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# "Women in the Services in Palestine"

## Rabbi Dr. Rabinowitz Addresses W.Z.L.

ONE of the largest gatherings ever to fill the Coronation Hall at a meeting of the Johannesburg Women's Zionist League listened with rapt attention to Rabbi Dr. L. Rabinowitz, the new Chief Minister of the United Hebrew Congregation and newly-appointed Professor of Hebrew at the University of the Witwatersrand, when he spoke last Monday afternoon on "Women in the Services in Palestine."

fifteen hundred Palestinian women who marched were not allowed to carry their flag. "The excuse made was that Jews were not a nation and therefore did not have a national flag."

"The A.T.S. of the Middle East," said Rabbi Rabinowitz, "is beyond doubt and question overwhelmingly the contribution of Palestinian Jewish women to the war effort. No other women of the Middle East took part or came forward." The authorities had refused to allow the service to be called P.A.T.S. as too much favouring the Palestine women, but when he had been a "glad witness" of the first "church" parade of the women in uniform and when the officer called upon those not of Jewish faith to step forward, one solitary Arab girl had fallen out. He had heard, said the speaker, that even this recruit asked to be released three days later, declaring that she had joined only because a representative of the British Government had begged her parents to let her join so that the A.T.S. should not be a completely Jewish show.

Women who had previously had no religious upbringing insisted after the first compulsory service on celebrating the Sabbath wherever they were. In Cairo and Alexandria, the Palestinian A.T.S. worked with the Jewish soldiers in those cultural activities which became a feature of "Tarbut" committees.

### A Memorable Service

His last service for an A.T.S. Unit was held in the desert on T'isha B'av. It was one of the most memorable occasions of a memorable part of his activities. News had been received of the ruthless policy of extermination of Jews in Europe, and every one of the girls had relatives in occupied countries.

"The 2,000 Jewesses in the A.T.S. were a brand plucked from the burning. You Jewesses in South Africa, the glorious opportunity of service was not yours to give, but you stand half way. It is for you to determine whether you will be a force for survival of the Jewish people. The example of the Palestinian women is an inspiration and lesson to every Jewish woman to-day," concluded Rabbi Rabinowitz.

Mrs. Jeanette Davidoff, in the chair, welcomed the speaker and conveyed the apology of Mrs. J. L. Landau for absence owing to ill-health. Mrs. Evelyn Gering moved a vote of thanks.

### Constant Pinpricks

In spite of the glowing opinions the women had won for their loyalty and work, there were constant pinpricks to their Jewish honour. On the occasion of a King's Birthday parade, when six Cypriot girls, four Greek girls and a Maltese girl carried flags representing their countries, the

### Randfontein and Krugersdorp Launch JWA Campaigns

Following their return from a very busy trip to Cape Town and the Western Province, Mr. and Mrs. Vromen spoke in the interests of the JWA to a deeply moved audience at the Hebrew School Hall, Randfontein, on the evening of Tuesday, March 13. Mr. L. Miller was in the chair. The results of the appeal are already most satisfactory, representing a substantial rise on the previous contributions.

Mrs. Vromen was the guest of honour and chief speaker at a meeting of the Union of Jewish Women at Pretoria on Thursday, March 15.

Krugersdorp will hear Mr. and Mrs. Vromen at the Jewish Communal Hall at 8 p.m. on Sunday, March 18, when the chairman will be Mr. M. W. Maltz.

Mr. and Mrs. Vromen will leave for Durban on March 19, and return to the Rand on March 28.

### Concert of Jewish Music

THE annual concert of Jewish music by the Johannesburg Jewish Choral Society will take place on Sunday evening, April 1, at the Selborne Hall. The concert is under the direction of Jerry Idelson.

A well-selected programme includes also several works which are entirely new to the Johannesburg public. Among these are "On The Rivers of Babylon" and an overture of Jewish themes by Prokofiev.

Jerry Idelson has written a choral work to the Hebrew text by the late Morris Hoffman especially for this performance, while his Rhapsodic Paraphrase on Hebrew theme for cello with Betty Paek will be heard for the first time in its Orchestral version in Johannesburg.

Ethel Seftel, a member of the Choral Society, and a newcomer to the Johannesburg stage, will appear in an aria from La Juive by Halevy.

Choral Folk-Songs and Chassidic Orchestral Music will complete this interesting all-Jewish programme.

### Broadcast Cancelled

Mr. Louis Alter, who was to have given a broadcast of his Radio Cosacks Balalaika Orchestra last Wednesday evening, cancelled the engagement owing to the Day of Mourning, despite considerable inconvenience and dislocation of his work.

### UNITED HEBREW CONGREGATION

**PARK SYNAGOGUE:** Rabbi Dr. L. Rabinowitz will deliver a sermon on Friday evening at the Park Synagogue on "Catholic Israel." He will also address the Congregation on Saturday morning, on "No Rest for the Righteous."

**YEOVILLE SYNAGOGUE:** Rabbi A. H. Lapin will deliver a sermon on Saturday morning on "Israel's Sacrifice."

### Rabbi Gervis to Visit Kroonstad

AT the invitation of the Information and Organisation Department of the S.A. Zionist Federation, Rabbi A. M. Gervis, senior Minister of the Berea Hebrew Congregation, who is paying a brief visit to Kroonstad, will address the local Jewish community at a meeting to be held next Monday. The meeting is being held under the auspices of the Kroonstad Zionist Society.

### HAPOEL HAMIZRACHI TO CONFER THIS WEEK-END

THE Hapoel Hamizrachi in South Africa will meet in an all-day Conference on Sunday the 18th. This will be the twelfth Annual Conference of the Organisation. The functions which will be held in conjunction with the Conference will be an Oneg Shabbath at the Hebrew High School on Friday evening, to be addressed by Rabbi Dr. L. Rabinowitz, a special morning "Minyan" on Saturday at the Doornfontein Talmud Torah. On Saturday afternoon, Dr. H. Abt will address the movement, and on the evening of the same day there will be a social gathering.

### J.W.Z.L. Annual Meeting

The 32nd annual general meeting of the Johannesburg Women's Zionist League will be held at the Coronation Hall, corner Pein and Claim Streets, on Tuesday, March 20, at 2.30 p.m.

### SITUATIONS VACANT

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### UNITED HEBREW SCHOOLS OF JOHANNESBURG

The postponed **ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING** of the above Schools will be held on **SUNDAY, THE 25th MARCH, 1945** at 10 a.m., at the Hebrew High School, cr. Wolmarans and Claim Streets.

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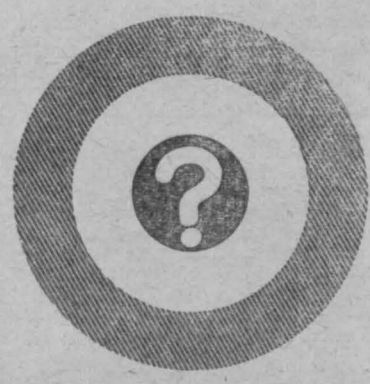
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