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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 3084, CAPE TOWN.

MR. GIORGIO GIORINI.

Capetown is eagerly looking forward to the first recital in South Africa which Mr. Giorgio Giorini is to give in the Zionist Hall on Tuesday evening, 5th August. Mr. Giorini is famous as one who has earned for himself a reputation as a great singer overseas and particularly as leading dramatic tenor of the Palestine Hebrew Opera Company. Everywhere he has won for himself remarkable press criticisms and in America, which he has visited on more than one occasion, he has been hailed as the "Jewish Caruso." His concert should undoubtedly afford not a little pleasure to those who will be wise enough to avail themselves of this opportunity of hearing him.

Our interest in Mr. Giorini, however, does not lie so much in his being a singer *per se* but rather in his being what one might call "a Jewish national singer." For dominant in his repertoire are Hebrew operatic arias, Hebrew folk-songs and other Hebrew items all of which he sings with an understanding enriched by a stay of many years in Palestine and a deep love for the spirit, the life, the very soil of that country. It is this feature of his concert that we find most interesting and inviting. We in South Africa have heard much of the cultural development of Palestine, but this will be the first occasion we will be given the opportunity of witnessing an instance of the musical side of that cultural development. Largely for this reason, we are confident, Mr. Giorini may expect a large and interested audience at his concert on Tuesday night.

MR. D. MIEROWSKY.

There arrived in Capetown some two weeks ago Mr. D. Mierowsky, Secretary of the S.A. Board of Jewish Education. The announcement as to Mr. Mierowsky's arrival was to have appeared in these columns last week but owing to pressure of space was held over.

It is the intention of Mr. Mierowsky to stay in Capetown several weeks during which time he will examine the pupils at the various Talmud Torahs and will interview a number of teachers and headmasters. During the short period he has already spent here he has visited not a few Talmud Torahs and has given much valuable and needed advice to those responsible.

The presence of Mr. Mierowsky in Capetown is, however, significant not only in so far as the question of Hebrew education in this centre is concerned but also in regard to the community generally. I have commented on more than one occasion on the dearth of notable speakers we have in our midst and of our "going to death" of those we have. Mr. Mierowsky needs no introduction as a brilliant writer, thinker and speaker and it is therefore not a little gratifying to have him in our midst. The local institutions have not been slow to take advantage of this fact and have secured his consent to deliver addresses at several forthcoming functions. Knowing Mr. Mierowsky as we do, we eagerly look forward to these.

JEWISH GIRL GUIDES.

Some weeks ago my attention was drawn by a leader in the *Zionist Record* to the Young Israel Forum page which appears fortnightly in this publication. I have since read the articles which appear on this page with keen interest and have been struck by the sincerity and deep understanding of Young Israel problems in this country with which the writer speaks. He criticises the general unsatisfactory condition of youth for Zionism in this country and offers certain constructive proposals for remedying it. His criticisms at times, it is true, are pretty damning but will, I have no doubt, achieve their aim—or at least what I consider must be the ultimate aim—of rousing the more lethargic members of Young Israel who are obviously in need of such rousing.

I was particularly struck by his remarks last week on the Girl Guide movement under the caption "What of Our Women?" He discusses the problem of why there are so few women interested in the Young Israel movement, states his belief that not sufficient effort has been made to interest them in Zionist matters and then draws an instance from the Girl Guide movement where he says "there is excellent material . . . for prospective women Zionists," but which is not doing sufficient since it "is laying emphasis on only one aspect of Judaism, viz., the religious." He adds: "Judaism, after all, is more than

merely a religious creed. It is something in which nationalism plays as large, if not a larger part than religion, and devoting attention to only the religious side of it is like telling only half the truth."

I cannot stress deeply enough the truth of these remarks, a truth which will, I have no doubt, be obvious to all those who have ever considered local Zionist problems. I do not think it is necessary for me to go further into the question for I cannot do better than advise readers to refer to the article in question by "Apella," the contributor to the Young Israel Forum.

Certainly I agree with him that the matter must be taken up immediately and preferably I would add, by a more senior body than the Y.I. Federation.

THE MACCABEAN GUILD.

A most successful Musical and Dramatic Evening was held at the Zionist Hall last Wednesday night under the auspices of the Maccabean Guild. The programme consisted of items by the Maccabean Guild Orchestra, all of which were very excellently rendered, and of the staging of two one-act plays by the Dramatic Section of the Association. These were "A Sister to Assist 'Er," played by Messrs. F. Weinberg and C. Israels, and "The Master of the House," in which Misses. E. Richman and M. Matthews and Messrs. A. G. Harte, M. Melmed and F. Weinberg participated. The cast was excellently chosen and each member gave a more than creditable portrayal of the part allotted to him or her. Mr. David Levy, the producer is particularly to be congratulated on two very successful performances.

KADIMAH ASSOCIATION.

Under the auspices of the above, there was held a commemoration meeting to the 15th anniversary of the death of the famous author, J. L. Peretz, at the Zionist Hall on the 13th inst. Mr. M. Wolozinsky delivered an interesting address on Peretz before a large and appreciative audience. The speaker explained lucidly the various periods in Peretz's literary works and dwelt at length on his classical ideas which are abundantly found in his folk stories, Chassidism and Kabelism.

Mr. Wolozinsky read a few extracts from "The Golden Chain," and compared it with Bialik's poems on the "Beth-Hamedrash."

A keen discussion followed, in which Mr. M. Z. Avin and Dr. J. Sacks participated. The latter dwelt on Universal Classicism as opposed to that of Peretz's.

With the reading by Mr. L. Rechtman on the author's characteristic stories, an enjoyable evening closed.

CAPETOWN HEBREW CIRCLE.

The twenty-sixth anniversary of Dr. Herzl's death was commemorated under the auspices of the above Circle at the Zionist Hall on Thursday, the 17th inst. Mr. A. Levin, the Chairman of the Circle, presided, and gave a broad outline of Herzl's life and works.

Mr. M. Wolozinsky spoke of Herzl as the great prophet, who was in many ways similar to Moses of old. Messrs. J. Rubik and M. Natas spoke on Herzl's personality and immortality. Mr. M. Natas recited Dr. Jacob Kahan's poem on Herzl and read extracts on Herzl's last days.

All addresses were delivered in a fluent and lucid Hebrew before an appreciative audience.

GENERAL.

There arrived by the *Ascanius* last Tuesday morning Miss Camilla Wedgwood, daughter of Colonel and Mrs. Josiah Wedgwood, persons too well-known to South African Jewry to call for introduction. Miss Wedgwood is to lecture on anthropology at the Capetown University till the end of the year.

Under the auspices of the Muizenberg Young Israel Society, Advocate M. Alexander, K.C., delivered a highly interesting address on "Jewish Law and Custom Regarding Children" in the Muizenberg Synagogue last Sunday night.

A very successful concert was held at the Zionist Hall last Saturday night under the auspices of the Wilna Jewish Society. The proceeds are to go towards providing relief for the poor and needy members of the Society.