

In and Around the Peninsula.

Local Hebraists Organise.

It will be remembered that in July of this year we published an announcement to the effect that at a conference of Hebraists from various European countries, America and Palestine, held in Berlin, a Hebraist World Organisation had been formed. Its aim was "to reinfuse the Diaspora with Hebrew language and culture, with Hebrew education and literature."

A movement has now been started to form a branch of this World Organisation in Cape Town. A meeting, convened by Dr. S. E. Kark, Messrs. J. Gitlin and A. Levin was held in the Zionist Hall on Tuesday night last and was well attended.

Dr. Kark presided and in his opening remarks (in Hebrew) dwelt upon the importance of forming such a branch in Cape Town. He was followed by Mr. Levin, who spoke about the Berlin Congress, and called upon those present to assist in the important work of the Association, the main object of which is to spread the knowledge of Judaism in general and that of the Hebrew language and literature in particular.

After a discussion it was unanimously decided to form such a branch in Cape Town, and all present immediately enrolled themselves as members.

The meeting then proceeded to elect a committee, the result of which was as follows: B. L. Rubik (Chairman), Dr. S. E. Kark (Vice-Chairman), J. Gitlin (Treasurer), C. H. Achron (Secretary), M. Gurland, A. Levin, Z. Avin, J. Rubik and G. Telem.

It is intended to make this a popular movement and the subscription has accordingly been fixed at 5s. per annum, making it possible for every Jew and Jewess, young and old alike, to join the movement.

A detailed plan of the Association's future activities will be published shortly.

The Talmud Torah.

Elsewhere in this issue we publish a summary of the annual report of the Talmud Torah (United Hebrew Schools). The report reveals that the financial situation of the Schools has been a critical one during the past year and that this situation is as yet very little improved.

We have on more than one occasion dealt with the necessity of supporting the work of Jewish education, and of the excellent work in this direction that is being performed by the Talmud Torah. It is, therefore, more than regrettable that this institution should have to suffer through a lack of support from the Community.

On Wednesday, 25th inst., the Annual Ball in aid of the Talmud Torah is being held in the City Hall. This function provides an excellent opportunity for local Jewry to demonstrate its interest in the question of Jewish education, and to assist very materially a most deserving institution. Those who attend the Ball are assured of a very

enjoyable evening, for the committee are devoting a great deal of time and energy towards making it a success, whilst it is hoped that those who do not attend will make use in some other way of the tickets that have been sent them, rather than return them to the Committee.

The Annual General Meeting of the Talmud Torah is being held in the Old Synagogue on Sunday morning, 22nd inst., and it is trusted that in view of the serious position of the Institution, members will make it convenient to be present.

For the Talmud Torah.

A card and social evening in aid of the Talmud Torah was held on Sunday evening, the 15th inst., at the residence of Mrs. A. Cohen, 27, Camp Street, Cape Town. The function, which proved a social and financial success, was organised by Mrs. Leon Sacks, Mrs. A. Cohen, Mrs. N. Lazarus and Mrs. J. Benson.

In spite of the very great heat, there was a large gathering present, and an amount of over £30 was realised for the fund.

Oneg Shabbos.

Mr. B. L. Rubik will be the speaker at the Oneg Shabbos in the Zionist Hall tomorrow afternoon. The subject of his address will be "The Talmud." The Oneg Shabbos will commence at 4.45 p.m.

Cape Town Young Judeans.

A very enjoyable meeting was held on Saturday, 14th inst., in the Old Synagogue. Owing to the absence of the chairman, Mr. Rosenberg, the vice-chairman, presided over a large gathering.

After several musical items had been rendered, a comedy film was shown, one of the members, Mr. Berold, having kindly lent his cinematographic projector. In addition to this a short film of the South African and American Athletes were also shown. These films occupied the greater half of the programme.

For the second time in succession this Society has won the Junior Oratorical contest. The finals were held against Wynberg Junior Zionists, who were represented by Messrs. Phillips and Roberts and opposed by Messrs. S. M. Levin and R. M. J. Rosenberg.

The society is contemplating the holding of an Old Members' Reunion. Details will be announced later.

The Wheatley Pictures.

A private exhibition of the works of Professor John Wheatley and Mrs. Grace Wheatley was held on Tuesday afternoon, 17th inst., in the University Buildings. Chief among the Professor's pictures was his portrait of the Rev. A. P. Bender, which had been exhibited at the Royal Academy, and also one of the Right Hon. General Smuts.

The portrait of the Rev. A. P. Bender is a masterpiece of subtlety. The artist's portrayal of the character of the sitter has resulted in a portrait that has a soul. There is a sober beauty in the revelation of the humour, wisdom and generosity of Rev. A. P. Bender's personality.

Calm mastery of drawing, design, tone and colour go to the creation of a portrait that is worthy of the great statesman, General Smuts. Of this great artistic production one may confidently say that it is one of the finest pictures that has as yet come out of this country.

Among the Professor's other exhibits were two joyous studies of his daughter. These decorative portraits have a fascinating appeal.

Mrs. Grace Wheatley included in her exhibition her picture exhibited at the Royal Academy, and also two bronze portrait busts of the Right Hon. the Chief Justice de Villiers and the Hon. Sir John Kotze. Her bronze figures are characterised by her breadth and subtlety of modelling. They reveal the innate attributes of the natures of the sitters.

"Elephants, Passing at Dawn" which was exhibited at the Royal Academy this year is a picture that is full of movement and the spirit of the wild. A fine animal study of General Smuts's Lion Cubs, and several pictures of still life show Mrs. Grace Wheatley as an artist of the first rank.

Rev. Bender and the Fresh Air Camp.

Rev. A. P. Bender's generosity and public services have become a byword in Cape Town, and his activities on numerous bodies, charitable and other, have been invaluable. This week, we are informed, he has agreed to lend his services to the "Cape Times" Fresh Air Camp, and has accepted a position as member of the Advisory Committee of the Fund. His services on that body, we have no doubt, will be as selfless and inspiring as they are on all those other bodies of which he is a member.

We can only hope that the example set by Rev. Bender in interesting himself in the work of brightening the lives of the poor children of the community, will be followed by others, who will also do their utmost towards making the Fund a success. Incidentally, it might be added, there are quite a number of Jewish children who attend the Fresh Air Camp.

A Chanukah Concert.

Another of those delightful festival concerts for which the Bnoth Zion Hebrew Kindergarten have become well known is being held next month. It is to be a Chanukah concert, and because it commemorates such a happy festival and because at the same time it is to be the last concert given this year, it is, we are told, going to outdo all previous efforts in its success. Those in charge are at present putting in an enormous amount of work for the concert, whilst the little ones concerned are excited beyond all measure.

The concert will be held in the Zionist Hall on Sunday, 6th December, at 10.30 a.m. It will provide a treat that no mother should allow her child to miss.

Maccabean Guild Concert.

The fifth of the series of popular concerts held under the auspices of the Maccabean Guild, took place on Wednesday evening at the Zionist Hall. There was a poor attendance—a fact which is most regrettable in view of the excellent fare provided.

The Maccabean Guild Orchestra, conducted by Mr. George Tobias, A.R.A.M., was in good form. The "Overture" by Balfe was played with good effect, whilst Kreisler's "Liebeslied" was charmingly executed. Other items rendered were a selection from "Faust," the "Turkish March" from Beethoven's "The Ruins of Athens," and a selection from "Follow Through," which was not too successful and which seemed to show that the Orchestra is not very much at home in jazz.

The soloists were Miss G. Sapieka, who has a delightful voice and who was accompanied by Miss E. Richman, Mr. Boberg whose 'cello solos were very favourably received, and Miss Hilda Schwalbe who gave a number of pianoforte solos. Miss Schwalbe is a pianist of no little merit and was encored several times.

Miss Oblowitz on the W.I.Z.O.

Adv. Maggie Oblowitz will read a paper on "The Aims and Activities of the W.I.Z.O." at the Zionist Hall on Thursday, 26th inst., at 3.15 p.m. The meeting is being held under the auspices of the Bnoth Zion, and is open to all.

The Dunam Drive.

The Dunam Drive is nearing completion. It is being wound up this week and it is expected that the final list of donations will be published in our next issue. As stated before, the Drive was a fair success.

Mr. and Mrs. Stoller "At Home."

Mr. and Mrs. N. Stoller, of Oranjezicht, were "At Home" to a large circle of friends on Saturday evening last when a Bridge Drive in aid of the Cape Jewish Board of Guardians was held. There was an extremely large gathering present, and the evening on the whole was a very great success.

Social Items.

Mr. L. Gradner, the Deputy Mayor, will be the guest and speaker at the Maccabean Guild Luncheon to be held on Tuesday, 24th inst., at the Carlton Hotel.

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The next Zionist conversazione takes place in the Zionist Hall on Tuesday evening, 24th inst.

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The monthly social of the Woodstock and Salt River Jewish Cultural Circle and Ladies' Society will take place at the Talmud Torah Hall, Argyle Street, Woodstock, on Thursday, 26th inst. All are welcome

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Mr. and Mrs. H. Stodel return to South Africa by the "Winchester Castle" on Monday, 23rd inst.

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Mr. and Mrs. I. Abrahams, of Johannesburg, are spending a holiday at Kalk Bay.

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Mrs. B. Weinronk and Miss L. Weinronk, of Port Elizabeth, are spending a short holiday at Sea Point.

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Mr. M. Kentridge, M.P., arrived in Cape Town this week and is staying at the Selborne Hotel.

DIGGING FOR GOLD.

(Continued from Page 765).

him with further reagents to test the validity of Professor Schneider's conclusions in his History of Civilization. The Professor maintains that the Jews were never in Egypt itself, and that the Egyptian bondage was the devastation of their land in Palestine by Pharaoh Merenptah. No doubt he bases his belief on the presence of names like Joseph-el and Jacob-el in the lists of people and places in the Syrian conquests of Palestine three centuries before the Exodus, and on the fact that Merenptah in his inscription claims to have "Spoiled the Children of Israel" in Palestine. But as Flinders Petrie has pointed out, this may well be due to the fact that all the Israelies did not migrate to Egypt or that some returned after the famine.

To return to our loaf, archeological excavations have a definite economic value to the country where they are situated. The attraction to the tourist of Italy lies less in the urge to view the workings of Dictatorship or inspect the efflorescence of spaghetti than in the desire to see the historical remains of a past civilization. So also with Egypt and Greece. Pompeii is a good example of the financial returns of academic investment. Palestine has a greater emotional appeal in its past history than any of these countries. It only remains to reveal in concrete form the work of ancient hands and so draw a steady stream of tourists who wish to have their emotions stirred and their curiosity satisfied. "What's to see?" asks the American. The Bible is merely the descriptive pamphlet.

תלמוד תורה

UNITED HEBREW SCHOOLS.

101/103, Hope Street, Cape Town.

Phone 3085.

**Annual
General Meeting**

WILL BE HELD IN

THE OLD SYNAGOGUE

ON

Sunday, 22nd inst., at 10 a.m.

MEMBERS ARE URGED TO BE PRESENT.

Obituary

MR. DAVID SHAFFER.

South African Jewry has sustained another terrible loss by the death on Tuesday morning last of Mr. David Shaffer, at the age of thirty-eight, from complications following an appendicitis operation.

The news cast a gloom over the Johannesburg community, as the deceased was one of the outstanding young professional men interested in communal affairs. Zionism particularly has lost a most promising leader.

The funeral, held on Tuesday afternoon, was very largely attended, and Dr. J. L. Landau delivered a moving oration. At a meeting of the Executive of the S.A. Zionist Federation which followed, a vote of condolence with the aged father, and sisters and brothers of the deceased was passed.

An Appreciation.

Johannesburg Jewry has in the death of David Shaffer lost one of its ablest young men. A lawyer by profession, he had a reputation for sound legal knowledge and a gift for negotiation. Still a young man, he had nevertheless been successful in conjunction with James Cranko in building up a very extensive legal practice.

Shaffer has always taken a keen interest in Jewish matters, and when quite a young man he took an active part in the Krugersdorp Branch of the Jewish War Relief Fund. Later, when the Palestine Club movement in Johannesburg was active, Shaffer took an active part in the Central Council formed to control and guide the clubs. He was always a generous contributor to Zionist funds. He took but little other active part in Zionist work until recently when he joined the Revisionist Organisation. His appearance at the last Zionist Conference, his remarkable ability in debate, and his outstanding personality, led to his election to the Executive of the Federation. His election was attributed to Shaffer rather than to Revisionism.

He was a man of lovable personality and great charm of manner, but the greatest of his many good qualities was his loyalty to his friends and the causes he espoused.

South African Jewry is the poorer for the loss of a man who would have risen to the highest place in the community.

D.G.

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