

PRETORIA NOTES.

[Communications intended for publication in these columns should be addressed to "Zionist Record," P.O. Box 1222, Pretoria.]

"The New Palestine."

A valuable propaganda purpose has been achieved by the display, on the 15th August, of "The New Palestine" film at the Town Hall. It is safe to say that this vivid picture of the every-day life and doings of the Chaluzim will not soon fade out of the recollection of those who witnessed it—and in the case of Pretoria these numbered a goodly proportion of the Jewish community, thanks to the energetic work of the ticket-sellers, most of whom threw themselves into their task with even more than usual heartiness.

A full description of the film was given in the May number of the *Record*, and it need not be repeated here. In Pretoria two performances were given—the first at a matinee, which was well attended by a number of children from the Miriam Marks School, and the second in the evening, when more than three hundred persons viewed the film. In addition to the latter, a short but excellent concert programme was arranged, the following artistes having kindly given their services:—Miss Vivien Tailleur, Miss Jeanne Sliom, Miss Fanny Taback, Miss Zena Hurwitz, and Mr. Ben Cohen. Acceptable music was provided for both performances by an orchestra composed of Miss Annie Silber and Messrs. Goldblatt and Levin, and the proprietors of the Regent Palace Bioscope Café gave valuable assistance to the organisers by supplying, free of charge, the machine, screen and operator. The financial aspect of the performance is undoubtedly gratifying. After deducting all expenses, which were kept down to the lowest possible level, the committee anticipates that the National Fund will benefit to the extent of about £45. The Pretoria Zionist Guild has, therefore, every reason to be satisfied with its effort in this connection, more especially as there have recently been innumerable other demands on the generosity of the local community.

Other Zionist Activities.

On Sunday, the 26th August, a debate took place in the Red Room of the Grand Hotel, and under the auspices of the Zionist Guild, on the vexed question of Palestine immigration. Mr. Louis Saks moved that "The policy of restricted immigration into Palestine is not justified, and is contrary to the real interests of the Zionist movement," and Mr. L. Hotz opposed. Mr. M. Schaeffer was in the chair, and there was a fair attendance of members and friends. Mr. Saks attributed the policy in question to the Arab agitation, supporting his view by numerous quotations. He drew attention to the resolution on the subject passed by the Carlsbad Congress, and urged that instead of supporting the impoverished Jewish masses of Eastern Europe on relief funds, which could only serve a temporary purpose, the money could be better utilized by sending these people in larger numbers to Palestine, where they could develop the land. Mr. Hotz, in opposing the motion, dwelt on the economic conditions of Palestine, and advocated a system of immigration graduated in accordance with the available resources of the Zionist Organisation. Therefore, he contended, the best way of ensuring a larger immigration into

Palestine was by giving an increased measure of support to the movement. After an interesting debate, in which Messrs. Schaeffer, Gavronsky, Osrin, Rutowitz and Shindler participated, the motion was defeated by a narrow margin. At the conclusion of the proceedings, a vote of condolence and sympathy with Mr. A. M. Abrahams in his sad bereavement was moved by Mr. Osrin and unanimously adopted. A telegram in terms of the motion has been despatched to Mr. Abrahams in the name of the Guild.

The first step in the direction of the re-establishment of a Young Israel Society in Pretoria was taken on Sunday, the 19th August, when a meeting of the younger element of the community was held at the Miriam Marks School. Mr. D. J. Goldblatt was in the chair, and, by the special invitation of the promoters, Messrs. J. Rostovsky and G. Osrin were present, as representatives of the Zionist Guild, to explain the objects of the movement. As the upshot of a keen discussion, Messrs. Goldblatt and Levin were appointed as a provisional committee to settle various difficulties which had arisen, before formally launching the society. It is hoped that in the course of a few weeks a Young Israel Society, the need for which has been realised by those who look to the future of Zionist activity in this town, will have become an accomplished fact.

The Literary and Debating Society.

The third journal of the Literary and Debating Society was produced at a well-attended meeting, which was held at the Chamber of Commerce Rooms on the 19th August. The journal, which comprised ten contributions by various members of the society on a wide range of subjects, was read out by the editor, Mr. L. Hotz, and was followed by a discussion, which covered an extensive field, embracing such diverse topics as George Bernard Shaw, "The Insect Play," and Zionism. The question of publishing a periodical magazine based on the journal is under active consideration.

General.

The proceeds of the concert and reception given on the occasion of the Board of Deputies Congress were about £20 net, which is being handed over to the Relief Fund.

The construction of the Communal Hall—a project which has been foremost in the minds of many Pretoria Jews for a considerable time—will, it is understood, be taken in hand after the holidays. The ground was bought some time ago, and arrangements for a building loan have been satisfactorily completed.

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