

**The Jewish Family**

Sir,—In the last ten years our nation has suffered the most terrific slaughter in its history. Our numbers have been reduced by millions since 1933—a figure which even greater nations regard as a serious loss in manpower to themselves during this war. The Peace Conference is nearing, and then we will have to fight, as never before, for our homeland in Palestine to avoid such further tragedies as have occurred.

I have noticed within the last few years the increasing tendency on the part of young married Jewish couples, in common with many Christians, to have either no children at all or at the most one or two in the family. The reason they put forward is that they would rather not bring up children in such a disturbed world. Little do they seem to realise that their children will be the backbone of the nation of to-morrow, that these very children may well help to shape a better world and a better future for the nation than they themselves have done. They do not seem to realise that they are practising a danger (especially to the Jews as a nation) which in effect means helping the enemy to eradicate us.

At the moment we have every prospect of being optimistic about the outcome of the war and the Peace Conference, but all our efforts in both these fields will have been wasted if we have not the necessary manpower when we have won justice at last. Jewish people should be encouraged to have as many children as possible in the family.

Yours, etc.,  
**SOLLY BOBROW.**

10 Greenlands Road,  
Auckland Park,  
Johannesburg.

**Chaplain Urgently Needs Sefer Torah for Troops**

Sir,—With the willing co-operation of the Jewish congregations, we have so far been able to provide each of the Jewish Chaplains who has gone up North with a miniature Sefer Torah for the holding of services in the field.

The last occasion was a few weeks ago when, as a result of the publicity you were kind enough to give us, the Committee of the Doornfontein Hebrew School (with the consent of the Committee of the United Hebrew Schools) were good enough to provide one for Chaplain Ernst, who has now gone to join the Sixth South African Division in Italy.

Another Jewish Chaplain is just about to go up North, and we hope

that some other Congregation or private individual who has a miniature Sefer Torah will be willing to lend it for the duration. This Board will, of course, make itself responsible for its safe return or replacement.

Yours, etc.,  
J. M. RICH,  
S.A. Jewish Board of Deputies.  
P.O. Box 1180,  
Johannesburg.

**The King's Call to Prayer**

Sir,—His Majesty the King has requested that Sunday, September 3, be observed by his subjects throughout the Empire as a day of Dedication and Prayer. Post-war problems depend on the sincerity of such devotion rather than on mere prayers for victory. Racial differences may well be set aside and the opportunity given for all to unite on this day in accordance with His Majesty's wish.

(Dr.) F. G. CAWSTON.  
Brittania Buildings,  
West Street,  
Durban.

**POINTS OF VIEW**

By "MEVAKER"

**We Can Always Do With Good Cheer**

I DOUBT whether the suggestion, made by a reader of the "Zionist Record" last week, that money spent on advertising good wishes for the coming year might be put to better purpose if handed over to a worthy cause will altogether satisfy those who have got into the habit of conveying their seasonal felicitations in printed form. While all are ready, or ought to be ready, to accept cheerfully the rationing of tyres, meat or butter, few will be prepared to accept restrictions on the annual expression of goodwill. A friend of mine, who argued last year that the pages of greetings are about the only cheerful thing in a Jewish weekly was probably nearer the truth than he realised.

A Jewish publication is inevitably forced to fill its pages with horrors and tragedy. After exhausting—if it can at all be exhausted—this department of its activity, the Jewish weekly turns to matters nearer home, to local communal activity, which might have been expected to offer a happier field. Yet even here, what with reports of Ossewa Brandwag, of hatred and prejudice, the atmosphere is very gloomy. Even internal communal life offers no relief: squabbles and machlokes, in and between parties, congregations and societies are hardly calculated to offer good cheer at Friday night's table.

It is only on Rosh Hashona that you may turn to the long and almost monotonous array of names at the end of the New Year Annual and find that each, all and everybody extend their sincerest good wishes to each and all and everybody else. There is not a single note of discord!

Communal officials who are frequently beguiled by "sworn critics" at annual meetings, become of a sudden lovable arch-angels upon whom all the blessings are being showered! The chairman of a congregation whose name is being bandied about at tea-tables throughout the year becomes the recipient of flowery compliments from all and sundry.

"Mr. and Mrs. Quarrelsohn extend their very best wishes to the Rabbi, Chazan, Chairman and Committee members of the Argumentdorp Hebrew Congregation." How often is that done on other weeks of the year?

I do not for a moment doubt the sincerity of the greetings. Judging by the way communities, societies and individuals insist on inserting greetings, I am satisfied that they actually mean it. For, after all, whatever outbursts of communal temper prevail throughout the year, Rosh Hashona is the time of reconciliation and goodwill. No-one can safely expect forgiveness from his Creator if he does not ask for it or extend it to his fellow beings. To make this resolve as widely known as possible—what better medium can there be than the pages of the Jewish weekly?

And so, it has become a tradition with Jews in the English-speaking world to advertise their annual change-of-heart. Nobody knows how it first came about. I looked through some back copies of the "Zionist Record" and found that as early as 1912 the very meagre Rosh Hashona number contained four closely-printed pages of New Year greetings. Some of the names mentioned are no more. Others have undergone considerable changes. Families have expanded, single men have become heads of families. Life has changed, people have changed, but for the last thirty-two years all seem to have been anxious to place on record for the sake of posterity their true feelings about Jewish brotherhood and good fellowship. Traditions once established die hard, and we're afraid that it will take a lot of persuasion to abolish the institution of good wishes and good cheer among a people who are so seldom greeted and so seldom cheered.

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**BAAL MUSAPH**

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**Musical Society Concert**

Betty Pack, on the cello, and Heinz Hirschland, on the piano, were the two accomplished performers at a concert arranged by the Musical Society at the Library Lecture Room on Saturday. They played two interesting sonatas, the Beethoven Sonata in A major, and the Chopin Sonata in G.

In the Chopin Sonata, particularly, there was a fine combination between the two players, in their sensitive and intelligent rendering. Mr. Hirschland was strong in the Beethoven Sonata, and he also contributed a number of short solo items to the programme.

**Hebrew Teachers' Association**

The Hebrew Teachers' Association have together with the S.A. Executive of Hebrew Teachers (Merkaz) moved their premises to 60 Shakespeare House, Commissioner and Joubert Streets.

The Zionist Record, August, Friday 25, 1944

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