

In Pretoria

(By Our Own Correspondent.)

A special Memorial Service to commemorate the anniversary of the death of Theodore Herzl was held at the Synagogue, Market Street, on Monday evening the 21st ult., at 5.30 p.m., under the auspices of the Pretoria Zionist Guild. The service was conducted by Cantor A. Zwik, and Rabbi W. Hirsch delivered an inspiring and deeply impressive address.

"Dr. Herzl's death," said Rabbi Hirsch, "occurred at a time of the year when the Jew abstains from festivities and rejoicing, and projects the mind on the many tribulations which befel our people since the destruction of their centre of unity. Twenty years elapsed since then, much of his work progressed and prospered, many of his visions approached realisation. Yet will his death remain one of those bitter memories which crowd our mind during the annual season of national mourning. At the time it looked as if the hope kindled by the Zionist movement would burn no longer than the life of its founder. But ten years of gigantic labour carried the Zionist ideal deep into the hearts of the people, and fanned the desire for a free and independent life into a mighty, inextinguishable flame. When Herzl died, the Zionist Organisation which he created circled the globe, holding in its ranks an awakening people with a fixed determination to accomplish the work he had begun."

"It is good for us to reflect from time to time," said Rabbi Hirsch on the life of so noble and devoted a Jew. Such men do not live only for a time. From beneath the ground they reach out their message, and with a strong hand compel us to tread the path which their Genius discovered. Providence has always raised up such guides to direct the destiny of our people. But Herzl will be counted among the greatest."

ZIONIST GUILD ACTIVITIES.

Heartly congratulations to Miss Bertha Taback, the joint hon. secretary of the Zionist Guild, on her engagement to Mr. H. Wingrin of Vryheid. Miss Taback has been a devoted Zionist worker ever since Zionist activities were started in Pretoria, and every Guildite will wish her much happiness in her new "joint" career.

A very successful tennis tournament was held on Sunday, the 3rd instant, under the auspices of the Guild, in aid of the latter's funds. The Guild takes this opportunity to thank the following for kindly placing their courts at the disposal of those responsible for the tournament and for their hospitality to the players:—Mesdames Fridjohn, Schmulow and Heymann, Dr. A. Cohen, and the club at Heymann's court. Miss A. Bliss and Mr. L. Fridjohn were the ultimate winners, with Miss A. Silber and Mr. L. J. Dora Perel, to whom the financial and social success of the tournament was chiefly due. The Guild funds benefited to the extent of £5 1s. 3d. from the function.

It is of interest to record here that Miss Perel, who has been an active member of the Guild Committee for some time past, has now left for Johannesburg on transfer. Her energetic personality will be greatly missed in Zionist activities in the capital.

A ping-pong tournament, also in aid of the Guild funds, has been arranged for Wednesday, the 20th instant, and will be held at the residences of the following:—Misses B. Taback and S. Cohen, Mrs. Rosovsky, and Dr. H. S. Roseman. Refreshments will be provided and prizes given. Tickets are 1s. for Guild members and 1s. 6d. for non-members, and are obtainable from any of the above-mentioned or from Guild Committee members.

The Zionist Guild Committee has decided to hold a grand carnival ball about the middle of October in the new Memorial Hall which is now under construction. The proceeds will be allotted jointly to the Jewish National Fund and the Memorial Hall Fund, and the Ladies' Benevolent Society. The Ladies' Memorial Hall Fund Committee have been approached to lend their valuable assistance in making the affair a success from every point of view. It is hoped to establish the function as a permanent annual feature of local communal life and as the recognised Pretoria celebration of the Simchas Torah festival.

The cultural activities of the Guild, which are in the hands of the Literary and Social Circle, have been somewhat in abeyance lately. At a meeting which was held on Sunday, the 10th instant, at the Chamber of Commerce Rooms, Mr. L. Hotz read a journal.

WOMEN'S BENEVOLENT SOCIETY.

The annual general meeting of the Pretoria Jewish Women's Benevolent Society was recently held, when the following office-bearers were elected:—President, Mrs. P. Friedman; vice-president, Mrs. M. Neifeld; treasurer, Mrs. J. Resnick; hon. secretary, Mrs. J. Schaffer; committee, Mesdames Hirsch, Horwitz, Shulman, Osipowitz, Hack, Beittler, Levine and S. Kessel.

JEWISH MEMORIAL HALL.

The eagerly-awaited Communal Hall, to which the designation of the Pretoria Jewish Memorial Hall has been given, is rapidly nearing completion, and it is hoped that it will be ready for use by the time the New Year holidays come round. It is hardly necessary to emphasise that the hall will be an invaluable asset to the Pretoria community and will supply a want that has been felt with increasing acuteness every year that has passed.

The opening of the hall will be marked by a grand *fête*, which will be held in the building, not only to celebrate its completion, but also to enable it to come into the hands of the community with the minimum burden of debt. The arrangements for the *fête* are in the capable hands of a large and energetic committee of ladies, with the following Executive:—President, Mrs. (Rev.) Hirsch; vice-president, Mrs. J. Leibman; hon. treasurer, Mrs. J. Goldin; hon. secretaries, Mesdames K. Machanik and R. Hotz. The committee was elected in May last, and in the interval it has, so far, been responsible for the collection of over £200 on behalf of the Memorial Hall Fund, apart from actively pursuing the arrangements for the *fête*, in connection with which numerous generous donations have been received from many firms and individuals in and outside Pretoria, both in money and in kind.

Among the various successful functions held more or less under the auspices of the committee were the following:—A limelight ball in the South African Party Club, which took place on the 11th June, and which realised nearly £60 for the fund; an "At Home," at the residence of Mrs. Kesnick; a musical "At Home," at the residence of Mrs. Klagsbrun; and a mock trial, at the house of Mrs. Calman Isaacson.

A recent function was a carnival dance, organised by Mrs. Fred. Goddard and Miss Vera Cohen, which was held at the Æolian Hall on Wednesday, the 30th July. The hall was very prettily decorated with coloured festoons and Chinese lanterns, and a carnival spirit of gaiety prevailed, which was in no small measure due to the excellent music provided by Edgar Adeler's orchestra (personal attendance of principals). The catering was excellent, and was in the hands of Mrs. Mark Cohen and a number of ladies, to whom the best thanks of the organisers are extended. As a result of this very successful effort, about £26 accrued to the funds of the Memorial Hall.

The Ladies' Committee is organising a grand concert, which is being held at the Opera House on Wednesday, the 13th instant. A splendid array of talent has been gathered for the occasion, including such well-known artistes as Mr. Joel Myerson, Mr. Sydney Rosenbloom and Miss Dora Nathan.