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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.

The week following Passover was spent in Capetown in a quiet, homely fashion. This is the season of private visiting rather than communal activity. But since the Press is not invited to share the lavish hospitality of the drawing-room, there is little of moment to record.

THE HEBREW CIRCLE.

The seventieth birthday of Nahum Sokolow was celebrated at a Pesach Festival evening given by the Hebrew Circle. The Zionist Hall was well filled, and the programme was interesting and entertaining. Bialik's "Strengthen the hands of our people" was sung spontaneously by the audience at the commencement of the proceedings. Mr. Koorland gave a few piano solos, which were much appreciated.

The President of the Circle (Mr. A. Levin), in inaugurating the second year of the group's activity, expressed satisfaction with the work done during the Circle's first year. He made an earnest appeal for new members, and voiced the confidence of the executive in its future progress. He also paid a high tribute to Sokolow's many talents, which found expression in the spheres of literature and history, as well as in politics.

Dr. Mibashan (of Port Elizabeth, who was on a visit to Capetown) spoke of the impressions that his three meetings with Nahum Sokolow have made upon him. Since early childhood he had been influenced by the masterly thought of the leader whom he was privileged to meet for the first time in Erez Israel after the riots of 1920. At that time Sokolow had stimulated the Jewish citizens to renewed hope in the future. On the historic occasion of the opening of the Hebrew University on Mount Scopus, Sokolow was aged in appearance, but the fire of his speech penetrated to the hearts of tens of thousands of those who had assembled to celebrate the national revival of the Jewish people in its own homeland. The third time Dr. Mibashan met Nahum Sokolow was in 1928, when the great statesman was engaged in an investigation of the causes of the financial crisis in Palestine.

Mr. B. L. Rubik said that Nahum Sokolow was responsible for bringing new ideas into the realm of Hebrew journalism, and these he made all-embracing, bringing the earth and the fulness thereof to the minds of his readers.

The musical programme was continued after an interval for refreshments. Miss N. Ben-Arie read "Zion." Messrs. Natas and Reuveni presented a lively parody on the "Hagadah," and songs were rendered by Mrs. B. Kaploon, Miss N. Ben-Arie, Miss Rabinowitz and Mr. Kavarsky. Recitations were given by Mr. Reuveni and Mr. Z. Avin.

A vote of thanks to the chair was proposed by Mr. Natas and the meeting terminated with the singing of "Hatikvah."

JEWISH ORCHESTRAL PROGRAMME.

Mr. William J. Pickerill, the musical director of the Capetown Municipal Orchestra, is fond of experimenting. His special "Jewish" programme, given at the Saturday "Pop" on the 11th inst., was an experiment that proved worth his while. The City Hall was crowded, and the audience was almost entirely Jewish.

The programme was varied and on the whole pleasing. Morris Katzin, cantor of the Wynberg Synagogue, was the major attraction. He has a good musical voice, and his Jewish folk-songs and "chazonos" were rendered in good taste and with feeling. It seemed a pity that the singer included Italian opera in his selection. He gave a far finer rendering of "Gutte Woch" than of Puccini's "La Tosca," and in the second half of the programme his encore, "Eli Eli," was better than the solo aria of Bizet.

Ralph Koorland played "Frasquita Serenade," by Lehar-Kreisler, very well indeed, and his encore, "Mazel Tov," was delightful. He is a brilliant violinist. I. Chosack is perhaps the most favoured musician in the orchestra. His masterly command of the percussion instruments and his wonderful sense of rhythm have been praised by many visiting artists. He gave Volpatti's "Rhapsody Slave" as a xylophone solo, and played "Kol Nidri" on the same instrument.

The most interesting item on the programme was a Fantasia on Jewish Folk Tunes, composed by William Pickerill

and dedicated to the Jewish patrons and friends of the Capetown Orchestra. The work consisted of a blending of Chassidic melodies and Jewish folk tunes. The orchestration was good, and the whole composition high-spirited and entertaining.

A TRIAL OF SABBATAI ZEVI.

The Kadimah Association held a trial of Sabbatai Zevi, the false Messiah of the seventeenth century, at the Zionist Hall on Sunday evening, 12th inst. The accused was convicted on the following counts:—(1) For having broken away from the discipline of the Jewish people by disregarding the voice of the rabbis. (2) For having annulled the fasts of 17th Tamuz and 9th Ab. (3) For having broken the holy Sabbath and suggesting the day of rest on Monday. (4) For having presented himself to the Jewish people as a Messiah. (5) For having brought danger into the homes of thousands of Jewish families. (6) For having led astray hundreds of people who became his followers. (7) For becoming a bird of passage and leaving his friends in danger while he escaped.

The case was brought before three judges and a jury. Proceedings were conducted on severe legal lines, and the platform was wrapped in a cloud of seriousness while the witnesses and advocates unfolded their well-prepared arguments. Mr. Z. Avin, Miss A. Potash and Mr. G. Telem were the judges. Mr. D. Dektor and Mr. M. Kaplan were the clerks of the court. Mr. D. Lazar as the Crown Prosecutor won his arguments against Mr. Hirschon, the counsel for the defence. The role of Sabbatai Zevi was played by Mr. Reuveni. The Crown witnesses, Miss R. Tuch and Mr. P. Dibowitz, condemned the accused on all counts, while Mr. A. Charloff tried to justify the action of Sabbatai Zevi. I. Avitz was the minister of oaths. The trial was well staged, and it attracted a very large attendance.

At the commencement of the meeting, Mr. Avin, President of the Kadimah, passed a vote of sympathy with Miss Rabinowitz in the tragic loss of her brother, Moishe.

As a result of a motor accident Mr. M. Rabinowitz, of Wynberg, lost his life. He was a brother of Rev. Rabinowitz, of the Constitution Street Synagogue, and of Miss Rabinowitz, who is a teacher at the New Hebrew Kindergarten. Mr. Moishe Rabinowitz was a Hebrew teacher at Wynberg and secretary of the Wynberg Congregation. He will be much missed by his many friends and fellow-workers.

THE ZIONIST CONVERSAZIONE.

Mr. J. B. Shacksnovis delivered a short address on "Better Understanding Between Jews and Non-Jews" at the Zionist conversazione recently.

The speaker advocated co-operation by Jews with non-Jews in the solution of world problems in the spirit of the Prophets of Israel who preached the Fatherhood of God and the Brotherhood of Man. A movement to remove existing prejudices that retarded human progress ought to receive the whole-hearted support of the House of Israel, as from that source sprang the great Messianic ideals for the world's future happiness. As an instance of work that could be accomplished by a "better understanding" movement, the speaker advocated the formation and support of Peace Societies to secure the abolition of war and the success of the work of the League of Nations.

A debate followed, in which Messrs. D. Getz, J. Weinreich and Dr. J. Sachs participated.

Mr. and Mrs. J. Sarif acted as host and hostess. During the evening Miss Elma Feinhols contributed a vocal solo, and Mr. Getz, as usual, read extracts from the Jewish Telegraphic Agency bulletins.

NEW HEBREW KINDERGARTEN.

The success of the Hebrew Kindergarten opened by the Bnoth Zion Association in Molteno Road has become an established fact—so much so that the Association has seen fit to open another such kindergarten. The new kindergarten is housed in the basement of the Zionist Hall, and has been as charmingly arranged as the first one. The system employed in teaching the children is, of course, the same—that is, teaching through play.

(Concluded on next page).

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