

# Rabbi Kossowsky and the Board of Jewish Education

## Jewish Ministers Leave the Board

WE have received from the Rev. M. Altshuler and the Rev. B. D. Glass, in their capacity as joint secretaries of the S.A. Jewish Ministers' Association, a letter asking us to publish the undermentioned communication, under the heading of

### "Ministers' Association Leaves the S.A. Jewish Board of Education."

At a meeting of the Council of the Jewish Ministers' Association of South Africa, held at Johannesburg on the 15th inst., it was decided that the Association sever its connection with the S.A. Board of Jewish Education. This course was adopted as a result of the Board's attitude to Rabbi Kossowsky, the Chairman of the Association, and in view of the Board's failure to take satisfactory steps to rectify the matter."

It has been known for some time that owing to a certain incident which occurred at a recent meeting of the Executive Council of the Board of Jewish Education, the Rav of the Federated Synagogues of the Witwatersrand, left the meeting and was followed by the Rabbinical members of the Council. Since then efforts have been made to effect a reconciliation so that the important

work of the Board, in the interests of Jewish Education, could continue.

"On approaching Chief Rabbi Dr. J. L. Landau, who is President of the Ministers' Association, we have learnt that a meeting of members is being called on Monday next when the whole subject will be discussed.

Before publishing the above announcement, we considered it advisable to approach Adv. V. Rosenstein, the Chairman of the S.A. Jewish Board of Education. He would not, however, commit himself in any way.

"I am unable to make a statement at this stage," he replied, "as it is the policy of the Board that no individual member make any communication to the press without the full approval of the whole Board."

Mr. Rosenstein indicated that the matter would be raised at the next meeting of the Council of his organisation when no doubt a statement to the press would then be issued.

Information has now reached us from good authority that Rabbi Kossowsky has tendered his resignation from the Executive Council of the Board of Jewish Education.

[We refer to this subject in our editorial columns.]

## BULAWAYO ACTIVITIES

**Chevre Kadisha.**—The annual general meeting of the society took place on Sunday, the 21st ult., at the Guild Hall. There was a good attendance. Mr. D. A. Blumberg, who was in the chair, expressed the sincere regret of the society at the death of Mr. Robert Aserman who had been a member of the society for some 30 years.

In submitting the annual report, the chairman called attention to the small revenue derived by the society from the "mikvah" and thought that the loss on this institution should be made good by the synagogue authorities. He also stated that 18 free loans had been granted during the year.

Mr. M. Abrahamson, treasurer of the society, surveyed the financial position which he considered satisfactory. There were ample funds for loans in cases of need. He thought that measures should be taken to rebuild the present premises of the "mikvah." He also thanked all members of the committee as well as the synagogue authorities, who had helped them in various matters. In the discussion which ensued, Messrs. P. Landau, S. Rabinovitz, A. Weinberg participated. The adoption of the report was moved by the chairman and seconded by Mr. H. B. Ellenbogen.

The election of officers and committee resulted as follows: Messrs. D. A. Blumberg (president); Max Baron (vice-president); M. Abrahamson (treasurer); M. L. Price (secretary); A. Weinberg, Moses Rabinovitz (hon. life vice-presidents); A. Jacobs and S. S. Grossberg (trustees); Ben Baron (hon. legal adviser); L. A. Rubenstein (hon. auditor); O. Kaufman, M. Chitrin, L. Kaplan, S. Kivelowitz, M. King, S. Rothbaum, P. Shawson, S. Shiff, B. Whiteson, M. Middeldorf. Ladies' Committee: Mesdames A. Weinberg, Weiner, Treger, Shiff, Margolis, Rothbaum, Kivelowitz, Bloch, Cohen, Szmeyer.

**Jacob Waislitz Visits Bulawayo.**—Mr. Waislitz, of the Vilna Troupe, has paid two visits to this centre, and on both occasions he delighted crowded audiences with his production of Yiddish plays, and recitals from world literature. Particularly memorable was his production of the "Song of Tribulation," in which he was assisted by local amateurs. Mr. Waislitz gave a wonderful performance as "Yoshke" in this play, and his supporting cast showed the benefits of his training.

## Benoni

**Benoni Zionist Youth Society.**—The society held a successful cultural evening at the Hebrew Hall on the 14th inst. Mr. F. Dreyer rendered the news service, which was followed by a lecture by Mr. A. Lipschitz, on "Jehuda Halevi."

A successful party was held at the residence of Miss B. Fine, on the 11th inst. The sum of £4 was raised for the J.N.F. On the 19th inst. over 50 players participated in a tennis tournament held at the High School courts.

The first function in the new year will be a "Cultural Meeting" to be held at the Hebrew Hall on Wednesday, the 5th prox. The meeting will be addressed by Mr. "Chummie" Hirschmann, of the Transvaal Zionist Youth Executive.

An interesting and original lecture on "Chanukah" was given by Mr. Berg to the combined cultural groups at the Hebrew Hall on Thursday evening, the 2nd inst.

## TODAY IN JEWISH HISTORY

### A Pioneer of Zionism

December 24.

**LEO PINSKER** was in reality a Russian physician. He was born in Poland in 1821, graduated in medicine at Moscow University, held public appointments and in course of time became one of the leading physicians of Odessa. His father was Simchah Pinsker, a well-known Hebrew scholar and archaeologist. Side by side with Leo Pinsker's professional activities were his Jewish communal ones. He contributed to Jewish periodicals, advocated secular education for the Jews and the grant of wider liberties to them. In 1881 his "Auto-Emancipation" appeared. In this he advocated a Jewish national home for the Jews, a land in which they would be at home, not strangers. Out of this pamphlet arose the Choveve Zion Movement to which Pinsker devoted the remainder of his life. He died on December 24, 1891.

## Bloemfontein Activities

On the 23rd ult., the monthly cultural meeting of the Zionist Council took place at the Communal Hall. Mrs. Tcherney presided.

Advocate I. L. Horwitz spoke on the Partition of Palestine. Judge Frumkin addressed the gathering on the subject of the Hebrew University.

During the evening Mesdames I. Fogel and S. Lewis were presented with Golden Book Certificates in recognition of their work.

Mrs. A. Cohen and Mr. Gorfinkel, accompanied by Miss G. Fainsinger, rendered vocal items.

On the 28th ult., a Chanukah social was given at the Communal Hall by the committee of the Hebrew Congregation. Mr. J. Phillips and Mrs. L. Kramer acted as host and hostess.

Rabbi Dr. Romm, in an eloquent address, dealt with the significance of Chanukah. The other speakers were Mr. J. Lovius, Adv. I. L. Horwitz and Mr. N. Woolf. Rev. Had-Hadassin and the Bloemfontein Hebrew School girls' choir, sang, Miss R. Kimmel and Miss M. Reichenberg being the accompanists.

A vote of thanks to the speakers and artists was moved by Mr. I. Fogel.

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