

In Pretoria

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Mr. and Mrs. L. J. Hack, of Irene, celebrated their silver wedding on Sunday, 15th February, by a reception to their friends at the Memorial Hall. It is certainly a testimony of their popularity that between 400 and 500 people came to extend their good wishes on the joyful occasion.

Rabbi W. Hirsch proposed a toast on the occasion, and spoke highly of the very excellent services that Mr. and Mrs. Hack had rendered to the Pretoria community. Their presence, he said, was indeed an asset to Pretoria Jewry. Mr. Mark Cohen, president of the Pretoria Hebrew congregation, presented Mr. Hack with a handsome silver cup as a token of the high esteem in which he was held by the congregation, and in appreciation of his untiring efforts for every Jewish cause.

Mrs. Hack was also the recipient of a magnificent silver and cut glass dressing table set, from the Pretoria Hebrew Ladies' Benevolent Society, which was presented by their president, Mrs. P. Friedman, who spoke in glowing terms of Mrs. Hack's charitable work for the poor and the sick, and of her ever active interests in all communal affairs.

Mr. I. Gavronsky, the chairman of the Pretoria Zionist Society, said that the highest honour the gathering could confer on Mr. and Mrs. Hack would be to have their names inscribed in the Golden Book in Jerusalem, more especially as Mr. Hack was an ardent and active Zionist and one of the pillars of the movement in Pretoria. The response to this appeal was whole-hearted, and a sum of £17 6s. was collected, to which Mr. Hack added a personal contribution of £5 5s. It will be a great pleasure to the Zionist Society to hand a Golden Book Diploma to Mr. and Mrs. Hack.

NATIONAL FUND DRIVE.

As a result of the drive held on February 1st and the week following, £97 11s. has now been collected. If some of the promises mature, £100 will be exceeded. A full list of donors will shortly be published in the *Zionist Record*.

THE MEMORIAL HALL FUND.

The committee of the Memorial Hall are at present canvassing for a sum of £4,000 to help to reduce the very heavy liabilities attached to the hall. Their efforts so far have met with very satisfactory results, the response being very generous and reasonable.

The community has realised what a boon and an asset the hall has proved to be, and are wholeheartedly assisting in wiping off a heavy bond, and maintaining a sound financial position.

SOCIAL AND PERSONAL.

At the Barmitzvh of Reuben Dembo, eldest son of Mr. and Mrs. Dembo, a collection in aid of the National Fund, undertaken by Mr. L. J. Hack, realised £8 13s.

On the occasion of the Bris Melah of their infant son, Mr. and Mrs. Meyer Sacks donated £5 5s. to the National Fund.

A popular wedding was solemnised at the Memorial Hall, on Sunday, the 22nd February, when Miss Rose Gerstnera, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Gerstnera, of Pretoria, was married to Mr. H. Blecher, of Bethlehem, O.F.S. A sum of £13 4s. was collected, of which half went to the National Fund and half to the Memorial Hall.

The Pretoria Jewish community has lost a respected member, and the Zionist Society an enthusiastic devotee, in the person of Mr. Simon Getz, of Gezina, who lost his life in a motor accident a little while ago. At a recent meeting of the Zionist committee a motion of condolence with the family of the late Mr. Getz was passed.

THE JEWISH GUILD.

The Pretoria Jewish Guild had a successful function on the 15th February, when a literary evening was held at

the Memorial Hall. Papers and readings were given by Messrs. L. Hotz, M. G. Epstein and Goldberg, and Mrs. Silber and Miss Ethel Melman gave an excellent rendering of two scenes from "Hamlet."

A well-attended and enjoyable dance was held under the auspices of the Guild, on Saturday, the 21st February, at the Memorial Hall. Over 70 couples took the floor.

A vocal and instrumental concert has been arranged by the Guild for Wednesday, the 25th February, to be given at the Memorial Hall. The following artistes were due to perform:—Mesdames I. Mirwish, L. S. Wolff, H. S. Cohen, Miss Doreen Slater, and Messrs. C. Becker, Ben Cohen, Maurice Lando and Gerrit Bon.

The next cultural function of the Jewish Guild will take the form of a scientific evening, which will be held at the Memorial Hall, on Sunday, the 1st March. P. Machanic is in charge of the arrangements, which will take the form of a number of readings and papers on various scientific subjects.

Miss Fanny Klenerman is lecturing to the Guild, on Sunday, the 15th March. The subject will be "The Work of John Galsworthy."

THE ZIONIST SOCIETY.

Preparations are well in hand for the forthcoming Shekel Day collection, which is to take place on Sunday, the 15th March. With the experience of the previous National Fund drive to guide it, the committee has every expectation of a successful day, but that depends to a large extent on the number of helpers available. The organisers take this opportunity to address an earnest appeal to good Zionists to come forward with their assistance in this important work.

The question of holding a Shekel dance, following the excellent practice existing in some other centres, is under consideration. Should the proposal materialise, the co-operation of other organisations, such as the Jewish Guild, will be sought to make the function a success.

A cultural sub-committee of the Zionist committee has been formed to take charge of the cultural aspects of the Zionist work in Pretoria. It is hoped to arrange, in the course of a year, a number of meetings which should serve more directly the spiritual and less material side of the national movement.

OPENING OF HEBREW UNIVERSITY.

The occasion of the opening of the Hebrew University in Jerusalem, on the 1st April, will be celebrated in Pretoria by a function in which, it is hoped, every section of the community will participate. The details of the function are not yet available, but it is trusted that it will be worthy of the historic character of the event. Particulars will be given in the *Zionist Record* in due course.

A JEWISH LIBRARY.

A question of establishing a Jewish Library in the Memorial Hall has now come to the forefront, and it may be expected that important developments will take place in this connection in the near future. Thanks largely to the interest of men like the late Mr. I. Epstein, provision for a library was made in building the hall, and it is now only a question of furnishing it and obtaining the necessary equipment of books. Certain funds are already available for the purpose, and a number of friends of the late Mr. Epstein are presenting to the library a handsome and valuable bookcase as a fitting memorial of that gentleman. There is every prospect that the library will be in being in the course of the next few months.

JEWISH ORPHANAGE.

A general meeting of the Pretoria section of the South African Jewish Orphanage will be held at the Memorial Hall, on Sunday, the 1st March, at 11 a.m. All who are interested in that noble institution are earnestly requested to be present. Messrs. Isaacson, Rose and Moss Morris, Johannesburg, will address the meeting, which will be asked to pass the balance sheet for the past year and to elect a committee for the ensuing session.

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