

Advertisements and Family Announcements will be received in the Cape Town Office of the ZIONIST RECORD, 147, PLEIN STREET.

In Cape Town.

Reports of Jewish Activities in the Mother City.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

All communications relating to these pages should be addressed to "HASOFER," P.O. Box 2373, CAPE TOWN.

CAPE JEWISH BOARD OF GUARDIANS.

The annual report of this institution for the twelve months ending December 31st, 1924, is just to hand, and discloses a volume of useful service of which the committee can well be proud. It is saddening to read that there was a large increase in the number of cases due to unemployment and the financial depression, with the consequence that many, even young men, were thrown on the Board's charity.

Owing to the precarious state of its finances, and anticipating, through the heavy calls on its resources, a large deficit, the committee called a number of meetings of members of the community, and took them into its confidence. As a result, an advisory committee was formed, and over £500 was collected on the spot, while certain gentlemen undertook to go further afield.

While it is not a happy thing to learn that the moneys invested in securities have had to be absorbed, it should be recognised that it was against times like these that those reserves were built up. What has to be watched, however, is that this process be not allowed to go too far. The Board also performed useful work in distributing *Moschetim*, and although the Fund was smaller than the previous year, all cases were provided for. One is, however, surprised to learn that supplies were also sent to the Orphanage and Aged Home, for, at any rate, the latter's last annual balance sheet showed several hundred pounds on fixed deposit.

The statistics show that during the year 656 cases were investigated, and 503 were afforded relief, while there are 27 pension cases comprising 63 persons. £904 19s. 9d. was expended on general relief, £1,266 10s. on weekly and monthly pensions, and £138 11s. 8d. on grants for railway and coast passages, making a total of £2,310 1s. 5d. Subscriptions amounted to £584 15s., and donations to £1,146 3d., while the net receipts of the annual ball were £301 18s. 6d., showing a decrease on previous years. The special appeal has so far resulted in £641 10s. from 29 donors. The total expenditure was £2,670 0s. 2d., being an excess over income to an amount of £497 18s. 6d.

The necessity of an institution like the Board of Guardians should require no emphasis, but because as the report states, the work must be done of necessity quietly, and unostentatiously, there is danger of its value being overlooked. One would do well to ponder this sentence in the report. "It would be a revelation to those who are not in close touch with our work, to realise the stress of poverty and want, which is unfortunately experienced by a large number of our co-religionists."

EDUCATION CONFERENCE.

The annual meeting takes place on March 1st. This matter has proceeded a stage further. It will be remembered that I mentioned in my notes that the committee, consisting of one delegate of each institution, formed as a result of the Conference, would meet on January 25th. Consequent on the poor attendance on that date, a further meeting was called for and took place on Thursday, February 12th, when there was a large number present. Besides some general discussion, an election took place, and the following officers were elected:—Hon. presidents, Rev. A. P. Bender and Rabbi Ch. Mirvish; chairman, Mr. W. Harris; hon. treasurer, Mr. I. Sonenscher; and hon. secretary, Mr. Hirschson. A sub-committee, consisting of Messrs. J. Gesundheit, M. Gurland and B. Rubik, together with two representatives to be appointed by the Teachers' Association, was then formed for the purpose of conducting inquiries and submitting recommendations. All this looks very business-like, and one begins to look forward to tangible results.

OPENING OF HEBREW UNIVERSITY.

The combined Zionist societies have issued a circular to all Jewish institutions to send representatives to a meeting on Tuesday, 24th February, to discuss the celebrating of this great event, which will take place in Jerusalem on the 1st April next. The great significance of the occasion must impress itself even on the most unimaginative of us. For long it has been the exalted ambition of every section of Jewry that a great centre of Hebrew culture should be set up in the only place where it is justly fitted, and it has been an important plank in the Zionist programme. Who would have thought, let us say ten years ago, that 1925 would have seen so auspicious a beginning? But events are moving rapidly in the world to-day, and by no means at their slowest in Erez Israel. Much has been written and spoken about a Hebrew University, and the prospect it opens up

is indeed one on which the pen can easily flow on in contemplation, but considerations of space prohibit it, and no doubt the subject will be done justice on another occasion.

MACCABEAN ASSOCIATION.

After about a month's recess this society resumed operations with a book evening and social, held at the Old Synagogue on Tuesday, 17th inst. The social part was well sustained by the refreshments served during the evening, a decorative scheme, and a musical programme. The contributors to the latter were Miss Fanny Gronn, who was in fine voice, Miss Bertha Fagan, a young pianist of undoubted talent, and Miss Hilda Gesundheit, whose masterly and natural reciting drew much hearty applause.

Usually at these affairs, while the book representations are of a distinctly clever nature, there is little of special Jewish interest in them. The Association is, therefore, to be congratulated on stressing this aspect, and while the representations lost nothing in ingenuity, they were all Jewish in character. The prize was awarded by the judges, Mrs. F. Sloman and Mrs. J. Herbstein, to Mrs. L. Mirvish, who came as the book "Zion," indicated by "The seventh letter of the alphabet." Miss D. Winnett received the prize for the largest number of solutions.

On the 1st March the Association is holding a tennis tournament, while on the 10th of that month it is giving a Purim dance at the banquetting hall in aid of the National Fund.

CAPE JEWISH GUILD.

I am afraid that the "little bird" of a contemporary has developed a croak, for its "whisperings" on the last occasion it twittered contained an odd note. It "whispered" something about "sour grapes . . . jaundiced remarks of a correspondent . . . rival moribund organisation . . . correspondent connected with," the meaning and application of which, I must confess, entirely escaped me. It has now reached me through various murmurings in the local Guild that these cryptic observations had reference to the writer's description of the last general meeting of that body. All this is rather wonderful, first, because as the writer was not present at the meeting, his information, altogether as to facts and very much as to form, was gleaned from a worthy member of the Guild itself, and secondly, because the "little bird" has succeeded (or confidently believes it has) in fathoming the mystery of my identity, much to my, and doubtless to the other person's, amusement. But what is most remarkable is the reference to "a rival and moribund organisation," that is rival to the Guild. As well as I can claim to be acquainted with local institutions I must admit that I am unaware of any such organisation. The only one I can think of is, as far as I know, neither rival nor moribund, and it is only the "little bird" when its feathers turn yellow that could call it such. Unless, of course, it is having a grim joke at the expense of the Aged Home. But I think that the "little bird" would do well to look to its own advice, and not try to promote harmony, etc., by calling other bodies "rival and moribund," when they are neither the one nor the other, and as far as the writer himself is concerned, not to take offence when to any healthy bird none would be apparent.

On February 12th, the Guild held a moonlight walk to Camp's Bay, which proved itself a very popular item.

On the 15th a large number of members turned out for a ramble. The larger proportion spent a pleasant day on the slopes of the mountain around Blinkwater, while a small party, desiring something more energetic, proceeded to the top.

On the 18th a successful "At Home" was given by the new committee by way of introduction to the general body. The "Home" was the Old Synagogue, which was tastefully decorated, and the evening was spent in a little speechifying, dancing, music, partaking of refreshments, and other usual accompaniments.

On Sunday, the 22nd, Mr. Morris, the superintendent of the local baths and a noted exponent of swimming, will lecture.

YOUNG ISRAEL SOCIETY.

This body also relaxed from its labours during the holiday period, but has now resumed with new zest.

On the 7th a well-attended members' meeting was held, when the Society's affairs were discussed. *Inter alia*, it was decided that having paid considerable attention to the social

(Continued on next page.)

IN CAPETOWN (concluded from previous page).

side, it was time the Society turned to its educational needs, and with this end in view, a library should be established, and reading evenings be held, when the matter read would be also discussed. It was also resolved to endeavour to attract recruits, especially in those districts into which a knowledge of the Society's work and usefulness had not yet penetrated. One is glad to see this enterprising spirit abroad amongst our youngsters, and to learn that since the Society's reorganisation, about a year ago, the effective membership has grown from 15 to about 130.

Messrs. T. Snitcher and D. Cohen, president and vice-president, respectively, were elected as representatives to the Judean Central Council.

The following week Messrs. D. Cohen and M. Cohen, on the one side, and T. Snitcher and I. Zieve on the other, debated the subject "That Judaism favours equality for men and women." There was much learned reference to Torah, Talmud, and other authorities, and the way the subject had been prepared was not only a pleasure to see, but an example to older societies. My lady readers will be pained to hear that the motion was lost.

On the 22nd, the Society holds a social, to which invitations have been widely circulated.

In connection with Young Israel, I have learned that attempts are being made by the Judean Central Council (Young Israel's Cape Province central body) to resuscitate that excellent little magazine, *Judean*, which ran to three issues and was then seen no more. This move is as a result of the machinery set up by the Young Israel Conference, held a few months ago. One hopes that these attempts will succeed, and that we shall be able to welcome the re-appearance of that bright journal, born in much travail, and with bright hopes, for there must surely be a place for it.

THIS AND THAT.

Mr. S. Turtledove, B.A., LL.B., was admitted as an advocate on the 12th. Mr. Turtledove, although a young man, has got a fine record of communal service, particularly in the Zionist sphere. There are few of the younger organisations in which he has not taken a leading part. While at the University he was president for some time of the Jewish Association, besides being actively engaged in town organisations. He is at present hon. secretary of the Keren Hayesod, having occupied that office during the strenuous time of the last campaign, and is also president of the Maccabean Association. He frequently appears on the Zionist platform, both in and out of the city. The community looks forward to his career being one of service and success.

On Tuesday, 10th, the marriage of Sarah, only daughter of Mr. and Mrs. I. Jaffe, to Dr. Joseph Sachs, M.A.Ph.D., son of Mr. and Mrs. S. D. Sachs of Johannesburg, was solemnised at the Roeland Street Synagogue before a large number of friends. The reception was held at the Oddfellow's hall, where many did honour to the bridal pair.

The bride has taken active part in young communal circles, where she is very popular. Possessed of a fine voice, which has won her recognition at the local Eisteddfods,

she has always put it at the service of any organisation who required her, and her singing has been a welcome feature of many Jewish gatherings.

The happy couple have left to take up their residence in Johannesburg.

On Tuesday, 17th, Miss Irma Stern gave an exhibition of her paintings at Ashbey's Gallery. The exhibition was opened by Miss Rebecca Hourwich, a known American journalist visiting South Africa. Miss Stern's work has received a mixed reception, as she is a pupil of the modern school, and one must admit that to the average eye, the pictures are either unseemly daubs and splashes of clashing colours, or incomprehensible. Some, however, seem to think them wonderful. They are.

Mr. Benzion Hersch, member of the Federation and of the *Zionist Record* Board, has spent a few days in Capetown on business.

Adv. M. Alexander, K.C., M.L.A., and Mrs. Alexander returned from St. Helena on Monday, the 9th, whither Mr. Alexander had been called to conduct a criminal defence. Not only did he succeed in getting his man acquitted, but now the erstwhile accused is busy getting up a claim for damages against the Governor for arresting him on flimsy evidence, in which the island generally is supporting him.

It is interesting to hear that, though there are about 2,000 people on the island, some pretty prosperous, the result of flax culture, there is not a single Jewish inhabitant. Now there's a chance for somebody!

Mrs. H. Gordon, formerly the local Hebrew kindergarten mistress, has returned from her trip to Palestine, where she says she was astounded at the progress made since she left to take up residence in South Africa.

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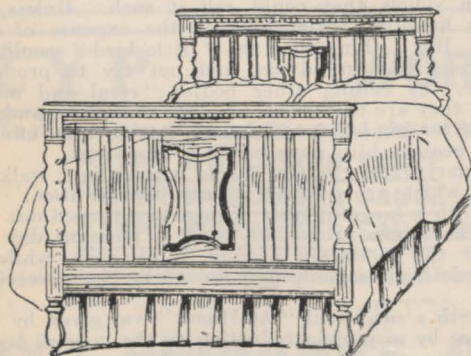
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