

# JOHANNESBURG YOUNG ISRAEL SOCIETY MAGAZINE

SUPPLEMENT TO THE "ZIONIST RECORD."

## "MOVE FORWARD!"

There is a story of an old lady—a member of an extremely thrifty race—who warned her short-sighted little boy "to take his spectacles off" when he was not looking at anything.

Apart from the inconvenience the fulfilling of such an injunction entailed, it presents a course full of dangers. It is very rarely that one is "not looking at anything," and unless the eye is constantly on the alert, frequent stumblings and violent jars must inevitably result.

Yet circumstances have exalted some such promise and imposed some such injunction upon practically all those who guide and lead the Johannesburg Young Israel Society. Only when the affairs of the Society particularly demand it, only when the pursuit of our careers are not in any way threatened, may we turn our attention to the Young Israel Society. The position of the leaders of the Young Israel Society is similar to the predicament of the little boy. Only when they are looking at anything are they to put on their glasses. And yet, the affairs of the Society require constant and intense watching.

Perhaps the significance of the position were best illustrated if the actual facts of the present session of the Young Israel Society were considered.

After the period of great activity at the beginning of the year, it was fully realised that the huge organisation which had been created would demand elaborate control and constant care. And those who had worked so zealously, realised too that some compromise would have to be effected between the time exacted by the affairs of the Society and the pursuit of careers in the University and in other busy spheres. Only a very few have ever yet boldly faced the question: "Which comes first, Zionist work or vital private pursuits?" And who will sympathise with the young enthusiast who fails his examination because he devotes all his time to the Young Israel movement?

So it was fondly decided that the present session would be an eventless one. Nothing new was to be attempted. We were merely to carry on. Only when something extraordinary arose were we to revert to the above simile: "the glasses to be brought into commission."

It has already been an extraordinarily busy session. It has now become obvious that when we cease to be busy our organisation dies. Like the Zionist movement itself we must keep moving forward—it were futile to stand still. Innumerable matters arise in all directions. The affairs of the Society expand constantly. Members of committees, placed even higher, blessed with an easily appeared conscience, have already deserted the ranks. Others threaten to follow suit. There is an uneasiness in a few districts, and the Northern Suburbs divisions have failed. The attention of the Executive is required in a hundred-and-one places, and the members of the Executive are struggling to balance the budget of the all-too-scanty measure of time at their disposal. It is not that the position of the Society is not absolutely sound, but there are "stumblings and violent jars."

Such is the state of affairs. If the Executive, if the committees down to the last of our vast membership but realise what a great fight is being waged; if all remain determined not to go back an inch; then in spite of the hardships and the difficulties, not only shall we be prepared for the greater efforts yet to come when as adults we take our stand in the ranks of the Zionists, but ours will be the sweet fruits of victory.

## PROGRAMME FOR AUGUST.

(Arranged by Executive Committee.)

August 17th.—Readings from Yiddish Masters of Literature; Jewish Guild War Memorial Hall, 8 p.m.

August 24th.—Grand Sacred Concert at Alhambra Theatre, Doornfontein, 8.45 p.m. Admission 2s. 6d. Arranged by Doornfontein district in conjunction with the committee of the Doornfontein Talmud Torah.

August 31st.—Meetings with members of Young Israel Societies throughout Transvaal; Jewish Guild, 3 p.m. There will be an inter-debate in which delegates from all societies will participate, after which there will be a social.

Functions for August arranged by the District Committees will be found in "Our District Reports."

## CAMPAIGN FOR SALE OF "ZIONIST RECORD."

The committee has decided to go out on a campaign to enrol subscribers to the *Zionist Record*. There is still a number of Zionists in Johannesburg who do not receive the official Zionist organ of South Africa into their homes. At the request, therefore, of the Executive of the South African Zionist Federation, the Young Israel Society is going to do its best to obtain as many subscribers as possible.

The campaign will take place on Sunday morning, the 31st August. On that morning the homes of our members will be visited, and the members or their parents will be asked to become subscribers. The cost of the *Zionist Record* is a nominal one of 5s. for a half year. Once every fortnight the *Record* will be posted to every subscriber. The *Record* contains all the latest Zionist and communal news, and it is essential that every Zionist obtains and reads the *Record*, in which he will find everything of interest in the Jewish world.

The canvassers will be provided with forms, which intending subscribers will be asked to sign.

## ITEMS OF INTEREST.

1. Every member has received on the 15th of this month a complete *Zionist Record*. How many members will continue to receive one every fortnight?
2. The five Dr. Herzl memorial meetings in the districts in addition to the mass meeting on the evening of the 20th July were in the nature of an experiment. It was hoped to reach at least 1,200 members. It was, however, found necessary to abandon the meeting in Central District owing to the small attendance. Mr. I. M. Goodman was to lecture on the life and work of our great leader. "Central" should have been present in large numbers.
3. At the time of going to press preparations for the National Fund Stamp Sale were proceeding apace. The organisation had already assumed extensive proportions. There were 120 canvassers in Doornfontein, Bertrams, alone. It was anticipated that a success would be achieved. At the time of writing everyone was confident in spite of many difficulties.
4. At the reception of canvassers in the evening of the 10th an interesting little ceremony will be performed. The Supervisor of the society, Mr. J. Gering, is to be presented with a silver badge. In the Johannesburg Young Israel Society, at any rate, the silver badge is the greatest emblem of the society's gratitude for services rendered. There are only very few proud possessors of the "White Badge."

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