

## In Pretoria

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

### SIMCHAS TORAH BALL.

The Simchas Torah Ball, which took place on the 22nd ult., was the first big affair held in the new Memorial Hall, and proved one of the smartest functions in the Capital for a long time. The function was under the joint auspices of the Pretoria Zionist Guild and the Ladies' Memorial Hall Fund Committee, which had conducted the successful fête at the opening of the hall last month. The committee responsible for the organisation consisted of Mesdames J. Leibman, F. Goddard, J. L. Saks, M. Neifeld, Miss F. Hurwitz, and Messrs. J. L. Saks and I. Rostovsky, who worked indefatigably, and the splendid success achieved was a well deserved reward for their untiring efforts. The organisers desire to extend their sincerest thanks to the following for their much appreciated assistance:—Mesdames W. Hirsch, M. Cohen, L. Hock and G. Kaplan for their invaluable help with the catering; Mr. E. Sharim, of the Electrical Co., for the beautiful lighting effects; Mr. S. Nichles for his kind assistance with the decorations. Also Mr. L. Kirsh, Mr. J. Goldin, Mr. S. Rutovitz, W. Block, H. Mordecai; and Mr. S. Levitt for loan of piano. Many thanks also to the many ladies who sent cakes, etc., towards the refreshments.

The hall, which is indeed a source of great pride to the Jews of Pretoria, presented a magnificent appearance, above the stage being a huge Mogen David, draped in greenery and illuminated with coloured lights. The rest of the hall was beautifully lit up with Chinese lanterns, and garlands of greenery were draped round the walls, while the stage was very prettily decorated with palms and branches; the flag of Zion hung in prominent positions round the hall. The colour and beauty of the scene was enhanced by the many beautiful frocks worn. A sum of £50 will be divided as a result of the ball, between the Jewish National Fund (Keren Kayemeth) and the Memorial Hall Funds. This is especially creditable considering the very nominal price of the tickets, and reflects credit on the efforts of the organisers.

### WOLFFSOHN MEMORIAL.

On Sunday, 26th October, the occasion of the anniversary of the death of our great leader, David Wolffsohn, a meeting was held at the Memorial Hall, under the joint auspices of the Pretoria Zionist Guild and the newly formed Jewish Guild. Owing, unfortunately, to a heavy storm the attendance was adversely affected, although over 80 people defied the elements. Rabbi W. Hirsch, B.A., in a short address, outlined the life of Wolffsohn, and dwelt on the importance of the Hebrew National Library in Jerusalem and Wolffsohn's magnificent contribution towards the building, which is shortly to be erected on Mount Scopus. The Rabbi announced that an appeal was being issued for funds to complete the building, and asked the audience to give their share towards erecting this great National Monument.

### LECTURE BY MR. EPSTEIN.

After the Rabbi's address, Mr. M. G. Epstein, of Johannesburg, delivered an interesting lecture on "Jewish Contributions to Modern Philosophy." After outlining the principles of philosophy, and the systems adopted by ancient and modern philosophers, Mr. Epstein sketched the teachings of Moses Maimonides and Descartes, and explained their influences on subsequent thought. The lecturer traced the evolution of thought up to modern times, referring chiefly to the two eminent philosophers of the day, Bergson and Einstein, both prominent Jews. Mr. Epstein's lecture was followed with the closest interest, and was much appreciated. A vote of thanks by Mr. Podlashuc was warmly endorsed.

### IN AID OF THE LIBRARY.

Mrs. I. Solomon held a social and dance at her residence in Arcadia on Wednesday, 29th inst., in aid of the funds for the library of the New Memorial Hall. There was a large gathering, and a very pleasant function was thoroughly enjoyed by all.

It is understood that Rabbi Hirsch's appeal for funds for the library is receiving warm response, inasmuch as several ladies and gentlemen have offered to organise various functions for this fund. Mr. and Mrs. M. Fridjjon have very kindly placed their tennis court at the disposal of the Pretoria Zionist Guild for a men's doubles tournament in aid of the Library Fund. The tournament will probably take place towards the end of November, and inquiries can be made from Messrs. L. Fridjjon or Mr. J. L. Saks.

### JEWISH GUILD—OPENING FUNCTION.

The opening of the new Jewish Guild in the Capital was celebrated by a social and dance on Saturday, 1st November, at the Memorial Hall, which is, of course, the Guild's "home," as it is of every other Jewish society or function in Pretoria.

The committee of the Guild, which though, is only temporary, consists of Rabbi Hirsch, B.A., chairman; H. Goldin, vice-chairman; H. Moskow, hon. secretary; and L. Mirvish, hon. treasurer; and Mesdames F. Goddard, M. Cohen, J. Shaffer, S. Levitt, Misses V. Cohen and S. Bliss, and Messrs. Adv. C. Isaacson, A. Cooper, F. Goddard and L. Hotz.

There was a large attendance at the opening function, and many members were enrolled, which augurs well for the success of the Guild. The first part of the programme took the form of a concert, the following artistes very kindly giving their services, every item being excellently rendered and very well received:—Miss Joan Pecker, soprano; Mr. F. Dillon, violin solo; Mr. F. Ginsberg, piano solo; Mr. W. Sachs, bass.

Rabbi Hirsch, in the course of an address, appealed for concord and good fellowship, and a harmonious spirit to ensure progress and success in the social and literary activities of the Guild in particular, and of the community in general.

Dancing followed the concert, and a very enjoyable evening concluded with the playing of "The King."

### FORTHCOMING FUNCTIONS—JEWISH GUILD AND ZIONIST GUILD.

The following is the syllabus of the Jewish Guild for this month:—Sunday, November 9th: Lecture by Advocate M. de Saxe. Saturday, 15th November: Book dance. Sunday, 23rd November: Inter debate, Pretoria Zionist Guild will move that "Jewish Emancipation has had detrimental effect on the National character." Opposed by Pretoria Jewish Guild. Saturday, 29th: Entertainment by Mr. S. Lezard, and a gramophone recital. Sunday, 30th November: Zionist Guild tennis tournament (men's doubles) in aid of Library Fund.

The new Palestine Film is expected here this month. This should draw a record attendance, as the film has met with great success in other parts of the country.

The Jewish Orphanage, "Arcadia," has acknowledged a gift of cakes from Mrs. Mark Cohen, which was the balance left over from the Simchas Torah ball, and which was very thoughtfully kept for the orphans.

### SYNAGOGUE AMALGAMATION.

Undoubtedly the most gratifying news to all sections of Pretoria Jewry is the amalgamation of the new Congregation with the "old" Pretoria Hebrew Congregation. The "re-union" was marked by an earnest spirit of goodwill and co-operation, which it is hoped will always prevail throughout all congregational and communal activities. What with a united Congregation, a Communal Hall, a Jewish Guild and a very able and respected spiritual head in Rabbi Hirsch, Pretoria can indeed make many other big towns in South Africa feel envious of its good fortune and good prospects.

### GENERAL MEETING.

A special general meeting will be held at the Memorial Hall on Sunday, December 7th, to elect officers and committee for the Jewish Guild under the new constitution. It is up to everybody who has the interest and welfare of the Guild at heart to attend and place in office those who are best able to control the affairs of the Guild, and ensure its success.

### TRIBUTE TO THE LATE MR. I. EPSTEIN.

Shortly after the sad death of Mr. I. Epstein a few months ago, some of his close friends and admirers, desirous of paying in a practical way a worthy tribute to his esteemed memory, conceived the idea of establishing a permanent memorial, that would always remind the Jews of Pretoria of the late Mr. Epstein's untiring and devoted efforts for Judaism in general, and Zionism in particular.

Between these few friends a sum of nearly £100 has been collected, and this will go to place in the new Memorial Hall a handsome bookcase, fitted with books to the extent that the contributions will permit. This will represent a most appropriate tribute, as it was always one of the late gentleman's greatest ideals to see a Communal Hall in Pretoria, and to spread the love of Zion and the devotion to Jewish learning and Jewish literature amongst those who were not fortunate enough to have the facilities to acquire these.

The library will soon be established, and the Epstein Memorial will be a proud monument to one of the worthiest men who ever worked for Zion.

J.L.S.

## "THE ZIONIST REVIEW"

The organ of the English Zionist Federation.  
Published monthly - - 6/- per annum, post free.

"The Zionist Review" should be read  
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77, GREAT RUSSELL STREET, LONDON, W.C.1, ENGLAND.