South African Jewish Orphanage

MONTHLY BULLETIN

The monthly Bulletin of the South African Jewish Orphanage reports a considerable increase in the number of children in its care as compared with the previous month. There are now 324 children—an increase of eight compared with the figures in the January Bulletin. Moreover, in spite of having reached this unprecedented total, a number of applications for further admissions are under investigation by the committee, so that there is every possibility of the next month's figures showing a still further increase.

Decrease in Revenue.

On the other hand, the Bulletin reveals a decrease in the revenue. Compared with last year's figures the January revenue in subscriptions and donations—which should be the most dependable as regular sources of revenue for charitable institutions like the Orphanage—shows a distinct falling off, the total ordinary revenue for January amounting to £635 15s. 6d., being still considerably less than the monthly expenditure, which is in the neighbourhood of a thousand pounds.

With a monthly balance sheet showing heavy leaning on the wrong side and, on the other hand, a substantial increase in the number of children, there should be no need to point out how necessary and urgent it is that the Jewish public should come to the aid of the Orphanage to an even greater extent than at present. The Bulletin points out that both in Johannesburg and in the country there is room for a great deal of improvement in the number of subscribers. But we are all looking forward to better times, and it is to be hoped that the Orphanage, with its 324 Jewish orphan and destitute children, will be remembered for a share—even if it is only a very little share—in the blessings of such better times, not less by those already beginning to experience them than by those others for whom they are yet in store.

Contributions from 28 country towns received in January are acknowledged, the largest amounts being from Pretoria, Springs and Benoni.

A Three-fold Celebration.

Sunday evening, March 12th—Purim—has been fixed for a three-fold annual celebration at "Arcadia." Firstly there will be the children's celebration of Purim, in which they will participate, from tiny tots to the grown-ups, by entertaining those present with a delightful programme, including the performance of a Hebrew play, Hebrew and English songs and recitations, dances, etc.; secondly, there will be the celebration of the Barmitzvah of 19 boys; and thirdly, the annual distribution of prizes to the successful pupils. Mrs. E. Brasch, the chairlady of the House Committee, will hand the presents to the Barmitzvah celebrants, and Mrs. B. Meyerowitz, a member of the committee and chairlady of the Mayfair-Fordsburg branch, will distribute the prizes to the successful children. The function is free to all members of the Jewish public.

A visit of the committee to the Pretoria branch is reported, and an appeal for gifts in kind, especially for potatoes, is made. Among other interesting items there is mentioned the last two functions in aid of the Orphanage organised by the Germiston branch, which were held at the residences of Mrs. W. Huftel and Mrs. S. Kalmek respectively, and from which the nett proceeds will be about £80. This branch also held a dance at the Germiston Lake Kiosk on February 15th, whilst another function, a "mock wedding" and dance at the Hotel Alexander, Germiston, was arranged by the younger section of the branch for March 1st.

The showing of the picture "Springtime in Palestine" took place on Sunday evening, the 19th ult. There was a fair attendance, which undoubtedly would have been larger if it were not for the inclement weather. The society, however, should be congratulated on their initiative in obtaining and screening these propaganda pictures.

In Durban

POST ITEMS TO 34 FIELD STREET.

A Fine Example.

The Dunam Drive in Durban once again brought to light the whole-hearted Zionist spirit of our very old friends, Mr. and Mrs. Moses Morrison, of Escombe, who by their example showed the way to the rest of Durban Jewry. It would be impossible to imagine the Morrisons as anything else but Zionists, and their response to the appeal to head the list was a gesture in keeping with their ideals.

Silver Wedding.—Congratulations are extended to Mr. and Mrs. B. Abelson on the silver anniversary of their wedding. Mr. and Mrs. Abelson are old and well-respected Zionists.

Barmitzvahs.—A Barmitzvah of interest to Durban Jewry was celebrated at St. Andrew's Street Synagogue on Saturday, the 4th ult., when Leslie, son of Mr. and Mrs. M. Gevisser, read a portion of the Law. The reception was held on Sunday afternoon, the 5th ult., at the Durban Jewish Club, at which a number of people were present.

The Barmitzvah of Sonny, eldest son of Mr. and Mrs. S. Tomson, was celebrated recently, when a collection amounting to £3 10s. was collected for the National Fund.

Bris-Melahs.—At the Bris-Melah of the infant son of Mr. and Mrs. Jack Rubin (nee Fanny Lurie) a sum of £20 was donated by Mr. B. Lurie, the grandfather of the child, for a Golden Book inscription.

At the Bris-Melah of the infant son of Mr. and Mrs. Ch. Maletzky, of Babanango, the sum of £3 9s. was collected by Rev. Menachemson and Mr. N. Hertz for the Jewish National Fund.

Young Israel Society.—Our first function of this year was a Book Reading Evening at which the readers were Miss Beattie Isaacs and Mr. Ian Cohen, while Mr. Julius Gurwitz occupied the chair.

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A "Young Israel" evening was held recently. The majority of those present were elder members, who spent a pleasant evening dancing and playing ping-pong. A cinema show was also held at the residence of Miss M. Freed, a large crowd being present who thoroughly enjoyed the programme, which included an interest film, comedy and feature film. Mr. Finestone very kindly lent the films and projector, and also acted as operator.

Annual General Meeting.—The annual general meeting of the society took place on the 19th ult. in the committee-room of the Durban Jewish Club. Mr. Mark Fielding, of the club executive, presided.

Miss Muriel Freed, the retiring president of the society, presented a comprehensive report of the society's activities for the past year. This revealed that although considerable work had been put in by the executive, the response from the members of the society was in most cases very poor.

The treasurer's report, which showed a substantial credit balance, was presented by Mr. Julius Gurwitz.

Various matters of vital Young Israel interest were raised and discussed by members of the society and also by several seniors present representing the Durban Zionist Association and the Durban Jewish Club.

A resolution asking the incoming executive to approach the Durban Jewish Club, with a view to their discouraging junior members of the club from serving on club committees, was put forward by Mr. Joseph Cohen and was carried.

The election of officers then took place, the following being elected: Mr. Josh. Goldberg, president; Miss Muriel Freed, vice-president; Mr. Joseph Cohen, treasurer; Miss Nina Fredenthal and Miss Gertie Stern, joint hon. secretaries; committee, Miss Janie Chanani, Mr. J. Gurwitz, Mr. R. Stein, and Mr. H. Schaffer. A vote of thanks to Mr. Fielding was proposed by Mr. M. Goldberg, which was carried.

(*Concluded in pervious column.*)

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