

IN AND AROUND THE PENINSULA

The Zionist Conversazione.

Mr. and Mrs. D. Getz acted as host and hostess at the Zionist conversazione on Tuesday night. The speaker was Adv. H. Snitcher who delivered a lecturette entitled "Zionism at the Crossroads."

The time had come, argued Mr. Snitcher, when we had to decide whether Zionism could fulfil the hopes and aspirations of the people who gave it birth. He felt that unless some radical tendency made itself manifest it would not succeed.

Zionism could only succeed if it had the support of the Jewish masses and could solve the problems of the Jewish masses. There were thousands to-day whom the Zionist movement did not reach. It was rapidly becoming a middle-class movement, for those who could afford to produce the necessary means for immigration into Palestine, whilst it did practically nothing for those who could find no outlet from their homes of persecution.

The Zionist movement, further claimed Mr. Snitcher, was not fully representative of the Jewish masses. This was proved by the fact that in various countries there existed bodies like the Board of Deputies speaking for all the Jews in the land, in addition to Zionist Federations.

Finally, said Mr. Snitcher, efforts were being made to-day to deprive the Zionist movement of the spirit of democracy which should guide it and which was its life-blood. In the movement was growing up a sort of Fascism which was a cancerous growth which had to be suppressed.

In the discussion which followed Mr. Snitcher's arguments came in for a great deal of criticism. Those who participated in the discussion were Mr. J. Gitlin, Mr. M. Joffe, Mr. B. L. Rubik and Mr. D. Getz.

The opportunity was taken at the function of bidding farewell to Mr. Isaac Ochberg. A full report appears elsewhere in this issue.

Cape Town Maccabee Organisation.

A soccer match will take place against the Brith Trumpeldor at Green Point Common at 2.30 p.m. on Sunday, 6th instant. All members are requested to turn up.

A meeting of the Dance Section will take place at the Talmud Torah Hall, Hope Street, on Monday, the 7th instant, at 8 p.m.

A meeting will be held in the Zionist (Minor) Hall on Tuesday, the 8th instant, at 8 p.m., to further the J.N.F. (Maccabee Circle).

Every Monday evening at 9 p.m. there is a physical culture class for men only, and on Thursday at the same time for ladies at the Roeland Street Synagogue Hall.

Maccabee blazers are now obtainable. All those who wish to purchase blazers are requested to get in touch with the Secretary, 18, Hope Street, Cape Town.

Oneg Shabbos.

"The Zionism of Moses Hess" was the subject of a lecture by Mr. J. S. Judelowitz at the Oneg Shabbos on Saturday afternoon last. There was a large gathering present over whom Mr. J. Gitlin presided. Mr. N. Kirschner, Chairman of the S.A. Zionist Federation, was also present and during the course of the afternoon spoke shortly on his recent visit to Palestine.

Mr. Judelowitz described Moses Hess as the founder of the modern Zionist movement. Since Spinoza, he said, Jewry had not produced a genius such as he. Hess had been the central figure in Jewry of his generation. He was a man of broad views. He had been a comrade of Marx and Lassale, yet he had also been a great admirer of Rabbi Hirsch Kalischer, "the father of the Mizrahi."

Hess wrote "Rome and Jerusalem" when he had developed an original conception of Judaism. He believed that everything in Jewry was a product of the Jewish race when they were free in Palestine.

The lecturer described Hess's work to organise a Jewish national movement. He brought his influence to bear on the Alliance Israelite Universelle. He arranged to go to Palestine with the historian Graetz. He also planned a visit to Constantinople.

But his generation was not ripe for his ideas. When he died in 1875 his relatives burnt the second edition of "Rome and Jerusalem." They considered its contents scandalous. But the book exerted a tremendous influence on the great national thinkers such as Smolenskin and Achad Ha'am and Hess remains an important figure in the history of the Jewish National Movement.

During the course of the afternoon a number of songs were rendered by Cantor Konviser, and Mr. G. Laden gave several humorous readings.

An innovation was made at this function by the conducting of the Mincha Service before the usual items were carried out. This will be a regular feature of the Oneg Shabbos in future.

Zionist Socialist Party.

A very successful meeting, under the auspices of the Zionist Socialist Party was held in the Zionist (Minor) Hall on Thursday evening last. Mr. G. Telem presided.

Mr. Z. Avin, who has recently returned from a trip to Palestine, delivered an address on "The Histadruth and its Achievements." A very large audience was present and listened with attention to Mr. Avin's interesting and informative address.

Mr. Avin dealt briefly with the historical development of organised Jewish labour in Palestine, and related what had been done by the Histadruth in Palestine.

After the interval, during which tea was served, he continued for over an hour.

On Monday evening last the traditional May Day meeting was held. A large number of members and sympathisers were present.

In his opening speech the Chairman, Mr. G. Telem, spoke on recent events in Austria and their effect on the international Proletariat.

Mr. B. Padowitch spoke on "May Day and its Importance." In the course of his address he reviewed the events of the last few years. Fascism was defeating Socialism and the freedom-loving proletariat, but this was not a final defeat. In its fight for justice, freedom and equality the proletariat would be victorious.

Meeting at Woodstock.

A very well-attended meeting of members of the Woodstock and Salt River Jewish Cultural Circle was held on Thursday evening last at the residence of Dr. and Mrs. Resnekov. Dr. Resnekov delivered a lecture on "Jewish Life under the Influence of the Popes."

As the lecture dealt with rather a lengthy and important period of Jewish history, it was decided to divide it into several portions.

Dr. Resnekov began by giving a description of the life of the times generally and of Jewish life in particular. He gave a short survey of the relationship between the Jews and their neighbours, of the Popes' influence on Jewish life and of the persecution the Jews had to withstand from the Meshumadim who did more harm than the worst anti-Semites.

After the lecture a discussion followed in which a number of members participated. Rabbis I. M. Gervis and Lipshitz also spoke.

The meeting was presided over by Mr. M. N. Marks and a vote of thanks was proposed by Rev. S. Kassel and seconded by Mr. A. J. Basker.

At the monthly meeting of the Circle held on Thursday, 22nd March, at the residence of Mr. and Mrs. Schein, Woodstock, Rev. Hoffman delivered a very interesting lecture on "The Development of the Agadah."

Hebrew Teachers' Association.

A meeting of the Hebrew Teachers' Association will take place on Sunday, 6th inst., in the Talmud Torah Hall at 4 p.m.

Mr. Z. Avin, who recently returned from a trip to Europe and Palestine and who visited many schools and kindergartens, will speak on "The Hebrew Teacher in Palestine and Galuth."

Matters of great importance to members will be discussed after the lecture.

Teachers and friends are cordially invited to be present.

Mizrahi Organisation.

"Peace and Unity" was the subject of a discussion which took place at a well attended meeting of the above organisation held at the Zionist Hall recently. Mr. I. Shuel presided and the speakers were Mr. M. Reading and Mr. M. Pogrund. Those who participated in the discussion were Rabbi Kramer, Messrs. Shuel, A. Silbert, N. Tobias and W. Rubik.

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Mowbray-Observatory Jewish Guild.

A very successful meeting of the Mowbray-Observatory Jewish Guild was held at the residence of Mr. and Mrs. J. Goldstein, Mowbray, on Tuesday, the 24th April.

Dr. Lizerbrum was in the chair and presided over a gathering of about forty-five members.

Upon the Secretary tendering his resignation, Mr. L. Ger was unanimously elected to the office. He was nominated by Mr. D. Goldstein and seconded by Mr. D. B. Geffen. Miss H. Hodes and Miss L. Uday were elected as two additional Committee members.

Mr. Sam Kahn then addressed the gathering on "Fascism and Zionism," explaining that Fascism was always supported by the Capitalists to undermine the influence of Socialism among the working classes. He also showed that in countries where there were many Jews, Fascism was always anti-Semitic. However, in other countries, the Jews were among its chief supporters.

After tea and refreshments, which were kindly provided by the hostess, the subject was opened for discussion and Dr. Altschul and Mr. A. Flax participated.

Votes of thanks were proposed to Mr. and Mrs. Goldstein by Dr. Altschul and to Mr. Kahn by Mr. Levenstein.

During the course of the evening Miss H. Hodes gave a humorous recitation.

Lecture at Orphanage.

To-morrow (Saturday) night at eight o'clock, Miss Gladys Lazarus is delivering a popular talk to the children of the Cape Jewish Orphanage, Montrose Avenue, Oranjezicht on "Wm. Shakespeare, the Poet and Dramatist." A number of Miss Lazarus's students will recite various pieces in illustration of the lecture.

Dr. Louis Herrman will preside, and the Orphanage Education Committee cordially invites all visitors both children and adults.

Bnoth Zion Branch at Muizenberg.

The large attendance at the "At Home" given by the Executive of the Bnoth Zion Association at the Hotel Atlantic on Tuesday, showed that a successful branch of the Association would undoubtedly be formed there.

Miss M. Oblowitz, who presided, explained that the necessity for having branches was due to the inability of one Committee to fulfil the needs of women Zionists from Cape Town to Simonstown. A branch which was displaying much enthusiasm had already been formed at Sea Point, and she hoped that Muizenberg would follow suit. A short description of the method of branch formation in Johannesburg was given.

Mrs. P. M. Clouts in a very apt address showed that Zionism as a concrete reality and no longer a dream would enable the Jews to retain their self-respect, notwithstanding uncertain conditions at the present time.

Only as a nation with their own country would the Jewish people gain the esteem and regard of the rest of the world. The entrance of 40,000 Jews to Palestine last year certainly showed that it was able to absorb many of those desirous of settling there. If, however, it was considered that the possession of Palestine would raise the status of the Jews in the eyes of the world then in order to gain it every Zionist would

have to be prepared to work for it, whether in the spreading of propaganda, the furtherance of Hebrew education or the raising of funds.

After this address Mrs. Epstein formally moved a resolution that a branch of the Bnoth Zion Association be formed in Muizenberg. This was received with acclamation and the election of a Committee ensued with the following results: President, Mrs. R. Movsovic; Vice-President, Mrs. J. Herbstein; Hon. Secretary, Mrs. Futeran; Hon. Treasurer, Mrs. B. Krikler. Committee: Mesdames S. Jocum, Goldberg, Kurland, Mirlin, Canard, B. Rostowsky, R. Rifkin, D. Getz, I. Joelson, Fine, J. Sarif and M. Katzin.

The meeting closed with a vote of thanks to Mrs. Leeb for providing the accommodation and the refreshments.

Woodstock and Salt River Junior Zionist Society.

"Palestine a Romance," was the subject of an address given by Miss M. Oblowitz to the Woodstock and Salt River Junior Zionist Society on Thursday evening last.

The lecturer contrasted the desolation and barrenness of Palestine in past centuries with its present fertility, and dealt with the awakened national consciousness and enthusiasm of the Jewish people in the Diaspora, which was enabling them to carry out the amazing experiment of rebuilding its national home.

Mr. D. Lazerow presided and Mr. Zimmerman proposed a vote of thanks to the lecturer.

During the evening Mr. V. Resnekov read the News Sheet.

The meeting concluded with the singing of Hatikvah.

Mr. Bloch at Sea Point.

An interesting and informative address was given by Adv. H. M. Bloch at the first "At Home" of the newly-formed Green and Sea Point Branch of the Bnoth Zion Association, held at the residence of Mrs. J. Ginnes on Wednesday afternoon.

Choosing as the subject of his lecture the proverb, "a rolling stone gathers no moss," Mr. Bloch skilfully correlated to it the history of Jewry through many centuries. The moss, he said, could be regarded as the soil to which a people became attached, and he gave historical instances of the wandering of the Jew from country to country. This perpetual moving had given rise to the belief held by many people that the Jew was destined to play the role of wanderer on the face of the earth, giving his all to the nations among whom he resided, and accepting as inevitable his role of wanderer.

This view was no longer acceptable for two reasons, firstly, the Jew was tired of his wandering, and secondly, there was no longer any country which he could enter freely.

The Jewish Territorialist Organisation, said Mr. Bloch, had at the close of last century attempted to find some land in which the Jew could be at home; scheme after scheme was rejected and finally many thousands of Jews were settled in the Argentine. But there had been a small group of people who remained obstinate, true to the belief that Palestine, the historic home of Jewry, was the only country to which the Jews should return, and they clung to this vague ideal and refused the immediate offer of a Jewish National Home elsewhere.

Fortuitous circumstances, including Jewish support of the Allied cause during the war, culminated in 1917 in the Balfour Declaration making possible the realisation of a Jewish National Home in Palestine.

Mr. Bloch quoted statistics to show how remarkable had been the progress of Jewish upbuilding in Palestine, in the short space of some twenty years. In contrast the lecturer spoke of the present condition of the Jewish population in Argentine, which was regarded there as an alien community. All facts, concluded Mr. Bloch, tended to show that Palestine was the inevitable historical solution to the legend of the wandering Jew.

Mrs. G. Wise presided over a gathering of over forty ladies and during the afternoon items were rendered by Mrs. Aaronsohn who recited and Miss B. Fagin who gave a pianoforte solo. The news sheet was read by Mrs. Zabow.

Miss M. Oblowitz, President of the Bnoth Zion Association, congratulated the new branch on its first meeting and in its collection of a sum of £70 16s. 1d. from National Fund boxes in a period of nine months.

An able vote of thanks was passed by Mrs. I. Cohen, Vice-President of the Branch.

In Brief.

Mr. N. Kirschner left on Tuesday by air on his return to Johannesburg.

Israel, youngest son of Mr. and Mrs. C. Salber, will read a portion of the Law and Maftir to-morrow, the 5th May, at the Gardens Synagogue. "At Home," Sunday from 7.30 p.m. Friends and relatives cordially invited.

Dr. L. Blumberg has been appointed Acting Medical Superintendent at the Old Somerset Hospital for the next four months whilst the present Superintendent, Dr. J. L. Bosman, is away on leave.

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