

In and Around the Town.

"THE ATTITUDE COURTEOUS?"

For many years the JEWISH CHRONICLE has presented its Cake, suitably inscribed, to prominent people, to commemorate an event with which he or she has been connected. This compliment, has without exception been accepted in the spirit that actuated its presentation. But no, not without exception, for the dainty sent last week to Mr. I. Schwartz to mark an important event—the laying of the foundation stone of the New Zionist Hall—has been returned by that gentleman. He complained of the paper's attitude in the past towards the Zionist movement, and refused the cake, I suppose, as a protest.

OUR FRIENDLY ACTION.

One may be pardoned for expressing great surprise at Mr. Schwartz's action in treating in this manner what was intended as a compliment to him, as the President of the Dorshei Zion Association, and a leader among local Zionists, and also as a pointer to a function that had a great local significance. The return of the JEWISH CHRONICLE to Cape Town was generally welcomed by the community and prominent Zionists expressed their goodwill and best wishes for its success. The presentation of the Cake to Mr. Schwartz was a friendly gesture by this paper, and if there has been a difference between his views and those expressed by the CHRONICLE on Zionist matters, that should be no reason for such an act of gross discourtesy. Mr. Schwartz, had he accepted the CHRONICLE's token, would have been in good company for, as it has been pointed out, amongst those who have been pleased to accept it are members of the Royal Family, and prominent personages in South Africa and overseas.

FAIR CRITICISM.

If, in the past the Zionist movement has been criticised, such criticism has been fair and reasonable, in the public interest, and which any paper, catering to the needs of the community, is entitled to make. Its columns are always open to those who desire to express opinions and views contrary to its policy and this course would have been much better than such a display of childish pique and petulance as that indulged in by Mr. Schwartz.

A CONGREGATION'S DIFFICULTY.

I hear the Committee of the Green and Sea Point Hebrew Congregation are experiencing much difficulty in procuring a piece of land for the purpose of erecting a Synagogue, which it both suitable as a site and reasonable purchase price. Some of the prices asked for sites are absurd, even for progressive Sea Point. Meanwhile a canvass to ascertain the number of prospective members has been completed with satisfactory results. Shortly a campaign for the building fund will be inaugurated. I am told that already generous donations have been promised—by residents in the locality as well as non-residents—and I have no doubt these will be announced as soon as the main propaganda is launched.

JEWISH LITIGANTS.

"Should law cases in which Jews are involved be reported in the JEWISH CHRONICLE?" Some time ago this question was asked in this paper when opinions were expressed *pro* and *con*. I bring it forward once more because the other day I was asked by a Gentile friend why such cases are not recorded in the columns of this organ. I replied that there was no other reason beyond that suffi-

cient prominence is given to all court cases by the daily press. There can be no question that because a litigant is a Jew that a report of the case in which he figures is withheld. At the same time I would like readers' views on this matter.

THE NATIONAL LANGUAGE.

A feature of the "Chanukah" Concert given by the children at the Oranjezicht Orphanage was that all the choruses, songs, recitations and sketches were given entirely in Hebrew. Apart from the individual talent shown by the children the wonderful strides made by them in the National language, speaks well for the excellence of Mrs. Gordon's tuition. It is now nine months since Mrs. Gordon undertook the duties of Hebrew teacher at the Home, and her influence is clearly noted. She takes an immense pride in her work and the progress which her charges are making must inspire her to greater efforts.

AN EXCELLENT MAGAZINE.

I have just been shown a copy of the *Junior's Magazine*, the Magazine of the S.A. College Junior School, and I was immediately struck with the literary ability shown by many of the youthful contributors. There is a high quality in verse, prose and story, which is very creditable taking into consideration the tender ages of the boys. They receive every encouragement and their efforts are carefully considered in connection with the magazine competitions. Great promise is indicated in the drawing section and a particularly fine effort is that by F. Sieradzki, who depicts an old time type of craft in full sail ("Rolling Home from Rio"), whilst N. Behrman contributes an effective border design of three geese.

YOUTHFUL "LITERATEURS."

In the section devoted to verse many of the budding poets turned to the mighty deep for inspiration, always a romantic subject especially for boys. "The Rolling Main" by Z. Zuckerman breathes the romance of the days long before steam ousted sail, and the young minstrel sings of the Spanish Main, the rolling sea, the swooping sea-gulls and the sighing winds. Another commendable effort is that by A. Kalmanowitz, whose prize verse is entitled "The Changing Sea." S. Gurland is a prize-winner in the descriptive verse section calling his effort "Books I have read." Here he cleverly enumerates many books, so dear to the school boy's heart which he has, I have no doubt, delved into, in his search for adventure and information. The verses, I have mentioned are reproduced with acknowledgements to the young authors and to the Editor of the Magazine (Mr. Geo. B. Kipps) in another part of this issue.

TALENTED JEWISH ARTISTS.

The Dalton Sisters, after a most successful South African tour, leave for England by to-morrow's mail-boat. It may not be generally known that these talented artistes are Jewish girls and very popular in London, where Nita is the premier lady saxophonist. Daisy, I understand, writes all their numbers. I am told that Daisy and Nita will be returning to South Africa in the near future when wedding bells will ring. The fortunate young men are well known locally, but more anon!

MR. ISAACOVICH.

Mr. Nathan Isaacovich, whose recent visit to South Africa has been so singularly successful, had a very strange and interesting experience

during the war. Just prior to the outbreak of hostilities, Mr. Isaacovich was acting in Poland and when the war broke out he was unable to return to his wife and family who were still in London. For seven years he had to pass through the horrors of residence in that distressed country. Nor could he get into communication with his wife, who naturally was much grieved, not only at the absence of her husband, but also by reason of the fact that she could hold no correspondence with him. Eventually through the courtesy of a Polish officer, who was engaged to an American young lady, he succeeded in sending his letters through that then neutral country to England and so was able to communicate with his wife.

GERMANS IN POLAND.

Mr. Isaacovich speaks very highly of the behaviour of the Germans while in Poland and says that as far as Jews were concerned they were a God-send. According to him the Germans introduced a new order of things by reason of the civilising effect of their sojourn in Poland. They brought in measures for public health and decency, and did much to awaken the Polish population to the advisability of clean and healthy lives. As far as the Jews were concerned they created a consciousness of self-respect and the effect of their example and tuition was reflected in the improved bearing of our people who were loud in their regrets when Poland became a country of self-government.

A KINDLY MESSAGE.

Among the many messages felicitating the JEWISH CHRONICLE upon its new Cape Town issue, was one from Mr. S. Lennox Lowe, Johannesburg, who, twenty-five years ago, when the Zionist movement was not the popular cult it is to-day, was a hearty worker and one of the stalwarts in the movement. He wired: "Hearty congratulations upon appearance and contents of new issue. Wish you the success you deserve as the only independent fearless Jewish journal in South Africa. Hope the culture of the Cape will now penetrate darkest Africa." Such messages of goodwill are indeed encouraging.

THE PREMIER'S ARRIVAL.

The Jewish immigrants who arrived by the mail boat and the intermediate "Guildford Castle" were rather puzzled by the animated scenes at the Docks on Monday morning. They were greatly impressed with the Defence Force detachment drawn up alongside the mail boat berth, their bayonets glistening in the bright sunshine, while martial music was discoursed by the Defence Force band. Policemen, polished right down to the last button and wearing snow white gloves, were busy controlling the large crowds that had gathered. The many ships in port were gaily beflagged; and the Eastern European arrivals soon had an answer to their enquiries. There was a sharply issued command, a rattle of rifles as they were brought to the "Present," a few bars of music by the band, and General J. B. M. Hertzog, Prime Minister of the Union of South Africa, accompanied by the Minister of Finance, Mr. Havenga, came slowly down the gangway, followed by His Worship the Mayor. The *voyageurs* were warmly greeted by the crowd and after a brief inspection of the guard of honour, drove off to the City where they were to be civically welcomed.

SCHLEMIEL—A QUERY.

I was asked the other day the meaning of the word "Schlemiel" and why the unsuccessful man was thus labelled. Meeting my friend Rev. S. H. Michelson, I.S., L., I passed on the query to him being unable to

satisfactory answer the question myself. Mr. Michelson has promised to do so in the next issue of the CHRONICLE and will endeavour to trace the origin of the word.

HEBREW EDUCATION.

Hebrew Classes, I am told, are to be established in the Girls' Central School, where a large number of Jewish children attend. This innovation follows the dissatisfaction expressed by the inspectors with the long and late hours which the children have to devote to Hebrew. The Rev. A. P. Bender, who has interested himself in this matter, has obtained the sanction of the Superintendent-General of Education for the inauguration of these classes which exist at the present time at the South African College Schools. About four hours a week will be devoted to Hebrew and will take place partly in school time. The fees will be about 10/6 per quarter, and the services of a competent teacher have been secured.

EN PASSANT.

I was very sorry to learn that the Rev. L. Kirschner, the Gardens Synagogue Cantor, has had a break down in his health. Acting on medical advice, the reverend gentleman leaves shortly for a month's holiday in Ceres.

An amplifier has been installed in the Gardens Synagogue and it will now be possible for those occupying rear seats as well as the occupants of the ladies' gallery, to hear distinctly and follow the Minister's sermons. This has been very difficult in the past.

Last Sunday tombstones were consecrated at No. 3 Cemetery Woltemade in memory of Mrs. Bertha Kriel, Mrs. Betsy Albert, Mrs. Pauline Sweigenhast, Mr. Meyer Weiner and Mr. Morris Rubin. In each case the Rev. L. Kirschner officiated in the presence of large gatherings of friends and relatives.

Rev. S. H. Michelson, Hebrew Master at S.A.C.S., has raised a sum of money amongst his pupils for the purpose of establishing a library of Hebrew literature at the school.

MR. GOSSIP.

A Pretty Present.

Our readers will doubtless have noticed the artistic advertisement which appears in the columns of this paper from time to time, headed "My Lady's Toilet," in which some particulars of Roses of Ashes and Ashes of Violets are given. These are the exclusive products of the House of Bourjois of Paris, a firm of perfume manufacturers, whose reputation is world wide. It is interesting to note, that in order to popularise their goods, this enterprising firm have put up small presentation cases containing a little bottle of perfume and a small box of face powder. These are attractively boxed and are remarkable value for the half-a-crown which is required to obtain them. Readers would be well advised to send to Messrs. A. Bourjois et Cie Ltd., 32, Burg Street, P.O. Box 953, Cape Town, two shillings and sixpence in order to obtain this pretty box. These are merely manufactured in order to spread the fame of Bourjois's products. It is worth while noting that the exquisite Bourjois series comprises: Vanishing Cream, Face Powder, Compact Powder, Perfume, Bath Powder, Bath Crystals, Talcum Powder, Baby Powder, and may be obtained from all chemists, perfumers and stores of standing in this country.