

In and Around the Town.

58, Burg Street,
Thursday.

THE BOARD OF GUARDIANS.

The annual meeting of the Cape Jewish Board of Guardians will be held on Sunday at 10.30 a.m. in the Old Synagogue, Gardens, and the Committee hope there will be a good muster of subscribers to hear an account of the Board's activities for the past year. It is no compliment to the ladies and gentlemen who, voluntarily, give their services in the cause of charity to find, when their annual meetings are held, a mere handful gathered together. The importance of the Board's work should be more generally known, and unless the annual meetings are better attended, it is impossible for the bulk of the Community to know what is being done on their behalf. The report which the Committee has issued contains much that is of interest to the Community, and my readers should peruse the resume which appears elsewhere in this issue.

BRAININ ARRIVES MONDAY.

Mr. Reuben Brainin, the veteran Hebrew author and Zionist worker, arrives in Cape Town on Monday's mailboat, and, according to arrangements, proceeds direct to Johannesburg. The object of his visit to South Africa is to lead a campaign to raise funds for promoting the Jewish settlement work in Russia, and his visit is the outcome of an invitation by the South African Society for Jewish Colonisation in Eastern Europe. In 1926 Mr. Brainin caused a sensation by coming out strongly in favour of Jewish colonisation work in Russia, following a tour which he had made in that country.



MR. REUBEN BRAININ.

LONG SERVICE FOR ZIONISM.

At that time Mr. Brainin stated that he had served the Zionist movement for forty years, and that he would never do anything detrimental to the cause of Palestine. In regard to Russia he reported what he had seen with his own eyes. He said then that there could be no doubt whatever and the fact should on no account be suppressed, that the Jewish colonisation work in Russia had been successful in spite of the short time it had been in operation, and that it was the only hope for economically-ruined Russian Jewry. The realisation of this fact had not caused him to relinquish his Zionism, but, on the contrary, had strengthened it.

"THE FIXING OF THE CALENDAR."

This coming Shabbos, besides the ordinary Sedra of the week, in Leviticus we shall also read part of chapter 12 in Exodus. This is due to the Shabbos being known as "Shabbos Ha'chodesh." The opening verses of this chapter read as follows: "And the Lord spoke unto Moses and Aaron in the land of Egypt, saying: This month shall be unto you the beginning of months. It shall be the first month of the year to you."

Within recent years a great deal has been heard about the proposed changes which are to be made in the civil calendar. The Greek Orthodox Church, which differed in calculation of their calendar by about 13 days, has recently accepted the civil calendar of the other European nations. Turkey, that was still behind in all matters appertaining to Western civilisation, has also recently accepted the civil calendar used in Europe. Yet all these changes do not seem to satisfy the wishes of those who have fallen into line with it. The reason for their non-satisfaction is to be found in the fact that those who were actually working on the civil calendar are themselves not satisfied with it. Within the last few centuries many changes have taken place, and each time a certain number of days had to be cut out from the calendar, hence the matter has now been placed in the hands of a special commission under the League of Nations, which is expected to find the right solution of the problem.

To the Jew this problem has never presented itself. It was only in the early days of the Rabbis, when the Samaritans interfered with "Kidush Hachodesh," which used to cause a great deal of trouble to the Jews outside Jerusalem, when the definite calendar had to be fixed upon. To other nations the difficulty is really due to their having no spiritual ideal behind the idea of the fixing of that calendar. Their festivals do not depend on a definite date. With us, at the earliest stage of our nationhood, we were told "Hachodesh Haze," this month, shall be unto you the first of the months.

AN ARDENT MOUNTAINEER.

I learn that Mr. Nathan Levi, whose interview with my colleague "Rozilda" appears in another part of this issue, is an ardent mountaineer. He was one of the first men to go up Mont Aux Sources when it was still a comparatively unknown trip. He has done some of the most prominent peaks in the Cape Province, including Seven Weeks' Port Peak, one of the least visited and at the same time the highest peak in the southern part of the Cape Province. He has also climbed Moltke-Blik, which is 8,000 feet above sea level, and Nqudeni, in Zululand, which is 6,000 feet high. He has climbed the Rockies and the Pyrenees and the Piko

Ruivo in Madeira. It is his pious hope, he says, to climb the Peak of Teneriffe. His knowledge of Table Mountain is profound, and he has one route to his credit.

THE FESTIVAL BALL.

The first ball of the "Season" will be held in the City Hall on Wednesday next, 10th inst. "The Festival Ball," under the auspices of the Green and Sea Point Hebrew Congregation, is in aid of the building fund for the contemplated new synagogue, and much will depend upon the success of this function. This ball is the second of a series of social events which have been planned by the energetic committee, and judging by the excellence of the first affair—the "Bordeaux" Cabaret Ball—the organisers are justified in their optimism regarding Wednesday's fixture. Much hard work has been put in. I had something to say last week about the novel decorations which have been executed by Miss Stella Chiappini, and these will be a distinctive feature.

MANY INTERLUDES.

Everything possible has been done for the comfort and entertainment of the patrons of the ball. There will be many charming terpsichorean interludes. Thus pupils of Miss Miriam Kirsch, under the direction of their popular dancing teacher, will delight the guests, whilst Miss Elvira Kirsch and Miss Freda Bollman, a pair of accomplished dancers, will give an exhibition. Miss Doreen Kemp and Partner have also arranged an interlude, so altogether we are in for a treat. Zabow & De Cola's orchestra will supply the music.

A ZIONIST DANCE.

The Wynberg-Claremont Junior Zionist Society gave a dance on Monday night at Cogill's Hotel, Wynberg, to the delegates who attended the fifth Cape Young Israel Conference, which was opened by Rev. A.P. Bender at the Zionist Hall the previous day. The dance was a well-organised affair, and there were guests from all the four provinces of the Union.

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