



JOHANNESBURG DAY BY DAY



THE HOLIDAY SPIRIT.

Now that the holidays are over Johannesburg may be expected to settle down into a work-a-day mood again, but until the visitors to the coast return to their accustomed haunts and habits there will be a noticeable hiatus in social and business circles. This is especially true of the Jewish community, and there is little doing this month, most of the philanthropic and social welfare societies having called a halt.

While so many of our young people are away at the coast, a number of visitors from the coast towns are invading the Rand, where they are receiving a hearty welcome.

VISIT OF BOY SCOUTS.

A party of Jewish Boy Scouts from Durban will arrive at Johannesburg Station on Tuesday evening, 4th inst. They will be lodged in the Yeoville Synagogue class-rooms during their stay in Johannesburg, and as there is a small kitchen attached to these rooms there will be no difficulty about the cooking. The Ladies' Committee of Yeoville Synagogue are arranging for the Friday night's suppers, and Mrs. Sieradski, the Secretary, tells me that much private hospitality is contemplated.

The Ladies' Committee will also meet the Scouts at the station and provide tea for them in the class-rooms upon their arrival. Various entertainments will be arranged for the visitors and sight-seeing expeditions will be organised.

Scoutmaster Rosendorf, formerly of Durban, will have the Scouts under his supervision during their fortnight's stay on the Rand.

THE JEWISH GUILD.

The Jewish Guild will hold its annual general meeting and election of executive on Sunday evening, 6th February, and nominations are now invited for the offices of president, two vice-presidents, hon. treasurer, hon. secretary, and a committee of thirteen. Nominations will be received until 5.30 p.m. on Wednesday, 19th January.

After the election of the new executive, the numerous sections may be set going again and renewed activity lead to further development. At the present time most of the Guild sections are moribund; only the dramatic and tennis sections showing any liveliness. Since the production of "Loyalties" at the Standard Theatre the dramatic section has also remained stationary, the discouraging reception of their big effort having cooled down for the time being. Yet there are some promising players in this section, and in less ambitious work they have done very well.

The curious thing about the Johannesburg Jewish Guild is that now that they have their own building and a largely increased membership, so few Guildites are seen on the premises! You may go there at any time of the day and find the place deserted, and even between the hours of 5 p.m. and 7 p.m. when offices and places of business close and young people of both sexes like to congregate somewhere before going home to dinner, the Guild Rooms are empty. In the olden days when the Association had

its home above The Strand Tea-rooms—then under the "Nels Rust" management—things were different and there was usually a cheery gathering of young people after five o'clock.

Some people assert that the difference is due to the fact that the former premises were so central and the new building so distant, but this cannot be the real reason. The handsome new Guild building is not so far from the centre as those much frequented clubs the S.A.P., the U.P.C. and the Union. The Y.M.C.A. is no better situated and the Y.W.C.A. is just opposite the Guild and St. James' Restaurant, a popular rendezvous with Jewish young people, is hardly a minute's walk away from it.

One thing about the Guild building which must strike a visitor is the absence of a cosy lounge or sitting room with easy chairs, reading and writing tables, and a piano, the sort of room where members of both sexes can meet informally for social intercourse.

The only room of this description has been let to a company for a public tea-room, and although it is handsomely furnished and decorated, it differs in no wise from the usual places of the kind and the prices are identical with the most expensive in town. It is time that there is a smaller room adjoining, with a long row of tables down the middle and a couple of writing tables at the side, but this retreat is about as inviting and homely as the reading room of a public library. There is no billiard room or card room in the whole palatial establishment, the rest of the space being occupied by the Assembly Hall, vestibule, secretary's offices and cloak rooms. I forgot the gymnasium in the basement, but this is not utilised nowadays. To fulfil its purpose as a Jewish club, the Guild must first be made clubbable.

TALMUD TORAHS.

Following the Federation of Synagogues comes the Federation of Talmud Torahs of the Witwatersrand. Negotiations have been proceeding for a long time and are now in the final stages. On Thursday evening next, 6th January, there will be a very important meeting of the Jewish Guild, where the Presidents and other officials of the Talmud Torahs will come together and arrange for a mass meeting, when the scheme for federation can be put before the local Jewish public.

Jewish education has languished in South Africa for many years, and the Chief Rabbi, Dr. J. L. Landau, and others who are interested, believe that federation will give a wonderful impetus to their campaign. There are several difficulties in the way, including the financial one, but with the spirit of goodwill that has recently manifested itself, animating the various committees, there can be little doubt that the scheme will go through.

TWO OF OUR CHAMPIONS.

In order to catch the mail last Monday my account of the consecration of the new Synagogue at Bertrams was necessarily somewhat

limited. The ceremony began at 3 p.m. and the reception that followed lasted till 6 p.m. There were several interesting speeches during the afternoon including one by Mr. Morris Kentridge, M.L.A. He spoke of the great part played by the Synagogue in Jewish life and described the survival of the race during the Galuth to the strength of the religious ties. He went on to speak of the future of Palestine as a Jewish State, which he believes may rise to an equality with the other Dominions of the British Commonwealth in the course of time.

Later in the afternoon Chief Rabbi Dr. J. L. Landau referred to the work that Mr. Kentridge had accomplished on behalf of the Jewish community of South Africa. He said that in Mr. Kentridge and Advocate Morris Alexander of Cape Town we have two Jewish representatives who are faithful to their people and consistent and untiring in their efforts to help their co-religionists.

The hearty applause of the large assembly showed that the work of these two champions was not only well known but widely appreciated by the Jewish community of the Rand.

REV. B. I. BECKMAN.

The Rev. B. I. Beckman, the popular young minister of Yeoville Synagogue, left on Sunday evening for a well-earned holiday at the Kowie.

Mr. Beckman has established Hebrew classes at Yeoville which are showing excellent results. He has also introduced the novelty (in Johannesburg) of a confirmation class for Jewish girls. The knowledge of Jewish religion, history, and traditions acquired in this way, should prove of inestimable benefit to the girls in after life.

MISS ALPER IN VAUDEVILLE.

Miss Rose Alper, the young Jewish soprano, was a very successful turn at the Orpheum Theatre last week. Attired in a picturesque taffetas dress in style reminiscent of a Velasquez picture, she was as charming to look upon as she was to listen to.

Miss Alper's first song was "The Dancing Lesson," which suits her light soprano voice, and two other songs which followed were equally well received.

DR. SACHS' LECTURE.

Not only the Yiddish Literary Society which heard the lecture but the general public of Johannesburg were interested in the address by Dr. J. Sachs on the evils of alcoholism. The lecture was given publicity by the local press, and attracted favourable comment from Rand clergymen and other temperance advocates.

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