

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.

HEBREW UNIVERSITY.

The modern Jewish revival has, true to the traditions and genius of our people, expressed itself through spiritual and cultural channels. It has been the proud boast of our leaders, of every shade of opinion, that, as a people, we have still some contribution to make to the world's thought. It was but natural, therefore, that there arose as one of the most cherished aims of the renaissance, and one which found unanimous favour, the establishing of a great Hebrew University which should be a beacon to the Jewish nation and a light to the rest of mankind.

It is a matter for the deepest rejoicing that this ambition is in the first stages of fulfilment, for as has already been announced, the Hebrew University will be officially opened in Jerusalem on 1st April next.

It is abundantly clear that on that date the world's eyes will be focussed on Jerusalem and the Jewish effort for the event is rich in dramatic elements. The Jewish race, after the part it has played in the tutoring of mankind, after having passed through the very slough of human misery and degradation, is building again, building in the direction of mind! What is it going to cause the future to bring forth? Once it changed the whole complexion of European thought, morals, ideals, aye, changed the very structure. Will history repeat itself? These are the thoughts which must course through the brain of any one who seeks to appraise contemporary events.

The importance and grandeur of the moment will find its reflection in the festivities which will be held in Jerusalem itself and in every part where a Jewish heart is attuned to the nation's song of life. It goes without saying that Capetown will be a strong link in the chain of an encircling the globe.

Arrangements for comprehensive local celebrations are well under way. On Tuesday 24th, at the instance of the combined Zionist Societies (as mentioned in my previous notes), a meeting of representatives of all local institutions and societies was held at the old Synagogue. There was an excellent attendance, and it was gratifying to witness the spirit of the delegates, appreciative of the momentous nature of the event and anxious not to fail in doing it honour. Discussion revolved on the form the celebrations should take, their magnitude, and the necessity of making adequate provision for the children.

Eventually a resolution was passed, *nem con*, to the effect that the delegates assembled decided to celebrate suitably, in the name of the whole community, the opening of the Hebrew University, for the carrying into effect of which they constituted themselves into a general committee.

Thereafter it was decided to appoint an executive committee and an hon. secretary. This was done, nine being elected with power to add, while Advocate S. Turtledove accepted the latter post. Its instructions were to go into ways and means and submit proposals to a further meeting of the general committee.

As it stands now, I understand that the executive is thoroughly representative, comprising the leading members of the community. I believe it has already met, and will unhesitatingly submit its report before long, a report which will indicate the general desire to do something big, impressive for Jew and Gentile. It is also interesting to note that no financial effort will be coupled with the celebrations which are to be of a purely festive character, an expression of communal joy.

NEW ZIONIST HALL BUILDING FUND.

I received the following letter a few days ago:—
DEAR SIR,—Despite the mystery surrounding your identity, I venture in this letter to ask you if you could inform your readers of any news in connection with the building of the new Zionist Hall. All committees have been pestered with questions re this new hall by the general body and have all been compelled to confess their complete ignorance. Do you not think it high time and only fair that the public should be given at least some indication as to what is being done with its money?

D. COHEN.

30, Kloof Street.
I must first of all commend Mr. Cohen on his public spirit in thus raising this important question. I fully

endorse his complaint; it is certainly time something were heard of the matter. It is a whole year since the "Oriental Wonderland," the bazaar in aid of the Fund, was held, and much was made at the time of the crying need of such a hall. In the meantime that need has not become one wit less, and it would be interesting to know the reasons for the delay, for since then nothing has been heard of the project. I have looked into the last annual report of the Dorshei Zion Association and under this heading the following interesting paragraph appears. After dealing with the results of the bazaar, the report goes on to say:—

"The new Zionist Hall is now within our reach, and the Building Committee is already considering the practical details attendant on the commencement of actual building operations. It can be safely added, we think, that before long our association will be the possessor of a hall . . . The initial financial difficulties have been overcome, since, counting in all our assets, we have to our credit over £5,000 for building purposes." Actually, the balance sheet shows £3,900 6s. 10d. to the credit of the Fund, while the present hall is brought up at £1,000.

I am sure we should all like to hear what is happening, and even more, what is going to happen.

I understand that there is in existence a Building Committee constituted of representatives of the Zionist societies. Will they speak up? If they have found that the hall will cost more than was originally anticipated, delay will not help, and the position should be placed before the public. A large sum on fixed deposit is of benefit to the bank, but hardly what the community would wish.

THE ORPHANAGE.

On Sunday afternoon, 1st March, this institution held a prize distribution for secular and Hebrew education. Mrs. J. Gesundheit distributed the prizes to the children before a large gathering of friends.

The Rev. A. P. Bender delivered a noteworthy address in which he pointed out to the children how each one had in his hands not only the fair name of the Orphanage, but also of the whole community. Everything was being done for their happiness and welfare, and they were trusted to make worthy use of the opportunities afforded them.

Mr. J. Gesundheit also spoke while an interesting report was given by Mr. B. A. Crasnow, chairman of the education committee.

The audience then settled down to a programme ably sustained by the children.

MACCABEAN ASSOCIATION.

On the same Sunday this society held a tennis tournament on the court belonging to Mr. and Mrs. N. Stoller, of Oranjezicht, who kindly placed it at their disposal. Play, which was of quite a high order, was continued throughout the day and was thoroughly enjoyed by all the participants. After a keen contest the prizes were awarded to Miss A. Policansky and Mr. M. Rose, the couple which emerged unscathed.

Plenty of publicity has been given to a dance arranged by the association for March 10th, Purim night, in the Banqueting Hall. Seasonal novelties are promised, but as their nature has not been disclosed, I must reserve any comment. Anyway, it is all to the good that the festival is being noted and an attempt being made to recapture the traditional spirit. This endeavour is, however, but in keeping with the laudable policy evidently being pursued by the society. Proceeds are to go to the National Fund.

THIS AND THAT.

Mr. J. Alexander, secretary of the S. A. Zionist Federation and Kerem Hayesod, passed through Capetown en route for Europe and Palestine. There were a number of friends at the boat to bid him bon voyage.

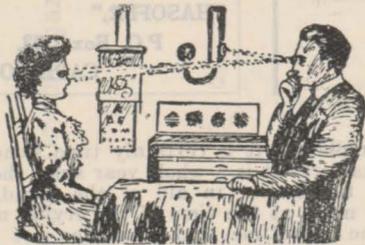
The Cape Jewish Guild "rambled" to Kirstenbosch on Sunday 1st. It also announces the offering of a prize for the best design submitted for a club crest, while on Sunday 8th the old Synagogue walls will echo to the time-honoured question "Should Capital Punishment be Abolished?" Mr. J. O. Markovitz seconded by Mr. Herman Cohen will favour the abolition, while Messrs. Blumberg and Baskin will not.

(Continued on next page.)

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PERSONAL SERVICE

IN CAPE TOWN (concluded from previous page).

On Sunday 22nd, the Young Israel Society held a social at the Zionist Hall, although there was a large turn out of the younger folk, the invitations to the older people had not been made use of to any extent. This led to the chairman appealing to "Hasofer"—"if he were present"—to use his pen in admonition of the parents. While one admires the keenness of the committee and admits a considerable justification in its complaint of lack of senior support and encouragement, yet the evening was not a fair test, for it was one of those beautiful Sunday evenings after a terribly hot day when a hard-worked parent might be excused for taking a late train from Muizenberg.

A departure for institutions of that description is being made by the United Hebrew School—the Talmud Torah—in holding a propaganda meeting at the Alhambra on Sunday 8th. This is another indication (the education conference being the first) of a certain restlessness in the community in regard to Hebrew Education. The sign is to be heartily welcomed, and one hopes there will be substantial results of a much-needed kind as a consequence of this praiseworthy activity.

Mr. J. Gesundheit, the chairman, will preside and the following gentlemen will speak:—Rev. A. P. Bender, Rabbi Ch. Mirvish, Adv. M. Alexander and Mr. W. Harris.

A neat little booklet has been received this week by Jewish householders issued by the Dorshei Zion. It contains a succinct note on the National Fund in both English and Yiddish (the one, by the way, not being a translation of the other), announces the annual house to house collection for Sunday 8th, and appeals for support especially in view of the present "land hunger" in Palestine.

On Wednesday 4th, at the City Hall in the presence of H.E. the Governor-General and H.R.H. Princess Beatrice, a complimentary concert was given to Joel Myerson. He was supported by the orchestra and a number of other Jewish and non-Jewish artists.

An excellent audience was present, and considering the number of times Myerson has appeared during a comparatively short period and in much the same numbers, it seems to show that he has caught Capetown's fancy. I don't suppose, therefore, that this will be his final "farewell."

HASOFER.

IN BLOEMFONTEIN.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Since the publication of my last letter, in which I then complained of the lack of communal activity, I am pleased to report an awakening on the part of most of our existent societies. The first to show signs of life is I am pleased to say, the Zionist Society, which, I understand, is preparing a Shekel campaign, and also intends to arrange a series of lectures whereby the people will be informed of development of Erez Israel.

The Talmud Torah is also showing activity, and classes are running in good order. There is evidence of progress generally. The children are preparing a grand concert on April 1st, in celebration of the opening of the Hebrew University in Jerusalem.

The Jewish Guild held a debate a few weeks ago, which proved most interesting. The subject, "Should There Be a Jewish Vote," was excellently debated by Mr. J. Bernstein in the affirmative, and Mr. D. Kahn in the negative. Many members of the audience took part in the discussion, among these being: Messrs. Sacks, Phillips, Abelson, Sorokin, Fogel and Crystal. I hear that the Guild is organising a study circle on Jewish subjects, which is a step in the right direction.

There is much liveliness on the part of the Young Israel Society, which recently organised quite a successful and enjoyable picnic, dance and farewell evenings for those of their members who departed to continue their studies in various Universities. The Society also publishes a journal, *The Rising Generation*, which, on its rare appearances, demonstrates talent and entitles the Society to congratulations.

The bi-annual general elections of the Young Israel Society took place on Saturday evening, February 28th, at which the following officers were elected:—Hon. Life President, Mr. I. Fogel; Hon. Chairman, Mr. L. Klatzow; Hon. Vice-Chairlady, Miss R. Casper; Hon. Secretary, Miss E. Nathan; Hon. Treasurer, Mr. J. Taylor; Committee: Misses L. Herberg, E. Zabow, B. Caplan, Messrs. J. Brown, L. Shear, S. Breger, N. Philips and S. Cohen.

An enjoyable evening was spent in the Communal Hall on the occasion of the Barmitzvah of Lionel, the oldest son of Mr. and Mrs. J. Goldes. The hall was tastefully decorated for the occasion, and the Barmitzvah delivered quite a suitable speech. During the evening, Rev. Lawrence and Councillor Harris spoke.

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