

Johannesburg Women's Zionist League.

A Net-Work of Active Branches.

One of the most important and best organised Zionist bodies in this country is undoubtedly the Women's Zionist League of Johannesburg, and indeed it could take a very worthy place among Zionist organisations the world over. Composed as the League is of a large body of members from every section of the community, it has a Central Committee and Branch Committees in practically every district in Johannesburg, which quietly and unobtrusively are responsible for a very great proportion of the local Zionist work, and exercise a very powerful influence on all Zionist endeavour in the City. The formation of these Branch Committees a few years ago has indeed given the League a very much wider scope and expanded its activities to a very considerable extent.

The work of the League covers a very comprehensive programme, combining social and cultural achievement with a great deal of the practical every-day Zionist work or what might be termed "bread and butter" activities.

Kfar Yeladim.

It is the women of Johannesburg who largely share the responsibility for the maintenance of Kfar Yeladim, the South African Children's Colony in Palestine, and the main work of carrying out the periodic campaign for that purpose and the subsequent collection of the donations falls on the Women's Zionist League and its Branch Committees. This indeed entails a tremendous amount of work, as, in the majority of cases, payments are made in cash instalments which have to be collected every month for a period of twenty months, a task by no means pleasant or easy. And yet it is all done voluntarily by the band of loyal and willing workers.

The Women's Zionist League, as already mentioned, participates actively in all Zionist activities in Johannesburg, but what chiefly benefits is the Jewish National Fund.

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It is in this field that the Women's Zionist League does most of its practical work. Every branch committee is responsible for the placing of boxes in its district and their regular quarterly clearance; the annual house-to-house collection for the National Fund is mainly carried out by these committees; to them can also be attributed in great measure the wonderful success of the "Land of Promise" Fete last year, and in the present Dunam Drive collections a number of prominent workers of the League have very actively assisted in the general canvass, and are very largely responsible for its success.

Just recently the League has initiated a series of special activities for the Jewish National Fund in the form of functions, each branch committee vying with the other to achieve the best results. This healthy competition has resulted in very material benefit to the Fund. In August the Berea branch organised a Bridge Drive at the Jewish Guild which realised over £25; in September the Yeoville branch held a similar function at which close to £40 was raised; the Observatory branch thereupon outdoing the others by a Drive

which was very successful both socially and financially, arranged by Mrs. L. Brando at the Langham Hotel last month and yielding about £50. The Belgravia Branch varied the programme by arranging a Bioscope entertainment which has also yielded close to £50. The Kensington Branch are carrying out a raffle and are holding a Dance and Bridge Evening at the beginning of next year. A number of further activities are in train, whilst there have also been a few private functions: Mrs. B. Patley arranged a small tennis tournament last month; Mrs. J. Frame and Mrs. G. Horwitz had successful Bridge Drives at their own residences.

On Monday, December 1st, an afternoon's entertainment consisting of bridge, miniature golf, and tennikoits will be held under the auspices of the Saxonwold Branch at the residence of Mrs. L. Greenberg. Mrs. B. Gordon is arranging a Bridge Drive in the near future on behalf of the Parktown Branch, and the Houghton Branch is contemplating a similar function early next year.

Social and Cultural Activities.

But the activities of the League are by no means confined to the material aspects of the movement. For many years past monthly gatherings of all the League's members have been a standing feature. These gatherings are in the form of a social afternoon, when lectures, readings, debates and musical programmes are arranged which prove both enjoyable and instructive and serve an excellent propaganda purpose. It is perhaps this social atmosphere which has largely helped to keep together the ranks of the League and unite them in the common purpose, viz., the furtherance of the Zionist ideal.

Besides the regular monthly gatherings of the League as a whole, many of the Branch Committees have organised cultural sections and carry out cultural activities of their own. It would be impossible to report fully on all these activities; suffice it to mention but a few of the more recent ones, and to add that, as a result of these activities, a large number of new members have been enrolled, whose co-operation is indeed very desirable and highly valuable.

Just recently the newly-formed Saxonwold Branch arranged a lecture at the residence of Mrs. Claude Leon, when Mr. G. Saron lectured on "Why I am a Zionist." Mrs. I. Haymann presided, and votes of thanks to the lecturer and to the hostess were proposed by Mrs. J. Edelstein and Mrs. L. Greenberg respectively. Mrs. A. Braun contributed to the programme by rendering a pianoforte solo.

The cultural section of the Houghton Branch are holding a literary afternoon on December 3rd at the residence of Mrs. A. Behrmann. Mr. Jack Gering will lecture on "Modern Jewish Problems and their Solution," and a musical programme will follow.

A little while ago Mrs. (Dr.) Katzen lectured to the Kensington Branch at the residence of Mrs. H. L. Zinn on the subject of "Zionism in the Diaspora."

It is by these and other means that the Zionist ideal is fostered and furthered by this energetic band of workers who, undaunted by difficulties and depression, carry on the work day in and day out, attending meetings, canvassing and collecting, enrolling subscribers, and adding new and influential forces to the Zionist ranks.