

In Pretoria

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

ZIONIST SOCIETY.

It is very pleasing to note the excellent way in which the committee is maintaining their activity. It would be very fitting to recount at this juncture a résumé of the activities since the beginning of this year.

An energetic membership campaign at the outset yielded excellent results, but this had to give place to National Fund work, which resulted in a drive, undertaken with an excellent spirit of enthusiasm by the whole committee and a few others. £100 was the very fine sum forwarded to the Federation Head Office from this drive. It was then time to go "all out" for a very representative function to celebrate the opening of the University, and the Society have certainly every reason to feel pleased with their efforts. Every Jewish Society and Organisation in Pretoria was represented at that Great Mass Meeting directed by their executives, for whom seats were reserved near the platform.

Immediately following that, an organised drive was undertaken to clear J.N. Boxes and place these in all Jewish Homes. The results, which are almost complete, represent the very best effort we have ever shown in this connection, as nearly £70 will soon be sent forward from Pretoria. Moreover, about 100 new boxes were distributed, which means that over 80 per cent. of the Jewish Homes in Pretoria have the National Fund Boxes.

We dare to claim that no other town in South Africa has that high proportion. During all this time another important branch of National Fund work was vigorously maintained. At almost every "Simcha" that has been held this year, money was collected or donated to the National Fund. Roughly £70 is in bond to the account of this section.

The Shekel collection is also Pretoria's record, £50 (50 shekolim) were registered. The Young Israel Society were largely responsible for this result.

Next month the new Palestine film will be shown, and Miss Fanny Taback and Mr. Ben Cohen have very kindly volunteered to sing Jewish songs during the intervals. This would prove a very memorable occasion, as from all accounts the film is well worth seeing.

JEWISH GUILD.

On Sunday evening, 12th April, Rabbi Hirsch lectured on "The Training of Youth in Ancient Israel." Adv. C. Isaacson, president of the Guild was in the chair. The Rabbi, in his remarks, traced the development of organised education from the very earliest Biblical Times, and took the audience through a very interesting account of the various types of primitive "schools" and methods of education. His lecture was much enjoyed, and Mr. L. Saks, in proposing a vote of thanks, pointed out the intelligence of the lecturer in searching out matter for the subject, as there was practically no available recorded work on the early education of the youth of Ancient Israel.

A literary evening was held on Sunday, 19th inst., and was organised by Miss F. Hurwitz. Some highly interesting papers were read by Mrs. Isaacson, Miss F. Hurwitz and Messrs. L. Caplan, L. Goldblatt and H. Goldin, and the success of the function was evident from the appreciation shown by the large attendance.

On Monday, 11th May, the Guild are holding a grand ball, and with Clark and Adeler's Band to give their popular "spark," the function should be a great affair. Tickets are obtainable from the committee.

Mr. and Mrs. Morris Leibman have returned from their extended visit to Europe, and their many friends are glad to know that Mr. Leibman is regaining good health.

Dr. Phillip Hock, eldest son of Mr. and Mrs. L. J. Hock, of Irene, returns to England on the 30th inst. to take his final F.R.C.S.

There is a rumour that local amateurs are contemplating the production of a Yiddish play. Their successes in the past have not been forgotten, and they will assuredly receive the whole-hearted support of the community in their latest venture.

NOTES OF THE MONTH.

(Communicated by the Executive of the S.A. Zionist Federation.)

Only one meeting of the Executive took place during this month, this being on the 20th inst.; a special meeting having been held on March 30th. The attendances for both were as follows:—Mr. A. M. Abrahams, 1; Chief Rabbi, Dr. J. L. Landau, 2; Messrs. J. Janower, 2; L. Braudo, 1; B. S. Hersch, 2; D. Getz, 2; B. Gering, 2; I. Kuper, 1; Dr. J. M. Edelstein, 1; Dr. W. Sachs, 1. Meetings of the Finance, Keren Hayesod and *Zionist Record* Committees were also held. So far only one vacancy on the Executive has been filled, this being by Mr. B. Reinhold, whom we are pleased to welcome in our midst.

KEREN HAYESOD.

Receipts for the Keren Hayesod are gradually diminishing as a number of the pledges covered by the bank stop orders have now been fully redeemed. Contributions raised by Mr. Shein have helped to augment the funds, and it was decided that, as there still remained about 60 places in South Africa which had still to be canvassed, Mr. Shein's services should be engaged exclusively for Keren Hayesod work until these places had been visited. After a well-earned rest of about a fortnight, Mr. Shein has just started a tour in the Highveld, which will probably last till the end of this month, after which he will no doubt again proceed to the Cape. A further remittance of £1,000 was made on the 31st March and £2,000 will be remitted in a day or two, which will bring the total remittances to date to £53,789.

JEWISH NATIONAL FUND CAMPAIGN.

The National Fund Drive is starting next month, and arrangements are being made for its successful launching. A special campaign committee has been formed, which is meeting in a day or two to draw up a definite plan of activities. It has been recommended by the Executive that in view of the extra work which such a campaign will entail, and in the absence of Mr. Alexander, a special campaign secretary should be engaged to conduct the work.

CONGRESS.

Official information has been received that the Congress this year will take place in Vienna, on August 18th. All the details as to the method of election, etc., have not yet been received from headquarters, but it has been intimated that it is not intended to introduce substantial alterations in the rules of election as issued on the occasion of the last Congress (1923).

In the meantime, immediate steps are being taken for an early conclusion of the Shekel collections, and circulars are being issued to all centres who have not yet sent in their returns to do so immediately. So far, returns have been received from 96 centres, including Johannesburg and Capetown, and the receipts amount to approximately £800. There still, therefore, remain about 300 centres from which returns are expected. The preliminary measures for the nomination of delegates will be taken in hand shortly.

IN BELGIAN CONGO.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

The arrival of Rev. Louis Wolk is leading to a revival of Jewish activity here. March 3rd being *Zayin Adar*, the local *Chevre Kadisha* solemnised the day in accordance with its old tradition. After a suitable service, a special dinner was given by the president of the *Chevre Kadisha*, Mr. J. D. Robinson. Eighteen gentlemen joined the festive board. The toast of the *Chevre Kadisha* was proposed by Rev. Louis Wolk, and addresses were delivered by Mr. J. D. Robinson, Mr. R. Glasstone, Mr. Kemp and Mr. C. Levy.

On *Purim* evening a social was arranged at the Cosmopolitan Club by the Jewish ladies of Elisabethville, to which every Jew and Jewess of the Katanga Province was invited. The function was highly successful, and was notable by the fact that for the first time in the history of the Congo, the Spanish and Ashkanazi Jews joined together in a spirit of good fellowship. It is hoped as a result of this function that the imaginary barrier of separation between these two sections will disappear.

Mr. R. Glasstone, president of the Hebrew Congregation, expressed his pleasure on seeing for the first time the whole Jewish community assembled in a friendly and fraternal spirit. Great credit is due to the Rev. L. Wolk, who initiated this most desirable union of all elements of the community.

On this occasion Rev. Wolk also delivered a most eloquent address, in which he also expressed thanks to Messdames R. Glasstone, J. K. Jooster, M. Pieters, and J. Kemp, who were responsible for the arrangements in connection with the function. Special thanks are also due to Mr. N. Sulman, who arranged the musical part of the evening, also to Mr. and Mrs. Kolinowsky, of the Cosmopolitan Club, who permitted the use of their premises gratis.