

## In and Around the Peninsula

### Cape Town Jewish Reform Congregation.

Rabbi David Sherman, the recently appointed Minister to the Cape Town Jewish Reform Congregation, who arrived from America at the beginning of the month, met members of the Congregation at a Social in the Zionist Hall on Wednesday, July 10th.

The hall was filled and a very pleasant evening was spent. Dr. H. Kramer, (President of the Congregation) extended a sincere welcome to the new Minister, and said that that night was a wonderful one in the history of the Reform Congregation of Cape Town. They had with them one who had come from the United States of America to serve them as spiritual leader and to guide them in ethical and other standards, and who would help to foster spiritual relationship between Jewry and other sections of the population of South Africa.

Dr. Kramer appealed to all to support Rabbi Sherman. In the past there had been much mud-slinging; but this must be avoided in the future. There were, he was pleased to state, signs that this was disappearing. He went on to state that in his address at the welcome by the Council, Rabbi Sherman had laid emphasis on the fact that in Reform Judaism the emphasis was on *Judaism*, and therefore felt that in Rabbi Sherman the Congregation had a definite asset.

Mr. Victor Brasch, the Hon. Secretary of the South African Union for Progressive Judaism, and Chairman of Temple Israel, Johannesburg, brought greetings and best wishes from the Johannesburg Congregation. Rabbi Sherman, he said, would strengthen the Reform Movement in South Africa, particularly in Cape Town. He hoped they would all have many years of happiness under the leadership of the new Minister.

Mrs. Salamon, Chairlady of the Sisterhood, on behalf of that section of the Congregation also welcomed Rabbi Sherman, and said she was sure he would be a tower of strength to them.

Rabbi Sherman in replying to the speeches of welcome, said it was a great joy to be in Cape Town. He and they had waited a long time for that meeting. He hoped they would get together intimately and be rewarded for the delays that had occurred. He thanked them for the many kindnesses and hospitality shown him since his arrival.

Judaism had a great future in South Africa and the Reform movement could play a very important part in shaping that future. Reform, he said, brought out the true colours of Judaism. The function of Reform was a positive one—to re-interpret the Bible, and to bring one the beauty of their old traditions.

During the evening refreshments were served and Mr. Samuel Morris sang. Rabbi Sherman moved among the assembly and met all members personally.

### Bris Milah.

The Bris Milah of Raphael Benjamin, infant son of Mr. and Mrs. Simon Derman took place on Sunday, 21st July at the Inverugie Nursing Home. After the ceremony the guests adjourned to the Sea Point Talmud Torah Hall. Rabbi A. T. Shrock extended good wishes to the parents. Rev. S. H. Michelsen and Mr. J. Seltz also spoke.

Cantor A. Rudy contributed some appropriate songs.

Mr. A. Shifrin, who presided announced that the parents had donated £50 to various charities and inscribed the infant in the Sefer Hayaed.

### Kenilworth Massadah Association.

A most enjoyable evening was spent by members of the Kenilworth Massadah Association on Thursday, 18th July, at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Lentin, Finsbury Avenue, Newlands. The meeting took the form of an informal Hat Debate and discussion was lively and interesting. A vote of thanks to the host and hostess was proposed by Mr. A. Braude.

### Green and Sea Point Wizo Circle.

There was a good attendance of members at the Synagogue Hall on Thursday, 18th July. Mrs. M. Epstein was in the chair and welcomed Mr. and Mrs. Kalman Friedstein, the South African Chalutzim who are visiting this country.

Mrs. Friedstein gave a comprehensive and instructive lecture on the "Role of the Agricultural Settlements in the Life of Palestine." Mr. Friedstein, who was present as a visitor, paid a sincere tribute to the part Wizo was playing in Palestine.

### Friends of Birobidjan.

A well attended social gathering was held recently at the Minor Zionist Hall. In the course of the evening the well-known journalist, Mr. R. K. Cope, paid a glowing tribute to the national policy of the Soviet Government, which encouraged the development of national cultures within defined national boundaries. It was for this particular reason, he said that the Birobidjan area was proclaimed an autonomous Jewish region.

The musical programme included "World Woe," a composition for 'cello and piano, written by Mr. Charles Reeb, a local business man. It was magnificently performed by Miss Vera Poppé, 'cellist and Miss Helger Bassel, who accompanied at the piano. The music was preceded by an explanation ably read by Miss Sybil Marks.

A recital in Yiddish was contributed by Mr. A. Rubinstein, who displayed great artistic talent. Several Jewish folksongs were sung which created a homely atmosphere.

A guest of honour at the gathering was the Soviet Consular Agent, who was warmly greeted by the audience.

### "Black Book" Committee.

The Black Book, a documentary record of bestial Nazi crimes which resulted in the brutal extermination of six million Jews, was published by the joint efforts of prominent Jewish bodies in the U.S.A., the Soviet Union and Palestine. The purpose of this book was to furnish additional evidence at the Nuremberg trials as well as to focus the world's attention on the sufferings of the Jewish people. The English edition only has so far been printed, but it is proposed to have the book also published in several other languages.

The recent meeting of representatives of Jewish organisations in the Peninsula, convened by the initiators of the Black Book campaign in South Africa, appointed a provisional committee whose business it will be to devise means of broadening the scope of activities and to ensure for the Black Book the widest possible circulation.

### Northern Districts Zionist Guild.

A Conversazione took place at the residence of Mrs. M. Caplan, Rhos Street, Bellville, on Tuesday, 9th July. Mr. A. M. Melamet of the S.A. Board of Deputies addressed the gathering, his subject being "A Background to S.A. Politics." Mr. Melamet delivered a very interesting and lucid account dealing with all spheres of South African life. His facts and statistics were much appreciated by the audience.

(Continued in Third Column).

## Clothes Versus Culture.

By SALLIE KUSSEL.

I stood on the City Hall steps on Wednesday afternoon, 17th July, and watched the crowds of well-dressed women going to the Mannequin Parade. Women, many of whom could have participated in the actual Parade themselves, immaculately dressed from head to foot, bright young women, middle-aged women and sedate elderly women, all a pleasure to gaze on.

Then the Parade, which all enjoyed. Which women does not love beautiful clothes? Lovely girls, beautiful clothes, and for a few hours one forgot the realities of life, one forgot that there were millions of women in Europe, women who also love beautiful clothes, women who once wore gorgeous frocks, luxurious furs, and who to-day were solely dependent on second-hand clothing from privileged women, privileged by mere Providence. One forgot all this watching the mannequins—perhaps some of us did not quite forget, perhaps someone's conscience was secretly roused, but one did forget until one came home and read the evening paper and one again remembered the Jewish War Appeal and one was glad to remember it, because one was thankful that one could still enjoy beautiful clothes and that one was still in a position to do something for one's less privileged sisters.

Then one attended lectures by Prof.

Salo Baron, and one looked around the hall—not so full halls—which should have been filled to capacity, and one scanned the faces of the people there, a fair sprinkling of young women, mostly older and elderly people, and the youth, and one asked oneself, where are the women who like to be known as cultured women? Here was an opportunity, a rare one indeed, for S.A. Jewish women to imbibe true Jewish culture from one of the greatest of Jewish historians himself, "Salo Baron, the social historian par excellence of the Jewish people," as Prof. Dr. L. Rabinowitz named him. One wondered again and one realised that in too few cases did clothes and culture go hand in hand; it was clothes versus culture. And yet in war-stricken devastated Europe, Judge Simon H. Rifkind (see "Jewish Affairs," June, 1946, page 26) found Jews longing for culture: "When people who have suffered what these have suffered, organise schools before they build dining-halls; when they pray for books before they ask for clothing; when they plead for a homeland and speak not at all of vengeance; such people have not yet been defeated."

Let us clothe ourselves in "raiment fair" but let us not forget to fill the mind with beauty of learning.

## Social & Personal.

Dr. I. M. Hurwitz, Mr. J. Herbststein, K.C., Mr. H. M. Bloch, K.C., Mr. J. M. Weinreich and Dr. A. Birnbaum have left for Johannesburg in order to attend a special meeting of the S.A. Zionist Council to be held on Sunday, 28th July.

Mr. and Mrs. Harry Rogoff (née Ida Rachlevsky) are being congratulated on the birth of a son.

(Continued from Second Column).

After tea Mr. Melamet very ably responded to all the questions put to him. Mr. D. Minde proposed a hearty vote of thanks to the speaker and to the hostess.

### Green and Sea Point Hebrew School.

A meeting was held in the Synagogue Hall on Tuesday, 16th July, for the purpose of forming a Parent-Teacher Association. There was a large attendance. Mr. Archie Sacks, President of the Hebrew School, was in the chair.

In the course of his address, Rabbi Dr. A. T. Shrock gave an outline of the objects of such an association and appealed to the parents to take a more active interest in the work of the school.

The Principal, Mr. J. Blesovsky, also addressed the gathering.

A keen discussion followed, after which it was decided to form the Parent-Teacher Association. A committee was elected consisting of the following: Mrs. M. Friedman, Mrs. H. Fox, Mrs. H. Kupfer, Mrs. P. Marks, Mrs. M. Stein and Messrs. A. Abt, D. Goldman and J. Shrier.

It was also decided to send a questionnaire to the parents of pupils in order to ascertain their views with regard to certain matters.

The meeting ended with a vote of thanks to the Synagogue Ladies' Association for providing refreshments.

### New Hebrew Congregation Ladies' Guild.

The adjourned Annual General Meeting of the above Guild took place on Monday, 22nd July at the Roeland Street Synagogue Hall.

Mrs. E. W. Kirzner who was in the chair, welcomed the gathering and stressed the importance of the work

done by the members during the year. Mrs. Broide submitted the balance sheet and financial report up to 30th June, 1946, which were unanimously accepted and approved.

The incoming Committee was then elected as follows: Chairlady, Mrs. A. W. Kirzner; Vice-Chairladies, Mesdames L. Kantor and G. Kagan; Treasurer, Mrs. B. Broide; Committee Mesdames M. Levin, Yankelowitz, I. Shapiro, A. Fagov, L. Leiserowitz, I. Lifson, M. Meyerowitz and M. Reading.

After tea, a short instructive address was delivered by Dr. E. W. Kirzner, the Chief Rabbi of the Congregation, on the place of the Jewish woman in the spiritual and social life of the community. Some striking quotations from the Sidrah of the week and from Talmudic sources were made by the Rabbi to illustrate the great duty resting upon every conscientious Jewish woman to take an active interest in the charitable and religious activities of the congregation. In the course of this interesting address the Rabbi welcomed all ladies present and extended his blessings for perfect recovery to Mrs. L. Kantor who recently underwent an operation. All present associated themselves with this sincere blessing and good wishes.

A discussion followed after which Mrs. G. Kagan moved a vote of thanks to the speaker and to the chair.

A box of chocolates kindly donated by Mrs. L. Kantor was won by Mrs. Philips.

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