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Capetown Offices of the
"S.A. JEWISH CHRONICLE":
37 & 39, CHURCH ST.,
CAPETOWN.

OUR CAPETOWN LETTER.

OBITUARY.

CHARITABLE ENDEAVOURS.

MR. BENDER'S SUGGESTION.

(SPECIAL TO THE "S.A. JEWISH CHRONICLE.")

Capetown,

Sept. 29, 1918

My Dear Cousin,

I regret to have to chronicle two deaths in the community this week. The first is that of Mr. Woolf Harris of Schoonder Street, one of the oldest and most charitable of the members of the Gardens Congregation. Mr. Harris was head of the S.A. Woolen Mills—a pioneer in an industry which has during the last few years made such rapid forward strides. Mr. Harris' eldest son is vice-president of the Capetown Hebrew Congregation. The funeral was largely attended, and an enormous concourse of mourners also attended the special memorial service in the Synagogue, at which the Rev. A. P. Bender and the Rabbi Mirvish delivered addresses. Great sympathy is felt with the family of deceased. The second death is that of Lieut. Melville C. Sonnenberg, only child of Mr. M. C. Sonnenberg of Barkley Road, Sea Point. This news was received by cable, Lieut. Sonnenberg having died of wounds somewhere in France on September 19th. Lieut. Sonnenberg was educated at Mr. Birch's School, Sea Point, and at the South African College School. After matriculating he went through an agricultural course at Elsenburg College. He was a very keen scout and an ardent supporter of all scout efforts and movements. At the end of January, 1917, he joined the S.A. Infantry for Overseas, and subsequently transferred to the Royal Air Force. He had been flying in France since March and had several times been mentioned in despatches. He was just 22 years of age.

Richard Abel, S.A. Heavy Artillery eldest son of Mr. N. C. Abel of Vredenburg, Saldanha Bay, has been wounded in the right leg. He is progressing favourably. He has been serving with the Heavy Artillery in France for over 3 years and this is the fourth time he has been wounded.

A Zionist meeting of ladies, presided over by Mr. L. Gordon, was held last Sunday, at Wynberg Synagogue. An election took place, with the following results: Mrs. A. M. Matz, chair-lady; Miss T. Yudelmann, treasurer; Miss L. Rolnick, honorary secretary; committee, Mesdames A. Hoffman, A. Anziska, L. Levy, P. Anziska, M. Sebba, S. Ruch, J. Hesselsoor, N. Anziska, R. Wainstein and M. Bloch.

A very successful play, "The Unknown," by J. Gordin, was produced the other night at the Railway Institute by the Jewish Literary and Dramatic Society, in aid of the Jewish War Victims' Fund, before a large and appreciative audience. The performance was gone through with more than amateur skill, and the instructor, Mr. S. Davidoff, is to be congratulated upon the brilliant result of his efforts.

A sale of work, organised by Mr. J. Lossuth and the staff of the Hopemill Public school was held last week in the school ground, which were decorated with bunting and flags, the stalls offering a large variety of articles for sale.

The Rev. A. P. Bender, who opened the bazaar, in the course of his remarks said that it was not the first occasion that the Hopemill Public

School had offered their services in aid of the various war funds, for £500 had already been raised through their efforts. This bazaar was in aid of those who had lost that which is of almost more value than life, that is, sight. Those men who have lost the power to see the beauties of the world can alone know what their loss means, and sympathise with Milton's Samson, when he says, "Light, the prime work of God, to me is extinct, and all her various aspects of delight annul'd, which might in part my grief have eased." He appealed to all to give as liberally as they could to the "Our Day" Funds and to spend no less generously at the present bazaar.

On Wednesday night the Municipal orchestra and the Cherniavsky Bros. made a combined effort to benefit the "Our Day" Red Cross funds. The Concert, which it need not be said, was a huge success, was given under distinguished patronage, and the large audience gave abundant evidence of its enjoyment of the treat offered. The Brothers Cherniavsky have established themselves a prime favourite in the musical world here and with the added

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glory of the orchestra the Concert was indeed a memorable one.

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At the College of Music's quarterly Concert, held in the Hiddingh Hall of the University of Capetown An exceptional standard of merit was attained. Miss Bella Berelowitz showed a good command of technique in her playing of a Capriccio by Scarlatti-Tansig, while Miss Ethel Zinn's rendering of "Alla Forte" by Savasta was a skilful and brilliant piece of work. Miss Fagan Miss Fanny Wolfensohn and Master Tobias were also among the performers.

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The engagement is announced of Mary, third daughter of M. Shapiro of Paarl to Mr. Simon Wolman of Wynberg. I have also just heard that Miss Josy Rosenblatt, daughter of Mr. H. Rosenblatt of this town and late of Vryburg, has become engaged to Mr. Max Hammerschlag of your City. I believe the young lady is on a visit to Johannesburg.

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Miss Olga Katzin's students gave an extraordinarily good recital in the Railway Institute during the week. The Hall was filled with guests and a very enjoyable evening was spent. For the most part modern pieces had been chosen—grave and gay, farcical and tragic, suiting and temperament of the young players. The enunciation in all the items was exceptionally clear and definite, and the emotions were portrayed with just the right amount of restraint or abandon. Miss Katzin is particularly to be congratulated on her stage management and the effective simplicity of her stage setting.

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At the last meeting of the Cape Hospital Board the Rev. A. P. Bender spoke urgently in support of a scheme for establishing a Children's Hospital in this town. He suggested that this hospital be erected as a memorial to the sons of South Africa who have fought in the war. "I can imagine" said Mr. Bender "no more suitable or more splendid memorial of the services which our gallant fellows have rendered to the Empire than a children's hospital would make."

Yours etc., X.

Jewish Literature for Soldiers and Sailors.

Letter from Chief Rabbi.

We have been requested by the President of the Johannesburg Jewish Guild to afford publicity to the following communication which Mr. Fred Cohen has received from Mr. I. M. Goodman of Cape Town. As we refer to the subject matter of the communication in our Editorial columns further comment here is unnecessary.

The President,
Johannesburg Jewish Guild.

Dear Mr. Cohen,

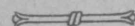
I have received a letter by last mail from the Very Reverend, the Chief Rabbi, asking me to undertake some work in the Cape Province in connection with the Fund for distributing Jewish literature to our Soldiers and Sailors on active service.

In conjunction with Advocate Morris Alexander, I am commencing a correspondence campaign throughout the Cape Province. Dr. Hertz mentions that so far there has been a very inadequate response from South Africa and the other Oversea Dominions. I have ascertained that as a result of a collection made in this town, a sum of £90 has been forwarded, while the Jewish Board of Deputies has received and forwarded from its constituent bodies about £40. It would appear that there is not the same amount of enthusiasm displayed on behalf of this worthy object, that has attended other patriotic and benevolent funds. And this is War Work in the best sense of the term. Now it has occurred to me that the premier Jewish intellectual organisation in South Africa might well take this work up. I do not suggest your making a collection or giving a donation. I would suggest your organising your next big function in aid of this fund. To quote from the letter before me, "May I ask you to take up the work that attempts to reach all our manhood of to-day and to-morrow, and fan their Jewish consciousness into a bright flame. Are you willing not only to talk of a spiritual rebirth, but to help its coming."

I am sending you under separate cover, for your perusal and for the inspection of your committee, "A Prayer book for Jewish Sailors and Soldiers" "The Book of Psalms" "A History of the Jews" "A Book of Jewish Thoughts," a Pamphlet "Happy in my Judaism." I need not write of their merits. They will speak to you themselves. Many Jewish organisations throughout the world are engaged in doing splendid work, catering for the physical needs of our distressed war victims, but no organisation but this Fund of the Chief Rabbi is catering for the spiritual and intellectual needs of our fifty thousand British Jewish Soldiers and Sailors. And it is only the Jewish Guild with its fine body of enthusiasts for everything Jewish and cultural that can properly take this matter in hand in South Africa. I am confident that the members will rise to the great opportunity which presents itself to do something really big, really Jewish, really patriotic, for the great army of Jews who are splendidly upholding the best traditions of the British Empire. I know you have many calls on you. I know that Johannesburg and Transvaal Jewry has responded magnificently to all the calls. This call, however, specially comes under the Guild's activities and is worthy of a special general meeting to ensure a good send-off. I shall be glad to hear that you are taking the matter up.

Yours faithfully,

I. M. Goodman.



It is reported that the German authorities have arrested a number of Jewish Labour leaders of the Bund and Poaeli Zionist Organisations, who were engaged at Minsk in labour propaganda and that sentences of imprisonment for periods extending to fifteen years were passed by Military Courts.

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The disaster to the steamer 'Oryol' on the Caspian Sea is reported to have caused the death of a thousand Jew refugees from the Caucasus, who, together with five hundred Christians, were endeavouring to reach Russia in their hurried flight from the districts which the Turks were occupying. The passengers were drowned as a result of the sinking of the steamer.