

IN AND AROUND THE PENINSULA

Zionist Socialist Party.

A public meeting was held at the Zionist Hall on Monday, 1st November, when the subject under discussion was "Soviet Russia and Zionism."

Mr. S. Abel (in the chair) stated that much misinformed, confused and ignorant thinking had prevailed in regard to the Zionist attitude towards Soviet Russia. Since the 1917 revolution the Soviet Government had based its policy upon fear of an attack on it by the capitalist powers, and had tended to isolate itself from the rest of the world, and insulate Russian Jewry from contact with its brethren. Its attitude had been that Russian Jewry had neither common cause nor identity of interest with the rest of Jewry. In Russian eyes, Britain was the citadel of capitalism and was considered as her main potential enemy. As a result of the Palestine Mandate being vested in Britain, Zionism was tarred with the same brush and was branded as merely a "tool of British Imperialism." Accordingly, Zionism was outlawed in Soviet Russia and Zionist Socialists languished in Soviet prison camps. Towards the end of 1941, when Moscow was in dire peril, Russian Jewry made an anguishing appeal to fellow Jewry for assistance. This was of great significance as marking a change in the Russian Government's attitude, particularly when one realised that all political activity in Russia was strictly controlled by the government.

Mr. Ch. Achron stated that although the Yishuv had made overtures to Soviet Russia, our outstretched hand had not yet been grasped. Unfortunately, communists were making party capital out of the natural sympathy of Jewry towards Russia in its present position. An opinion prevailed that if we did not antagonise Soviet Russia or the communists, Zionism would get its deserved rewards. As Russia's future political trend was uncertain, it was difficult to accept this outlook, and it was therefore necessary to examine the past. The anti-Zionist attitude of the Russian Government was no incident; its leaders were well-informed and its attitude was not due to the influence of the Palestine Communist Party. Their original foreign policy was based upon the overthrow of western capitalism, and this explained their opposition to Zionism. There could only be a change in the Soviet attitude towards Zionism if there was a change in its international policy. There was still a Zionist Socialist movement in existence in Russia, and strong sentiments towards Zionism among the general Jewish population.

Mr. B. Padowich stated that we wished to forget the past and start afresh in our relations with the Soviet. We greeted the heroic Red Army with unstinted admiration. He believed that the hand of Russian Jewry was held out to fellow Jewry in all sincerity. The Yishuv was the only progressive revolutionary factor in the Near East, and it was due to the Soviet political strategy that its eyes were closed to this fact. It was natural that Zionism had not died altogether in Russia, although it had been atrophied to its maximum extent. The incorporation of almost two million of national-minded Jews in Russia would help considerably to dispel the ignorance of the Soviet authorities regarding the constructive achievements of the Yishuv.

Sea Point Massadah Association.

Close on a hundred people crowded in to the lounges of the Balmoral Hotel, Sea Point, on Monday evening, November 8th, when another meeting of the Sea Point Massadah Association took place. Mr. S. M. Levin, who was in the chair, welcomed those present and outlined the aims of the Society and gave details of its future programme, which included sections for Zionist study, Hebrew, J.N.F. work and social and sporting activities.

Miss L. Arcns then gave an exceedingly interesting survey of current news topics which

greatly impressed the audience. Two delightful songs were rendered by Miss Diana Lazar, accompanied by Miss Kantor.

The guest speaker of the evening was Dr. Abr. H. Jonker, editor of "Die Suiderstem," who chose as his subject "The Question of Race." He contended that in civilised society there was no such thing as a pure race. Discussing the subject not from the scientific but from the popular aspect, he went on to examine the reasons which keep people together, such as religion, language, geographical location and environment, and common interest, contending that none of these in itself explained the existence of separate groups. He maintained that nations kept their identity because they thought they were different or were thought to be different. In essence every one belonged to one universal brotherhood.

The address was followed by a keen discussion which lasted twice as long as the original lecture, centred mainly on Jewish nationhood and the relationship between Zionism and internationalism. Several members participated and some well-chosen remarks were made by Mrs. Jonker. Dr. Jonker, in his reply, affirmed his belief in Zionism, but maintained that anti-Semitism was primarily a problem for the non-Jews.

After the tea interval, Mr. A. Hanson gave details of Massadah's forthcoming concert at the Odeon Theatre on Sunday, December 5th, in aid of Youth Aliyah. The meeting concluded with a hearty vote of thanks proposed by Mr. S. Frank. The next meeting will take the form of a film evening, featuring new Palestine releases, on Monday, 22nd inst.

Muizenberg Jewish Ladies' Sewing Circle.

A very pleasant afternoon was spent at the Balmoral Hotel, Muizenberg, on Thursday, 2nd inst., by a large number of members and visitors of the above Society.

The guest speaker of the afternoon was Rabbi Dr. E. W. Kirzner, who paid tribute to the remarkable work done by the Society (Mrs. Ch. Krikler, President) and also to the Ladies' Benevolent Society, Muizenberg (Mrs. L. Berman, Chairlady), who shared in the charitable work done for the sixteen institutions in Palestine, which were supported by them. He pointed out that there was still much more scope at their disposal for raising funds.

Mrs. Krikler thanked the members for being present and Rabbi Kirzner for his kindness; Cantor Goldwasser, who delighted the audience with his eloquent reading of three very appropriate articles, and Mrs. J. Shaper for assisting to make the afternoon a success. Mrs. Krikler also thanked the hostess, Mrs. B. Shirken, of the Balmoral Hotel, and Mr. and Mrs. Phillips for their willingness at all times to help.

Ort-Oze: Cape Town Branch.

The first of a series of drawing-room meetings to be held by the Cape Town Branch of the Ort-Oze took place last Wednesday night, November 3rd, at the residence of Mrs. Abelson, 25, Queen's Road, Sea Point, when the guest speaker was Mr. Richard Feldman, M.P.C., of Johannesburg. There was a large attendance and Dr. L. Mirvish, who was in the chair, explained the manner in which the Vocational Guidance Bureau had started in Cape Town.

Mr. Feldman traced the ideology of the Ort-Oze and gave a very comprehensive account of the excellent work which the Ort-Oze and the Vocational Guidance Bureau are doing in Johannesburg and expressed the hope that the same would be the case in the Cape. Over three hundred youngsters had been placed in apprenticeships in Johannesburg during the last three years and although the number itself did not appear large, it was no mean achievement. Latterly the Ort-Oze had drawn attention to the need for more Jewish girls

entering the nursing profession, but it was still too early to note the results of the efforts.

Numerous questions were asked from the floor and the meeting expressed its keen sympathy with the aims of the work being undertaken. The meeting concluded after sincere votes of thanks had been passed to the speaker and the hostess of the evening.

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The Ort-Oze has a permanent office at Room 12, Third Floor, London and Lancashire Buildings, 148, St. George's Street, Cape Town, and the Secretary will be only too pleased to assist any youths or their parents seeking advice or assistance. The telephone number is 3-2187 and the postal address is P.O. Box 3321, Cape Town.

Synagogue Forum.

The usual Luncheon Meeting of the Synagogue Forum took place in the Talmud Torah Hall, Hope Street, on Wednesday, 3rd November, and was attended by an exceptionally large gathering.

Due to the absence of Mr. Harold Hoffman, Mr. A. V. Jacob was in the chair and called on Rabbi I. Abrahams, who continued with his second lecture in the series "The Jewish Home." After the Rabbi's most interesting address the Chairman called for discussion and a number of questions were asked.

The next Luncheon Meeting of the Synagogue Forum will take place on Wednesday, November 17th, in the Talmud Torah Hall, Hope Street.

Massadah Association.

The last meeting took place on Wednesday, 3rd inst., at Rosecourt. Mr. E. Charlaff presided. Mr. S. M. Levin delivered an interesting news commentary, with special reference to Ben-Gurion's resignation.

Mr. M. Ben-Arie was the guest speaker of the evening. He chose as his subject "The Arabs of Palestine," and in a very illuminating talk traced the early history of the Arabs through the centuries till the present day.

Questions were asked of Mr. Ben-Arie, who also replied to them.

The Chairman proposed a vote of thanks to the speaker.

* * * * *

The first of a series of monthly luncheons was held at the Carlton Hotel on Tuesday, 9th inst. Mr. C. K. Friedlander was in the chair and welcomed Dr. Victor Resnekov, the guest speaker, and Mrs. Resnekov. Dr. Resnekov spoke of his impressions of Palestine and its war effort.

Over forty members were present at this luncheon, which will be followed by others, to be addressed by well-known speakers.

Hospital Kosher Kitchen.

The name of Mrs. C. Sher (Hon. Treasurer) was inadvertently omitted from the newly-elected Committee of the Hospital Kosher Kitchen, published last week.

Northern Districts Zionist Guild.

The first Conversazione of the Northern Districts Zionist Guild was held at the residence of Mr. and Mrs. I. Kaplan, Parow, on 26th October, and a large and enthusiastic gathering was present. Mr. I. Kaplan, the chairman, welcomed the visiting speakers. Dr. Kark gave a very well-thought-out address on "Organisation" which was much appreciated. Mr. Laden then kept the audience amused with two of his witty sketches. Mr. S. M. Levin spoke on "Current Political Problems." Thereafter refreshments were served and a vote of thanks to the visitors was ably moved by Mr. D. Minde. The evening concluded at a late hour with the singing of Hatikvah.

Woodstock and Salt River Talmud Torah and Cultural Circle.

An Oneg Shabbat under the auspices of the above societies was held on Saturday afternoon, 30th October, at the Talmud Torah Hall, which was crowded with children and adults. The child

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Forthcoming Events.

Muizenberg Massadah Association.

The next meeting will be held to-night (Friday, 12th inst.), at the residence of Mrs. M. Natas, "Springfield," Clevedon Road, Muizenberg, at 8.30 p.m. Adv. J. Herbstein, K.C., will speak on "Emancipation."

C.T. Ladies' Society.

The Cape Town Ladies' Society for War Relief will hold its next meeting on Thursday, 18th inst., at the residence of Mrs. Berelowitz, Huguenot Avenue, Oranjezicht, at 2.30 p.m. All friends welcome.

Social & Personal.

The marriage of Mona, eldest daughter of Mr. and Mrs. J. Voloshen, of Cape Town, to Leslie Goldblatt, of Johannesburg, will take place at the Gardens Synagogue on the 14th November at 2.30 p.m.

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ren of the Talmud Torah sang Hebrew songs which were received with enthusiasm by the audience. Miss Freda Levin rendered enjoyable Hebrew and Jewish solos. During the afternoon Mr. Lederman, Principal of the Talmud Torah, gave an address on the importance of Hebrew education and appealed to the parents to do their share to imbue in their children a love for the traditional life. Mr. Basker proposed a vote of thanks to Mr. Lederman and to Mr. Shatz who had helped to organise the Oneg Shabbat, and also to Mrs. R. Levin and Mrs. Katzeff for attending to the catering.

Cape Town Jewish Youth Centre.

At the fifth annual general meeting held at "Rosecourt," Breda Street, on October 26th, Rabbi I. Abrahams delivered the presidential address. He said it was a pleasure to read in the annual report of the activities of the various societies using "Rosecourt," and he wished the Youth Centre Mazeltov. It was a true Jewish Youth Centre and he paid tribute to the work of the committee under the chairmanship of Dr. Scher and congratulated Mrs. Arens on the wonderful youth movement she had instituted in Cape Town. With regard to the future, Rabbi Abrahams welcomed the Hebrew classes and the plans for a dramatic section and library. Adopting a long-range policy, Youth must have a habitation worthy of the future, with facilities for sports and games, rooms for gatherings, discussion, study and culture in the broadest sense, where they could create a spirit of co-operation and brotherliness and a spirit of pride in Judaism, Jewish heritage and our likely Jewish destiny and at the same time a pride in and understanding of our common citizenship.

South Peninsula Zionist Association.

A well-attended and pleasant cultural evening took place at the Sidmouth Hotel, Muizenberg, on Thursday, 4th inst. Mr. S. Borok presided.

The following contributed to a very interesting programme: Mr. M. Asher, recitations; Mr. J. Lehrman, a reading by Sholem Aleichem; Cantor Goldwasser and Rev. Frank, songs; Mr. E. Levite, B.A., gave a short but comprehensive book review on "The Nazarene" by Sholem Ash.

The opportunity was taken to pass a resolution on Balfour Day, which was proposed by Mr. R. M. Rifkin and seconded by Mr. D. L. Davidowitz.

The evening concluded by the Chairman thanking Mr. Levite for his most interesting talk and the others who so ably contributed to the evening's pleasure. A special thanks was recorded to Miss Y. Berg, the new proprietress of the Sidmouth Hotel, for her most generous hospitality.

"Chronicle" Sea-Side Fund.

THIS WEEK'S LIST.

	£	s.	d.
Previously acknowledged	183	12	0
Jewish Sick Relief Society	5	5	0
The New Hebrew Knitting Circle; Somerset West Jewish Ladies' Benevolent Society; Bellville, Parow and Durbanville Women's Zionist Society—each £3 3s.	9	9	0
Mr. and Mrs. S. J. Bernstein; L. Rubinstein; Claremont Jewish Ladies' Society; H. Polliack & Co., Ltd.; S. Stone & Sons—each £2 2s.	10	10	0
Mrs. E. Kottler; Leilah and Theo Wilk; N. Bloch (in memory of Rufus Bloch); Mrs. S. Hesselson; Mrs. A. M. Jackson; N. Cohen; M. Odes; M. Kahn; Gillian and Meyer Hodes; Mrs. Morris Hoffman, De Aar; Muizenberg Jewish Ladies' Sewing Circle; M. Engers; Mr. and Mrs. Israel Mauerberger; Mrs. B. Berold (in memory of her husband)—each £1 1s.	14	14	0
Mrs. S. Rifkin; Wynberg Knitting Circle; Mrs. A. Marcus—each £1	3	0	0
Baby Solomon Lison; Jack and Ernest Rabie; Mrs. C. Sher; Freda Monica Miller—each 10s. 6d.	2	2	0
Collected per Mrs. C. Rabie, Bonnievale; Philip, Marcia and Julia Rabie, £1 11s. 6d.; Mr. and Mrs. S. Strauss, 10s.; (Robertson) Rev. and Mrs. Josefowitz; I. Groll, M. Lipschitz; Mr. and Mrs. Pinto; Mr. and Mrs. Y. Goldberg; Mrs. Tieger; Dr. and Mrs. Saacks; Mr. and Mrs. M. Blumberg; Mr. and Mrs. K. Zurnamer; Mr. and Mrs. I. Schatz; Mr. and Mrs. A. Abramowitz—each 10s.; Mr. and Mrs. S. Kramer; Mr. and Mrs. H. Schachat; Mrs. D. Woolf each 5s.	8	6	6
TOTAL	£236	18	6

Contributions, which are not limited in any way, should be sent to the Hon. Secretary, P.O. Box 2000, or 85, Plain Street, Cape Town.

Barmitzvah at Paarl.

Master Moses Silbert, eldest son of Mr. and Mrs. I. B. Silbert, celebrated his Barmitzvah on Sabbath Rosh-Chodesh, 30th October, at the Paarl Synagogue. During the Friday evening service and Sabbath Shachrith the Barmitzvah officiated as chazan; he read a portion of the law and the Mafter; after which he addressed the congregants in Hebrew.

At an "At Home" on Sunday afternoon Mr. J. J. Geffen, Chairman of the Congregation, presided. The teacher, Rev. I. Gulis, while speaking on the occasion, presented the Barmitzvah with a certificate on behalf of the S.A. Board of Jewish Education. Other speakers were Rev. B. Melamed, Mr. B. Zetler, the Secretary, who congratulated the Barmitzvah on his success in obtaining a certificate with distinction, and Messrs. L. Sutin, Z. Silbert, B. Volks and M. Wisnekowitz. Amongst the guests present was Professor Frank Forman, uncle of the Barmitzvah.

Mr. and Mrs. I. B. Silbert, who are well-known Zionists, have inscribed their son's name in the Golden Book.

PIQUETBERG HEBREW CONGREGATION.

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Mr. J. KATZEFF, Hon. President,
Piquetberg Hebrew Congregation.

CORRESPONDENCE.

The Chalitzta Question.

The Editor,
S.A. Jewish Chronicle.

Sir,—A few weeks ago a Johannesburg correspondent raised in the columns of your paper the question of Chalitzta, and the number of your readers who are interested in this matter will be glad to know that a society for the Amelioration of the Legal Position of the Jewess was founded in England in 1912 for the purpose of removing certain difficulties in regard to the existing Jewish marriage and divorce laws.

In 1929 the World Congress of Jewish Women expressed the need of a Universal Assembly of orthodox rabbis to deal with problems affecting the legal status of Jewish women, and in 1938 a resolution to that effect, supported by the National Councils of Jewish Women of the U.S.A., Australia and Great Britain, was forwarded by my Union to the Ashkenazi and Sephardic Rabbinate in Jerusalem. Progressive orthodox rabbis agree that chalitzta is an anachronism, but aver that there is no central ecclesiastical authority in Jewry which can empower them to act. A few years ago Mr. Justice Frutkin, of Palestine, visited this country and at the instance of my Union, discussed the matter with one of our leading rabbis; on his return he drew up a plan for the formation of two committees which would go into the whole question. This activity was stopped by the outbreak of war and I have Judge Frutkin's assurance that he will pursue it as soon as conditions permit.

When Dr. Hertzog (Chief Rabbi of Palestine) passed through Cape Town recently members of my Executive, including a woman barrister, and I interviewed him and again humbly suggested a convocation of world rabbis—one hesitates to use the term Sanhedrin because of its sacred connotation—so that the necessary authority might be created. The learned rabbi received us sympathetically, saying "A convocation of rabbis yes, perhaps . . . some day, who knows?"

Cases which have entailed infinitely greater suffering than that quoted by your correspondent can be cited freely. It is to be hoped that when peace obtains once more speedier means will be devised to abolish the chalitzta ceremony which obviously has no place in the modern Jewish world.—I am, etc.,

SARA R. SLOMAN,

President, Union of Jewish Women of S.A.

Bris Melah.

The Bris Melah of the infant son of Mr. and Mrs. Ch. Winokur took place yesterday morning (Thursday). Rev. Kassel officiated. Mr. J. Gitlin presided and the speakers were Rabbi I. Abrahams, Dr. C. Resnekov, Dr. A. Birnbaum, Rabbi Morgenstern, Mr. J. M. Weinreich (Dorscht Zion Association) and Mrs. M. Segal (Broth Zion Association). Mr. Winokur suitably responded.

The occasion was marked by a number of J.N.F. inscriptions. Mrs. M. Hoffman, of De Aar, inscribed the infant's name in the Golden Book. Mr. and Mrs. Winokur inscribed their guests, and the guests in turn inscribed the parents in the Golden Book. Mrs. S. R. Sloman inscribed the infant's name in the Sefer Hayalet.

ACCOMMODATION WANTED.

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