

In and Around the Town.

CHRISTMASTIDE.

To-morrow is the eve of the Festival of Christmas. During the week there have been busy scenes in the shopping centres of the city and retailers report steady trade. There appears to always be plenty of money for Xmas shopping and the volume of business done this year, I am told, is no worse than last year. To-morrow night there will be the usual Christmas Eve animation, and scenes always associated with the "festive season" will be enacted.

JEWISH GREETINGS.

Apart from being interested in this important non-Jewish festival from the trading point of view, members of the Jewish community—particularly the younger section—join with their gentile friends in the celebrations. It is becoming quite a feature of Christmastide for Jews to remember their Gentile friends on this occasion, and presents and greeting cards are sent out from many a Jewish home, office and store. And why not? Non-Jews, in innumerable instances thoughtfully remember "Rosh Hashona" and convey verbally, with printed tokens and through the Press, their best wishes on that high Festival. Jews do not consider the purport of Christmas: presents are given and greetings sent purely out of friendship.

CHILDISH ENTHUSIASM.

The spirit of Christmastide infects Jews and Gentile alike these days. Jewish children, incongruous as it may seem, are just as thrilled with visits to grottos and decorated departmental stores as their little non-Jewish friends, and just as proudly exhibit their purchases of "lucky dips," etc. They do not worry about the significance of the festival. Christmas to them means jolly excursions to town, visits to the shops and presents numerous. They are as excited as their Christian playmates and certainly do not consider how paradoxical it is that they should be celebrating an event not in the Jewish calendar.

THE LURE OF THE SEA.

The lure of the sea is very strong and cannot be resisted by those who for months are denied a glimpse of the golden beach and the foamy surf. Consequently the various resorts are simply crowded with visitors from up-country. Muizenberg, the Queen of South African watering places is, just now, the Mecca of co-religionists from the country districts. Jewry is well represented not only there, but at the Strand, Gordon's Bay, Fish Hoek, Kalk Bay, etc. The seaside is a great draw for young Jewry. The bathing, surfing and romps among the sand dunes are wonderful attractions, and they can be depended upon to make the most of the school vacation.

AN ENJOYABLE OUTING.

The Jewish inmates of the Alexandra Institute, Maitland, were given a treat on Dingaan's Day. Together with a number of non-Jewish inmates, they were taken for a Char-a-banc drive to Hout Bay, via Sea Point. There they romped about the beach until a call brought them together for tea. Needless to say they soon polished off the good things that had been provided. The return journey was made via Constantia, where a halt was made, and then a visit to the Zoo gave the youngsters much enjoyment. It was a tired but happy band that returned to the Institution, and they were loud in their praise of the ladies that made the day's pleasure possible. The outing was arranged by Mrs. T. Saphra (Vice-President of the Cape Jewish Board of Guardians), assisted by Mesdames B. Hammer-

schlag, J. Shenkman and R. Lewis, members of the Committee. Mr. Eilenberg kindly provided the char-a-banc and the refreshments were collected by the ladies from friends. There are all too few of these outings, the example set by Mrs. Saphra and her colleagues should be emulated by other social workers. A sympathetic public will always provide the wherewithal to give these unfortunate children a day's enjoyment.

AN OLD MEN'S PICNIC.

The old folk, too, were remembered for on Thursday a party of forty men from the Old Somerset Hospital were taken for a drive to Hout Bay in two tramway 'buses. The outing was organised by Mrs. A. M. Jackson and Mr. H. A. Barron, and will be talked about for many a day by the old men. An early start was made and in between the frequent intervals for refreshments, cricket and paddling was indulged in by those able to. Whilst the organisers desire to thank the contributors of refreshments and tobacco, they themselves deserve grateful thanks for undertaking the picnic and giving so much pleasure to those whose lives are indeed drab and uneventful.

WANTED—A NAME.

The *Sedra* for Saturday is Exodus, Chapter 1 to 5, dealing with the birth of Moses and the enslaving of the children of Israel. When Pharaoh's daughter found the child in the bulrushes, she subsequently named him Moses—*Moisha*—saying "I drew him out of the water." *Moisha* is derived from the Egyptian words "drawn out of."

One is often puzzled as to what the name of the child was before he was placed in the bulrushes, seeing that in the case of other ancient Jews a child was always named immediately following berth. This child must, therefore, have had a name prior to being found by the daughter of Pharaoh.

AN EXPLANATION.

I mentioned this matter to a friend who informed me that according to the *Medrash* his name was "Tov," and he pointed out the words in Exodus v. 2, chap. 2. "... and when she saw him he was goodly." "Tov," he explained, meant good.

I wonder if any of my readers have other explanations.

JOY.

He stood watching the approach of the steamer to her berth. Excitement was plainly visible in his eyes and in his every movement. Impatiently he followed the slow process of "tying the ship up," and his eager eyes scanned the faces of those who lined the rails. At last the reunion of which he had dreamt ever since he left his wife and little child in that small Eastern European town for this happy land of South Africa! Eighteen months ago he stepped ashore in Cape Town. A stranger in a strange land. He had since made good, and had sent the joyful tidings overseas that his wife may now safely join him. Preparations had been made to give her and the little one a right royal welcome. The days had dragged along with leaden feet, but the long-looked for event was now at hand. Oh! how he would greet his sadly missed ones. At last he was able to board the ship, and, bounding up the gangway he reached the deck to meet—tragedy.

TRAGEDY.

Gently he was told the truth. The night previous, with no apparent reason, his young and pretty wife, who had been counting the days, hours, minutes, before she could meet her man, threw herself into the sea.

Too late were the attempts to restrain her. A sudden impulse! Her fellow passengers noticed nothing but happiness throughout the long voyage. Stunned, the man listened to the tragic recital. Hardly comprehending the significance of the murmurs of deep sympathy; unable to realise the great woe that had entered his life, he clasped his child, a little blue-eyed mite of two years, who gazed with wondering eyes around her. There were tears in many an eye as he slowly made his way down the gangway to the shore. He was brave, was that man! Took the blow as only a real man can—in public.

One minute it may be joy; the next tragedy.

KOSHER FOOD.

I have met a man who has a strong partiality for kosher food. He is the male partner of The Huntings, who have been presenting a very clever acrobatic act at the Tivoli.

"I love Jewish food," said he, "and the first thing I do on arriving in the town where we are booked to show, I look for a Jewish restaurant." He had a difficulty in Cape Town, however, and eventually obtained his favourite dishes at a boarding-house.

There should be good prospects for an enterprising caterer who would open a kosher restaurant, run on up-to-date lines, in a prominent part of the city. I feel sure such a venture would be well supported, not only by Capetownians but by the numerous visitors from up-country and overseas.

A SEASIDE DANCE.

January 8th is the date chosen by the Muizenberg Jewish Ladies' Society for their annual ball in aid of local charities, and which will be held at the Marine Hotel. Energetic Mrs. Bobby Barnett is organising the affair, and she is being assisted by an enthusiastic band of ladies. There will be exhibition dances and other novelties are promised. Zabow and Moller's popular orchestra will be in attendance. Coinciding with the "season" one may anticipate both a social and financial success. I would advise dancers to procure their tickets early.

JEWISH GUILD ITEMS.

I am told that an appreciable amount of money was raised by means of the "Fun Fair" held recently in the City Hall, and the Tennis Court Fund will be materially added to as a consequence.

Preparations are now well ahead for the official opening of the courts, which event will most likely be at the end of the present month or early in January. I understand a prominent gentleman has been asked to perform the opening ceremony.

A picnic on a large scale is being organised, and will take place on the 16th January. Motor 'buses have been engaged and will convey a large number of members of Melkbosch Strand, where they are sure of a rollicking time, for I hear that all sorts of sports and games have been arranged.

JEWISH LITIGANTS.

Apropos my question as to whether law cases in which Jews figured should be reported in the *CHRONICLE*, "Non opus est" writes to say: "I do not agree that Jewish papers withhold reports of law cases in which litigants are Jewish because it is the desire of the newspaper to present the Jewish people in as favourable a light as possible. This is absolutely wrong. I have certainly never seen a report of any case in a Jewish paper when that case is of no Jewish interest. There is quite enough matter of entire Jewish interest to fill the columns of any such paper, without resorting to the Law Courts for material. Because a Mr. Cohen or a Mr. Isaacstein is being sued for rent or is suing somebody else, there is

no need to rush to print and advertise such matters which occur practically every day in a large commercial community. I am dealing now entirely with civil affairs.

CRIMINAL ACTIONS.

"Dealing with this question when it relates to criminal actions, I think this can be confidently left to your daily contemporaries, who with possibly no intention of anti-Semitic inference, usually ably discover the religious tendencies of the criminal if he happens to be a Jew. I am not attempting to stir up strife by saying this, because the Jewish community in Cape Town have always had the hospitality of the columns of both the local daily and weekly papers. Certain it is, that the Jewish public can read of any important law case in the many daily papers published."

SHELUMIEL—AN EXPLANATION

As promised last week I now give Rev. Michelson's explanation as to the origin of the word Shelumiel. He writes:—

"In answer to your enquiry *re* the origin of the word Shelumiel, and why it should be attributed to the unsuccessful man, I find from investigation that this name is mentioned in Numbers, Chapter 7, verse 36, which reads: 'On the fifth day (of the consecration of the Tent of Assembly), Shelumiel, the son of Zurishaddai, Prince of the children of Simeon brought his offering . . .'. The meaning of Shelumiel is 'Peace of God' (Shelom El). This increases the difficulty of solving the meaning as to why it should always be applied to the unsuccessful man. The answer is that in accordance with Jewish Law and Customs, the first eight *Neséim* are recited at the end of the morning service during Chanukah, one each day for the eight days. It is also well known that the fifth day Chanukah can never fall on a Sabbath. Consequently the fifth *Nasé*, Shelumiel, can never be read on a Sabbath, whilst the other seven *Neséim* manage to be read one Sabbath during the course of every few years. Therefore, as we consider the man who is always left out of the good things of life is unsuccessful we are reminded of Shelumiel who was the only one of the eight Princes about whose offering we never read on a Sabbath. Hence the relation between Shelumiel and the unsuccessful man."

AGED THIRTEEN!

I was present at a very enjoyable "Barmitzvah" on Sunday, when a large and representative gathering assembled at the residence of Mr. and Mrs. B. Silverman, "Menanteau," Green Point, to celebrate the "confirmation" of Mr. Silverman's son, Monte. I met many old friends, and was agreeably surprised to find so many well known members of Peninsula Jewry. Open house was kept during the whole day, and in the evening a card party on a large scale was arranged. On Monday, the "Barmitzvah" boy entertained his young friends of both sexes. The youngsters had a very entertaining time, and, of course, there was a great deal of dancing and many games.

MR. GOSSIP.

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The Johannesburg General Hospital has decided to appoint Miss Rossettenstein as trained dietician for three months in a temporary capacity. Miss Rossettenstein has undergone a special course in dietetics in America. She was the only applicant for the post.

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Dr. Dave Cohen, son of Mr. and Mrs. M. Cohen of Maynard Street, arrived from England by the Medic on Monday.