

Cantor Dov Propis.

Cantor Dov Propis recently arrived in Johannesburg from Palestine to take up the position of Cantor at the Wanderers View Hebrew Congregation.

Cantor Propis, who was born in Birz, Lithuania, has always been a keen Zionist, and 13 years ago joined a group of chalutzim for Palestine, where he joined the kibbutz of Gan Shmuel. Some years later Prof. Schor, a well-known authority on Jewish music, discovered him and encouraged him to have his voice trained. Shortly after he was invited by the Jewish composer Leo Leov to come to Tel Aviv. Here he attracted the attention of the composer Stephan Wolpee and Gvereth Boroschek, under whose care and tuition he was prepared to take the special examination for entering the Palestine Conservatoire of Music in Jerusalem, where he was granted a bursary.

Mr. Propis took up his studies in voice culture with the main purpose of becoming a Chazan. He has conducted services in many synagogues all over Palestine, mainly during the High Festivals. He has also taken part in many public performances, concerts, operas and broadcasts.

Cantor Propis has a beautiful tenor voice and has received high praise from critics, including Hans Lichtenstein, guest conductor of the Palestine Broadcasting Service and the Palestine Philharmonic Orchestra.

In token of appreciation for the manner in which he officiated during the Bimah on the Eve of Shabat Bereishith, the President of the Wanderers View Hebrew Congregation presented Cantor Propis with a silver Starah, placing it on his shoulders on the Eve of Shabat Bereishith.

Cantor Propis has been on a visit to Cape Town and officiated at the Friday evening services at the Muizenberg Synagogue last week.

Prague.

The complaint that the American and British authorities in Germany and Austria are not heeding Czech requests for extradition from their ranks of war criminals who killed and deported many Czechoslovak Jews, has been made by Jewish leaders here.

Prague newspapers have also commented on the situation. The newspaper "Praco" (Work) pointed out that Sturmaband fuehrer Anton Burger, one of the most brutal administrators at the former Theresienstadt concentration camp, has escaped from an Austrian internment camp, where he had been despite a Czech request for his extradition.

Jerusalem.

A new occupational therapy unit has been opened by Hadassa at the Louis Brandeis out-patients' clinic in Jerusalem. The new unit is to be used on an experimental basis and will also serve as a training centre for students in the two-year course run jointly by Hadassa and the Workers' Sick Fund.

S.A. Union for Progressive Judaism.

SECOND NATIONAL CONFERENCE.

The Second National Conference of the S.A. Union for Progressive Judaism was held during the week-end 17th to 19th October. The Conference was preceded by a Sabbath Service and Oneg Shabbat held at Temple Israel, Johannesburg, on Friday evening prior to the Conference.

At this Service Rabbi Dr. M. C. Weiler, Rabbi David Sherman and the Rev. Isaac Richards officiated. The choir was under the direction of Mr. Jerry Idelson. Rabbi Sherman, Rabbi of the Cape Town Jewish Reform Congregation, delivered a most impressive Sermon, "The Renewal of Judaism," before a crowded gathering.

ONEG SHABBAT.

At the Oneg Shabat, Rabbi Weiler, as President of the S.A. Union for Progressive Judaism, welcomed the guests and distinguished visitors. Replies were given by Mr. B. A. Ettlinger, K.C., President of the S.A. Jewish Board of Deputies, and on behalf of the S.A. Zionist Federation, represented by Dr. Deborah Katzen and Mr. Z. Infeld. Mr. Infeld stated that his Movement appreciate the assistance given to the Zionist cause by the Rabbis and laymen of the Reform Jewish Movement in this country.

Mrs. G. Trevor, National President of the Union of Jewish Women of South Africa, spoke on behalf of organised Jewish womanhood and paid tribute to the great efforts of the Sisterhoods of the Congregations. Mr. Richard Myers spoke on behalf of the Cape Town Jewish Reform Congregation and Mr. K. Stoloff on behalf of the Springs and District Reform Congregation.

Liturgical items were rendered by members of the choir of the United Jewish Reform Congregation of Johannesburg and a pleasant evening concluded with the singing of Hatikvah.

OPENING SESSION.

The Conference proper opened at the Lion Hotel, Springs, on Sunday morning. The welcome to delegates and opening address was delivered by Rabbi Weiler, to which Mr. K. Stoloff, President of the Springs and District Jewish Reform Congregation, responded and presented to Rabbi Weiler a Certificate of Honorary Life Membership of the Congregation in appreciation of the services he had rendered to the Springs constituent.

Messages and good wishes for the success of the Conference were received from Chief Rabbi Dr. Leo Baeck, President of the World Union for Progressive Judaism, the Hon. Lily H. Montagu, Hon. Secretary of this body, and Mr. B. A. Ettlinger,

President of the S.A. Jewish Board of Deputies.

Dr. Julian Morgenstern, President Emeritus of the Hebrew Union College, was elected as the second Honorary Life Member of the S.A. Union for Progressive Judaism as it was due to his efforts that both Rabbi Weiler and Rabbi Sherman, graduates of his college, came to this country.

PRESIDENTIAL REPORT.

In his Presidential Report, Rabbi Weiler said that this Second National Conference was in a real sense a mile-stone in the progress of Reform Judaism in South Africa. Delegates had come from far and near—some even travelled a thousand miles—for the special purpose of attending such a Conference. The fact that the Conference was held in Springs was a further indication of the national character of Reform Judaism in this country. It was no longer just a Johannesburg affair.

It was gratifying to note that only one year after the arrival of Rabbi Sherman, the Cape Town membership already stood at 1,060, and that a spacious Temple Israel Communal Hall had been erected. He was also pleased to note that Springs would soon have a Rabbi as the call extended to Rabbi Dr. R. Brasch in England had been accepted. He felt sure that Rabbi Brasch, whom he met in England a year ago, would, with his great experience overseas, make a success.

The Johannesburg Congregations continued to make progress and the combined membership of the Temple Israel and North Eastern Reform Synagogue stood at over 2,000. A site had already been purchased for the erection of Temple Shalom in the North Eastern suburbs.

Apart from these existing congregations there were adherents to the Movement to be found in many cities and towns in South Africa.

Rabbi Weiler pleaded with the Conference for the respective congregations to use all their influence with their members to increase devotion to all Jewish causes. He felt that whilst we may differ in regard to Jewish theology, as far as Jewish sociology

is concerned we are all one people and it was a duty to assist every Jewish cause that helped Jewry to survive and to bring about a revival of Judaism.

Rabbi Weiler also emphasised that more and more there should be an exchange of pulpits between the various Rabbis of the Reform Movement in this country.

Reports were delivered on behalf of the various congregations; Temple Israel and North Eastern, in Johannesburg; Temple Israel, Cape Town; Temple Emeth, Springs; as well as the Sisterhoods and the School Boards.

Conference heard with great interest and approval of the Pension Fund Scheme which had been established for all Rabbis and senior officials of the Reform Movement. The Conference was also pleased to hear the report of the Central Ecclesiastical Board, the authoritative body of Reform Judaism, which has been duly constituted in South Africa on a national basis. The personnel to this board, which represents the Reform point of view on all ecclesiastical and allied matters, are Rabbi Dr. M. C. Weiler, Chairman; Rabbi David Sherman, Deputy Chairman; Rabbi Dr. R. Brasch, Rabbi Elect of the Springs constituent; The Rev. Isaac Richards, H.C.F., Registrar; Mr. V. H. Brasch and Mr. R. Myers, lay advisors; and Mr. N. M. Slood, Legal Advisor.

CONCLUSION.

A Luncheon was given by the Sisterhood of the Springs and District Reform Congregation for the delegates, and the Conference concluded with a Service held at Temple Emeth, Springs, the same evening, at the conclusion of which a symposium was held on, "Reform Judaism and the Modern Jewish Scene," and addresses were delivered by Rabbi Sherman, the Rev. Richards and Rabbi Weiler.

Jerusalem.

Two short histories of philosophy have recently been published in Hebrew, one by Prof. J. Shaki (pp. 133, Mishpat Um'dina, Tel Aviv) and the other by Prof. L. Roth (pp. 29, Aleh, Tel Aviv).

CULTURAL OFFICER TO THE SOUTH AFRICAN JEWISH BOARD OF DEPUTIES.

The South African Jewish Board of Deputies invites applications for the newly created post of CULTURAL OFFICER.

The duties of the incumbent will include preparing Jewish cultural programmes for Youth and Adult groups, and initiating projects calculated to promote Jewish cultural activities.

Experience of work within Youth organisations a special recommendation.

The post will rank as a senior appointment on the Board's staff. Salary according to qualifications.

Reply before 15h November, 1947, stating salary required, date when duties can be commenced, etc., to:—

THE SECRETARY, S.A. JEWISH BOARD OF DEPUTIES
P. O. Box 1180, Johannesburg.

Maccabee Clothing Ltd.

SHIRT & CLOTHING MANUFACTURERS

WHOLESALE MERCHANTS

★ (Contractors to the Union Government) ★

cor. ROCHESTER & LOWER MAIN ROADS, SALT RIVER,
CAPE TOWN