

Herzl - Bialik Memorial Meeting at Johannesburg

THE Coronation Hall was filled to capacity on Sunday night when a meeting to commemorate the anniversaries of the deaths of Theodor Herzl and Chaim Nachman Bialik was held. Dr. A. Broido was in the chair and at the outset apologised for the absence of Chief Rabbi Dr. J. L. Landau, who was to have presided, and of Dr. S. Zemach, who was to have delivered an address, both of whom were indisposed. The speakers were Mr. N. Kirschner, Mr. W. Rybko and Mr. Israel Dunsky.

MR. KIRSCHNER emphasised that the meeting was held not to mourn the death of those two luminaries in Israel, Herzl and Bialik, but rather to remember them. Both of them had expressed the soul and the longing of the Jewish people—but whereas Bialik had been a poet of words, Herzl had been a poet of deeds.

Going on to speak more specifically of Herzl, he said that in the eight years which the immortal leader had devoted to the Zionist cause, he had towered above the Jewish people, yet he had not dwarfed them. On the contrary, they had increased in stature, as it were, because of him, because of that divine spark within him which gave a quality of greatness to all around him.

Herzl had thrown out a challenge to Jewry and he had proved two things—the bankruptcy of assimilation and the insolvency of charity as solutions to the Jewish problem. He had fought tirelessly to put into effect the ideal which held him, and he had shed a light over Jewish life by which those who followed him might see the path. It was a light that would never be dimmed, and he would ever be remembered in gratitude by the Jewish people.

MR. RYBKO, who spoke in Yiddish, dealt with the life and work of Bialik. He was essentially the poet of revolt against the sordidness, the poverty, the joylessness of Jewish life. More than this, he was the poet of revolt against God Himself who had permitted that life to be what it was.

But deep as was his bitterness in regard to the Jewish people, so deep was Bialik's love for the culture and the traditions of Judaism, that with intense beauty and feeling he wrote of the Beth Hamedrash, of Jewish family life, etc.

The time came when he was torn between orthodox Judaism and the Judaism of the Maskilim, and for a period he left the orthodox fold for the other. But he soon returned. He was too deeply rooted in Jewish traditions, too deeply conscious of their intrinsic value to abandon them. From that time on his faith in the Jewish national movement never wavered. He was the national poet *par excellence*.

MR. DUNSKY, who spoke on both Herzl and Bialik, said that they were emblems of the indestructible Jewish spirit. For all that they were so unlike, sprung from such different spheres, they revealed the Jew at his very best.

Both of them were spirits of undying revolt. They met the difficult situations with which they were confronted in their times with a dignity and a courage that were an inspiration to Jews living in the present difficult period. They refused to submit to circumstances, they rose up and fought against them.

There was something about both men that was indestructible, that belonged to all time and all ages. The memories of both of them would ever be treasured by the Jewish people.

The meeting was brought to a close after the Haskarah had been intoned by Cantor B. Chagy.

Pretoria Activities

VISIT OF RABBI ZLOTNIK

On Friday, 8th inst., Rabbi Zlotnik visited the Pretoria community as the guest of the Hanoar Society and the Junior Hebrew Congregation.

Oneg Shabbat.

Under the combined auspices of the two Youth bodies, an inspiring Oneg Shabbat, in memory of Herzl and Bialik, was held at the Memorial Hall. Mr. Hymie Segal presided. Rabbi Zlotnik, in the course of an eloquent address, referred to the part Youth could play in reviving the Jewish spirit and re-establishing the traditional atmosphere in the life of Jewry. He paid tribute to the achievements of Herzl and Bialik, describing their significant role in the National Renaissance.

Miss S. Osrin recited some poems by Bialik.

Mr. Solly Ogus also addressed the gathering and expressed thanks to Rabbi Zlotnik for his speech.

Rabbi Zlotnik, at a special Youth service early in the evening, delivered an impressive sermon.

A FINE PRODUCTION

Members of the Pretoria Hanoar and Jewish Guild took part in an outstanding production of Emlyn Williams' play "Night Must Fall." A packed house warmly applauded the acting, and much praise is due to Mr. S. Cohen, the producer, and Julia Stein was perhaps the best of the fine cast.

Jack Lazarus as Dan, and Judith Schneider as Olivia Grayne (the niece), also acquitted themselves well in difficult roles. The rest of the cast included Rita Beiles, Mary Miller, Evelyn Brauer, Raymond Hellmann and Barney Cohen, each of whom gave a smooth and polished performance.

MASS MEETINGS.

The Pretoria community was visited by Messrs. N. Kirschner, B. Gerling, L. Pincus and Dr. Zemach during the past week, all of whom appeared on the public platform to deliver addresses in connection with the recently held elections.

"THE DEFENCE OF JEWISH RIGHTS"

Forthcoming Lecture by Mr. G. Saron

A lecture on the above subject will be delivered by Mr. G. Saron, General Secretary of the S.A. Jewish Board of Deputies, at the monthly conversazione organised by the Johannesburg Zionist Society, which will take place on Sunday, 23rd July, at the Coronation Hall, at 8.15 p.m.

Judaica Library in Johannesburg

FOR some three years a large number of Jewish books has gradually been accumulated by the Transvaal Zionist Youth Movement. This collection has now assumed a comprehensive character and facilities for reading are being offered to the public.

Under the expert supervision of Mr. E. Bakst, who has received training in library routine at the Hebrew University on Mount Scopus, this collection has now been catalogued in a manner which makes any department of Judaica readily accessible to the reader.

The library is open at Coronation Hall (corner Claim and Plein Sts.), Johannesburg, on Sunday, Tuesday and Thursday evenings, and comprises to-day nearly two thousand selected volumes covering fiction, science, philosophy, history, etc.

PALESTINE SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

Salisbury Committee Formed

During Col. Kisch's short visit to Salisbury, he convened an informal meeting at one of the principal hotels on the 5th July, for the purpose of forming a society to assist the Palestine Orchestra.

Considerable enthusiasm was shown by those present and a committee to promote the interests of the orchestra was formed, with the following personnel: Hon. President, Mr. B. S. Leon; Chairwoman, Mrs. A. W. Lawson; Vice-Chairwoman, Madame Bertha Fuchs; Treasurer, Mr. A. Hatchuel; Secretary, Miss S. Gruber.

Durban Women's Zionist League

The monthly function of the Durban Women's Zionist League was held at the residence of Mrs. Torf on Tuesday, the 27th June. A living newspaper afternoon was held, and there was a very large attendance of members and visitors.

Mrs. Freedman presided and in opening the meeting referred to the death of Rev. Cohen, of Bulawayo. She welcomed the visitors present and appealed to the ladies to enrol new members.

News items were read by Mrs. Katz, and Mrs. Rowe gave an interesting address on women pioneers of Palestine. Mrs. Duchon read an attractive paper entitled "The Children's Melting Pot" and Mrs. Moss-Morris made an inspiring appeal to the women to give generously for the buying of land in Palestine.

Mrs. Broomberg thanked those who had contributed to the newspaper, and Mrs. Torf for her hospitality.

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