

A Young Israel Inter-Function at Queenstown.

An Impression by an Adult.

As they moved about in the corridors, making acquaintances and striking up new friendships, free and easy, hail-fellow-well-met; as they filed across the hall, young, bright and cheerful; as they roamed over the greens of Flowers Halt, basking in the sunshine, happy and exalted; as they sat round the banqueting tables, festive and imposing; as they slid over the dancing hall, sprightly, charmingly and gracefully; wherever and whenever one watched this playfully happy family, indoors and out-of-doors, one could not help the feeling that we adults pay far too little attention to this great youth movement of which this inter-function was but a small manifestation; that we do not turn into account the fine latent powers undoubtedly present in these magnificent specimens of Jewish manhood and womanhood. The writer has seen them in large groups, in small groups collectively and individually; has spoken to them and discussed with them, and was invariably impressed with their candour, courage and will-to-do. He saw them at meetings—all eyes bent upon the speaker, drinking in every word, sifting, probing and scrutinising; he watched them at debates, earnest, eager and determined; he observed them in private conversation, wary, reflective and thoughtful; he watched them at play and at work, always civil and courteous, and to his mind nilly-willy came recurringly some of the concluding lines in Bialik's "Hamathmid," though with some slight modification:

*"How rich would be the blessing if one beam
Of Jewish sunlight could break through you,
How great the harvest to be reaped in joy
If"*

If only we adults could be brought to realise the wonderful potentialities of this remarkable movement, if only we could be made to understand that any of the Young Israel units in East London, Kingwilliamstown, Queenstown, Cradock or anywhere else in the country are no less worthy of our support than some unknown little Cheder in "No Man's Land," represented by some Meshulach under the grandiloquent name of Yeshivah. Here are hundreds of young men and women throughout the length and breadth of the country. Athirst for knowledge and inspiration, a craving for lead, for help, for guidance, and we are boastfully spending our much-needed money on flying Chazonim and tramping Meshulachim. Our young are holding out their parched lips athirst for the living waters of Jewish life and Jewish ideals, but we keep the fountains out of their reach. Their energies are craving for an air outlet—they must have an outlet—and if we fail them they will be diverted in other non-Jewish channels. Would that our leaders could have been present at the various Young Israel gatherings held in connection with the Queenstown inter-function! They might have brought back with them a new sense of duty with regards to our youth. The earnest, almost passionate words of young Stein, the measured and logical terms of young Shapiro, and the fluency and eloquence of young idealistic Frank, as well as the interesting utterances of many of the other participants in the debates and discussions, might have turned their attention to a new phase of activity in South African Jewish life—that of growing young Israel.

(A Report of the Inter-Function appears in our Town and Country Section.)

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STRICTLY KOSHER.

THE SEVENTEENTH CONGRESS.

In accordance with a resolution adopted by the General Council of the Zionist Organisation at its last meeting, the fixing of the date of the XVII. Congress has been made dependent upon the development of the political situation. The Executive and the Presidium of the General Council are empowered to convene an Ordinary Congress should the political situation demand it.

In order that the elections may be held at the shortest possible notice, the Executive are empowered to take such statutory and technical measures as they may consider necessary.

In the event of an Ordinary Congress being convened before the end of 1930, the elections will be based on the number of Shekolim disposed of in the year 5690. The final date of the Shekel year 5690 has been fixed for October 31st, and the Executive urgently request all Zionist bodies to devote special efforts during the remaining period to the Shekel campaign and to the completion of the Shekel accounts in good time, in order to create the conditions essential for speedy elections.

JEWISH GUILD.

The Repertory Players will present, under the auspices of the Jewish Guild, on Sunday, 19th inst., the three-act comedy by Aimee and Philip Stuart entitled "Nine Till Six." This play has an entirely female cast, and is being produced by Miss Irene Holloway.

November 2nd (Sunday) will see the opening performance of "The Rubaiyat of Omar Khayyam," with the full song cycle of "In a Persian Garden," by Liza Lehmann. This show will be done in costume. The cast is as follows: Mrs. H. Gluckman (Khaja), Mr. George Absalom (Omar Khayyam), Mrs. H. L. Karnovsky (soprano), Miss Jean Gluckman (contralto), Rev. S. Backon (tenor), Mr. S. Schragger (baritone). Mrs. Ernest Solomon is in charge of the trio which will supply the music. The production is in the hands of Messrs. Ernest Solomon and Sydney Schragger.

1,000
New Jewish
Families

Will be settled on the South African
Tract in the Sharon Plain
as soon as it is definitely redeemed
by us.

Redeem a Dunam
And Help us to do it NOW!