Character national dancing—under 12): Freda Fernandez, gold (tied); Beryl Kay, bronze (tied).

Class 125.—(Demi-Character dancing—under 12): Doreen Nathan, gold; Beryl Kay, silver (tied).

Class 126.—(Demi-character dancing—under 16): Doreen Nathan, gold (tied).

**Lecture by Miss Ben-Arie.**

On Wednesday evening, 1st July, Miss N. Ben-Arie will lecture on "Bible Stories and their Influence on the Jewish Child" at the Zionist Hall. The lecture will be given under the auspices of the Cape Town Hebrew Circle.

**Assisting the Board of Guardians.**

On Wednesday afternoon of this week an invitation by the Executive of the Cape Jewish Board of Guardians and Rev. A. P. Bender was extended to a number of ladies to tea at the Hotel Assembly. The purpose of the gathering was to put before the ladies the urgent needs of the Board and to seek their co-operation in finding ways and means of inaugurating some movement to furnish the Board with the resources that are indispensable to it if it is to continue carrying out its many-sided philanthropic activities.

There was a small but representative gathering of ladies present to whom Mr. I. J. Honikman, the President, at the outset extended a welcome. He quoted figures showing how the work of the Board had increased and how necessary was the assistance of the ladies.

Rev. A. P. Bender gave a short address, stating he had no doubt that if the Jewish

ladies of this town worked as he knew they could, they would be able to do a great deal towards increasing the revenue of the Board.

Various suggestions were put forward by those present among them being Mrs. P. M. Clouts, Mrs. Frankal, Mrs. M. Smollan and Mrs. M. Gurland.

At the commencement it was decided to develop the present efforts of the Committee in making new subscribers to the Board, all present promising to assist.

**Address by Dr. Mibashan.**

Dr. J. Mibashan will lecture to the Bnoth Zion Association at the Zionist Hall on Thursday, 2nd July, at 3.15 p.m. All are invited.

**Social Items.**

Rev. A. T. Shrock, B.A., arrived in Cape Town on Monday last by the s.s. "Warwick Castle." Mr. Shrock, who has received his minister's certificate from Jews' College in London, will be inducted as minister of the Yeoville Synagogue, Johannesburg, on Sunday, July 5th.

On Wednesday, 24th inst., Mr. Shrock was married to Miss Milly Shachet, of Robertson, Cape.

The marriage took place at the Ceres Synagogue on Sunday evening last of Miriam, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. H. Hurwitz, of Ceres, to Jack, son of Mr. and Mrs. S. Diamond, of Gouda.

Congratulations are being extended to Mr. and Mrs. I. Abrahamson on the birth of a daughter.

Miss Helena Hersman and Miss R. Goldin left on Tuesday for Durban on a holiday.

Advocate D. Cohen, of Kimberley, arrived in Cape Town this week on a short visit to his parents. He leaves for Kimberley again during the week-end.

Mrs. L. Gradner and daughter left on Tuesday for Oudtshoorn on a short holiday.

The marriage takes place in the Raleigh Street Synagogue, Port Elizabeth, on Wednesday morning, 1st July, of Dr. J. A. Tarlie, of Port Elizabeth, formerly of Wynberg, Cape, to Miss Fanny Waldman, of Somerset East. Dr. Tarlie is well known to many in the Peninsula for his very active interest in the Youth Movement some years back. His services on the S.A. Young Israel Federation and on the S.J.A. of the Cape Town University were particularly noteworthy.

Mr. and Mrs. D. Nelson, of Paarl, have received news that their son, Dr. Harry Nelson, who is at present at the Dublin University, has passed the M.A. and D.Ph. degrees, with first places and honours, and that he has been awarded the Derenzi Prize.

The wedding takes place in the Great Synagogue on Tuesday evening, 30th inst. of Connie, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Woolf Harris, of Cape Town, to Isidore Isaacson, son of Mr. and Mrs. S. Isaacson, also of Cape Town. A reception will subsequently be held in the City Hall.