

In Cape Town

(By Our Own Correspondent.)

Rosh Hashona itself passed off as so many which have gone before it. Few are the Jews who do not still respond and the claim it makes upon them. The Great Synagogue and the Roeland Street, as well as the Beth Hamedrash, and several smaller places of worship had no room to spare. Large numbers also availed themselves of services held at the Zionist Hall, Talmud Torah, Goede Trouw Hall, and the Gardens overflow, at the Old Synagogue. These latter services provided a welcome source of revenue in seat rentals and offerings to the National Fund, Talmud Torah, and Bikur Cholim respectively.

The services, of course, took up the mornings. The afternoons brought the usual round of visits, with the inevitable accompaniment of tea, "taiglach," "pletzlach," and all the other Festival delicacies. Woe to him who dares to cry enough, and woe to him who doesn't!

SLICHAS.

The Yomim Noroim were heralded this year in a fashion new to Capetown. The New Hebrew congregation was responsible for the innovation. On Saturday, September 20th, a midnight Slichas service was held, with full choral accompaniment, lasting till two in the morning. The Synagogue was full to the doors, both downstairs and in the ladies' gallery. Cantor Steinberg gave of his best, and the choir, now situated in a special gallery above the Ark, in ensemble, as well as the soloists, gave exceedingly pleasing renderings. One could not help being affected when contemplating the hour, the assembly, the singing, and the purpose—and yet there would intrude the thought, cynical though it be—this smacks of theatreland. Religious fervour, if present, was well hidden by that well-dressed audience listening in critical appreciation to the singing, much as they would at an opera. Melody followed melody; of the choir. When the last note died away, came an eager exchange of opinion—on the new Chazan's abilities. Then from the brilliantly lighted Synagogue out into the street, the pelting rain "Taxi!" "Taxi!" and to be greeted with cries of

PALESTINE FILM.

This new film, entitled "A Tour Through Jewish Palestine," was screened at the City Hall on Wednesday, 1st October. Though the hall was not full, I do not think the organisers can have much to complain of. The gate at half-a-crown a head must have been considerable. Apart from the special significance of the film, to the bioscope mortals at their every-day duties, after the demi-gods (or *habitué* it was a pleasant return to the world of ordinary is it *demi-monde*?) at their sensational antics, which are the concomitants of present day "super-features." As for the film itself, it brought vividly to one's attention, in an obviously unvarnished account, what has been done towards the fabric which is to become the National Home, and applause was frequent as "Mr. Bloomberg" led us from one point of interest to another. One was struck with what has been achieved with, when all is said, very small means. As a propaganda medium the bioscope is unique, and the Organisation would be well advised to use it to the full. I would advise everybody in those centres, where the film has yet to go, not to miss it on any account.

BNOth ZION.

This society held a social in the Zionist Hall on Sunday, September 21st. Owing to the unfortunate illness of several artistes a social in the Zionist Hall on Sunday, September 21st. Owing to the unfortunate illness of several artistes a curtailed programme had to be submitted. After a welcome by the President, Mrs. M. Zuckerman, who explained how the society strove to interest the women-folk in the National Movement, Miss R. Lewin read a thoughtful paper on "The Future of Judaism in South Africa." Miss B. Cosay sang several pleasing numbers, and was followed by Miss Ben-Arie, a Palestinian lady, who is the mistress at the local Hebrew Kindergarten. She spoke interestingly on the development of Zionist work among women, and what had been achieved by them in Palestine. The meeting closed with an appeal for funds for the Women's International Zionist League, for which a house-to-house collection would shortly be made.

GUILD.

This society held another successful dance at the banquet hall on Wednesday, September 18th. A large number of members and friends took part, and nobody seemed to mind that dancing was only possible with careful steering. One hears that the committee has lately been busy with several new projects. Physical culture classes, for male and female members, are in full swing. A swimming section is also being organised, while facilities for tennis have been afforded by a number of well-wishers placing their courts at the disposal of the Guild in rotation. Since the programme of this energetic society does, however, contain a cultural aim, one would like to see some development in that direction.

GREAT SYNAGOGUE.

This, the Mother Congregation of South Africa, has just issued its eighty-second annual report in the form of a handsome booklet of 36 pages, consisting of an account of the year's activities by Mr. Abraham Liberman, the president; the balance sheet and revenue account, minutes of the last general meeting, and a list of members, about 700 in number. There is so much to interest that the task of selection is difficult.

A year of undiminished prosperity and constantly increasing usefulness is reported. The financial position continues to be satisfactory, the revenue of £6,310 11s. 8d. being above expenditure to the extent of £237 18s. 10d., while the bond has been reduced by an amount of £1,158 15s. 8d., leaving £7,820 8s. still to be wiped out. In addition, £1,565 7s. has been handed over to various local institutions, being offerings made during the year.

Twenty-eight new members have been enrolled, and the allotting of seats has become a matter of difficulty. Twenty-eight lads have become Barmitzvah; seventy-one marriages have been solemnised; fifty-two funerals reverently carried out.

Services have been held regularly throughout the year, and on the second Friday in each month the minister delivers a sermon more particularly addressed to the young men and women. The first Saturday afternoon service for children in each month is attended officially by the various troops of Boy Scouts and Girl Guides.

A noteworthy event took place at the latter end of the year, when a beautifully written Sepher Torah, with all appurtenances of the finest workmanship, brought from Jerusalem by Mr. L. Policansky, as a gift to the Synagogue, was placed by that gentleman in the Ark on Sabbath. As this is the first Scroll of the Law from the Holy City presented to the congregation, the committee feel that a special votes of thanks is due to Mr. L. Policansky for his thoughtfulness and generosity." Mrs. E. Rich, a lady member, has now come forward with a similar generous gift to commemorate her late husband. An artistically designed silver Kiddish Cup, from the Bezalel School in Jerusalem, has also been presented by Mr. and Mrs. J. Gesundheit in commemoration of the Barmitzvah of their only son, Julius.

A paragraph which will be of special interest to *Zionist Record* readers is the following:—"But even in the sphere of public service the efforts of the congregation have rightly not been confined to the immediate vicinity of the Great Synagogue. A considerable number of our leading members gladly embraced the opportunity afforded them of actively identifying themselves with the missionary work on behalf of Palestine and its development, inaugurated by the memorable visit of Dr. Alexander Goldstein, the distinguished representative of the Zionist Organisation in the Holy Land. In a remarkable degree the members realised their individual responsibility in connection with the sacred and vital task committed to the Jewish people of the world, namely, the reconstruction of the ancient homeland of our people in all the varied aspects and departments of its national life. But likewise a considerable and influential section of gentlemen, and also of ladies, whose families have been associated with the activities of the congregation for more than one generation, took a leading part in vigorously supporting the cause and thus helping forward the movement which has the sympathy and the support of the great mass of the Jewish citizens of every country at the present time."

PRESS.

In a recent issue of the *Cape Times* there was reproduced in full the interview with Mr. J. H. Thomas, the Colonial Secretary, which appeared in the last but one number of the *Zionist Record*.

HASOFER.

CAPETOWN.

The Dorshei Zion Association has forwarded to the Zionist Federation the following amounts for inscriptions in the Golden Book:—

- £20 received from Morris Singer to inscribe the names of Morris Singer and Annie Kramer on the occasion of their marriage.
- £20 from Dr. S. E. Kark to inscribe the name of his son Menoach on the occasion of his Barmitzvah.
- £20 from Mr. and Mrs. M. Walt to inscribe the name of their son, Isidore, on the occasion of his Barmitzvah.
- £20 from Mr. L. Policansky to inscribe the name of Mr. Israel Bordsky of Jerusalem.

CHANDLER'S Beer makes the Heart Joyful