

The Johannesburg Jewish Guild.

(INC.)

Annual Meeting.

Election Surprises.

AN ADJOURNMENT.

More than ordinary interest was taken in the annual meeting of the Johannesburg Jewish Guild which took place on Sunday last at the Jewish Guild War Memorial Hall, 85 Von Brandis Street, Johannesburg. It was evident that there would be a large attendance for, a circular had been issued by some of the members urging all members to attend and to take an interest in all Guild matters. Long before the meeting was timed to start the large hall was well filled and, there was a large crowd of members outside waiting to gain admission but they could not do so until they had paid their arrears of subscription. The Guild, now being an incorporated body, each member is a shareholder therefore, it was necessary for anyone who wished to attend the meeting to be duly qualified and, owing to the large number of members wishing to become duly qualified the secretarial staff were kept busy collecting arrears. As a result of this the Chairman, Mr. M. I. Isaacson, in response to enquiries, announced that the meeting would not start until 8.30 p.m. One noticed that there were present many who had not been seen at a Guild function for a considerable while. In fact, for years past, and this was sufficient evidence to show that the flagging interest was being revived and, it is to be hoped that this will not be temporary.

Prior to calling upon the Secretary to read the notice concerning the meeting, Mr. Isaacson appealed for fair play.

The notice of the meeting being read and the report being taken as read, the minutes of the previous general meeting of members were read and, a proposition that these two being taken as read was overruled. Mr. A. S. Joffe opposed the adoption of the minutes on certain technical grounds but, eventually he withdrew his objections.

THE CHAIRMAN'S SPEECH.

Mr. M. I. Isaacson then formally moved the adoption of the Report and Balance Sheet for

1924. A period of sixteen months had elapsed and owing to suspension of building operations, they had had a trying time, the committee had done its best to overcome all difficulties and he hoped for a revival of interest on the part of members. He expressed great pleasure that Dr. Manfred Nathan, K.C., had been unanimously elected President for the ensuing year, (Applause) and he proceeded to pay a glowing tribute to Dr. Nathan's excellent qualities and achievements. Continuing, Mr. Isaacson said, the War Memorial Committee had provided the building and most of the furniture but, still more had to be done. They had the workers in the Guild and this was proved by the fact that at the recent Arcadian Fete they had had a capable body of workers to help the Fete. He urged them not to disband but to continue to work for the Guild. He hoped that the members that evening would select responsible people for the Council for the ensuing twelve months. People who would command the respect and confidence of everybody in the community. There was room for all in the Guild and he hoped that all Jewish Societies would meet in the building. To achieve success they must have harmony and he regretted that some people had thought it necessary to send out a circular which anyone might have thought came officially from the Guild. Those responsible for it might at least have had the courage of their convictions and signed their names. Many of ladies and gentlemen whose names appeared on the circular he had the highest respect and worked with for years and, he hoped that their hand was not in it. In appealing to members to make use of the building Mr. Isaacson also paid a well deserved tribute to Mr. Isidore Heymann, who had not only worked and given money but had also persuaded others to give. The committee must work for the benefit of the institution and, despite all opinions he took it that they had congregated there

for the benefit of the Guild and he urged them to vote for the men and women whom they thought would be the best for the next twelve months. During his speech Mr. Isaacson had to reply to certain interjections but, nevertheless he adopted a very firm attitude.

Dr. Manfred Nathan, K.C., in seconding said, that despite the heart burnings they must congratulate themselves upon the fact that the Guild had continued to exist for, some people thought it would not do so. Dr. Nathan then enlarged upon the purposes of the Hall and said that they had to carry on the business with that dignity worthy of the institution. A certain amount of progress had been made and still more remained to be done. Dr. Nathan then paid a tribute to the work of the Secretary. Putting all personalities aside he said that they would all agree with him that this gentleman had done very good work.

THE DISCUSSION.

Mrs. Bertha Goudvis was the first speaker and, in her criticism she complained of the lack of courtesy on the part of the Executive or at least some members of the executive in not replying to a letter which was addressed to the Guild in her capacity as vice-President of the Womens' Zionist League making a complaint that her organisation not being allotted a room which had been promised for them for a meeting. She said that six months had elapsed and she had had no reply.

The Chairman, in replying, said that the letter had been received and the executive had decided that he should explain the whole position to Mrs. Goudvis. If he had not been as courteous as she had anticipated he tendered his apologies and he pointed out that owing to the building not being finished and there being no proper system of letting the rooms they could not give any definite promise as to which room any Society would have but now that the building was finished it would be necessary to appoint a House Committee who would deal with all such matters.

Mr. S. Couzins raised certain questions regarding the resignation of the committee of the Tennis Section and, it was pointed out that as this had only taken place since the last meeting of the Executive it would be dealt with in due course.

Mr. Max Rose in supporting the adoption of the report was of