

Women's Zionist League

Birth Day Luncheon.—The luncheon to celebrate the 21st anniversary of the League will be held on Tuesday, March 27th, at the Langham Hotel. Members are asked to apply to their branch secretaries for tickets, price 3s. 6d.

Annual Meeting.—Members are reminded that the annual general meeting of the League will take place on Tuesday, March 20th, at the Langham Hotel at 3 p.m.

Houghton Branch.—This branch is to be congratulated on the excellent annual general meeting held on Wednesday, February 28th, at the residence of Mrs. Karnovsky. There was a large and interested gathering and the report of the year's work was indeed creditable. Mrs. B. Patley, president of the League, congratulated the branch on its good work and commented on the fact that the well-attended fortnightly readings had done much to bring the members together. After tea had been served and the new officers elected, the usual reading was continued. The new office-bearers are as follows:—Mrs. H. L. Karnovsky (chair); Mrs. Joffe, vice-chair; hon. secretary and hon. treasurer, Mrs. S. Hirschman; committee: Mesdames First, Arons, D. Millin, S. Wolpert, M. Jacobson, J. Cranko, Adelson, Lyons, Kalmanson, K. Miller, Shapiro, L. Sacks, B. Sacks, Danziger, P. Crane, H. Miller, Schwartz, Katzenellenbogen, Posner, and I. W. Jacobson.

La Rochelle Branch.—An enjoyable afternoon was spent on Thursday, March 1st, at the residence of Mrs. S. P. Jacobson, when the local branch held its annual general meeting. Visitors from the central committee included Mrs. Patley (chairman of the League), Mrs. Kate Gluckman, whose paper dealing with the Jewish problem was received with great interest, Mrs. I. Marks and Mrs. Segal.

Mrs. Patley (to whom the difficulties encountered by this branch were explained) congratulated the members on the work they had done, and urged that the cultural side of the work should not be neglected. Office-bearers elected for the coming year are as follows:—Chair, Mrs. L. Gingold; vice-chair, Mrs. D. Binder; hon. secretary and hon. treasurer, Mrs. S. P. Jacobson; committee: Mesdames Traub, Gordon, Bender and Meer.

Hillbrow Branch.—A literary afternoon was held at the residence of Mrs. Weinstock, High Street, Berea, on Monday the 26th ult.

Mrs. Chagy discussed the life in the Kvtzot, in Palestine, with special reference to the upbringing of children.

Mrs. Lurie read extracts of letters received from a South African woman journalist in Palestine. Mrs. A. Mendelow read current events in Zionism.

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Prize-Giving at Orphanage

ON Sunday afternoon last a threefold function took place at the Jewish Orphanage in Johannesburg. Nine boys celebrated their *barmitzvahs*, there was a presentation of presents and prizes, and the children were responsible for a Purim concert.

The president of the institution, Mr. B. Mendelsohn, opened the proceedings with a short address. He declared that the upkeep of the orphanage required a sum of not less than £1,000 per month, and subscription did not cover more than half that amount. It was essential, therefore, that the number of subscribers should be increased.

Rabbi I. Kossowski then addressed the gathering in Yiddish.

The Rev. A. T. Shrock, in an inspiring address, called upon the boys to aspire to the heights.

After four of the boys had delivered addresses—H. Barlin in Hebrew, J. Wigeson in Yiddish, J. Woolf in English and P. Myers in Afrikaans, a presentation of gifts was made to the nine confirmands, by Mrs. A. Nathan. Mrs. H. Light presented prizes for merit, the most important of which were the Rosa Kearns Jacobs Prize, a sum of £5 donated annually by Mr. L. K. Jacobs (in memory of his late wife) for the girl who had the most meritorious record for the year, and a similar prize, contributed by H. L. Karnovsky, for the best all-round boy. Lily Ekowitz was the winner of the former trophy and Basil Levitt of the latter. The sum of £5, contributed by Mr. I. Brodie for division between the boy and girl who had rendered greatest help in the Home, was won by Bessie Shapiro and Hyman Walchuk. Norah Davis and Sidney Klavansky were awarded prizes for general excellence.

The tea interval was followed by the children's concert. Its most notable feature consisted in the dance items, which had been arranged by Miss Poppins Salamon. Miss S. Edelstein acted as accompanist.

Before ending the celebration the vice president, Mr. B. Moss-Morris, took the opportunity of thanking Miss Factor and Messrs. Hirsch, Mann and Katz for their assistance in the Hebrew education of the children.

Zionist Information Bureau in Palestine

THE KANTARA OFFICE

OUR readers are already aware of the splendid service which this bureau, situated in the most central part of Jerusalem, has rendered for so many years to all Jewish visitors to Palestine, a service which is proving particularly valuable this year by reason of the unprecedented influx of visitors from all parts of the world, including South Africa.

It is of special interest to South Africans to know that the bureau maintains its own permanent representative at the Palestine—Egypt frontier in Kantara from January to August of each year. Almost without exception, people proceeding from South Africa to Palestine via the East Coast disembark at Port Said and proceed via Kantara to Palestine.

"Queen Esther" at the Jewish Guild

EVER since the time when a special day was instituted for the commemoration of the great national event when Queen Esther saved her people in ancient Persia, the Feast of Purim (Lottery Day) has been celebrated by Jews. To keep up this time-old custom the Hatechiya and Guild of Israel Sections of the Jewish Guild (in conjunction with the Bertrams Judean Society) organised a Purim Carnival at the Jewish Guild War Memorial Hall on Saturday evening, March 3.

The programme included a play, "Queen Esther," written and produced by Mr. Morris Sewitz, a beauty contest and a dance. The play, in which a cast of over 40 participated, proved a great success and was given a warm reception by the large audience present.

The setting portrayed the palace of King Ahasuerus (Xerxes) in Shushan, the capital, and was suggestive of Oriental splendour, the Persian costumes worn by the players lending a varied note of colour to the scene. Great attention had been paid to detail, with the result that the audience was transported to a time of long ago.

Mr. M. Ginsberg played the role of the king with becoming dignity. Mr. I. Blankfield was convincing as the Grand Vizier, Haman. Miss May Merimsky acted with charm as the beautiful Queen Esther. Mr. Ual Meyers was the faithful chamberlain and Mr. M. Sewitz took the part of Mordecai, the queen's uncle. The dialogue was interspersed with tuneful oriental melodies which were deeply appreciated by the audience. Miss Tyby Kiel, in her contribution of some solo numbers, sang feelingly, and the pupils of Miss Muriel Rosenberg were responsible for the Persian dances which were well received. Mr. Sewitz is to be congratulated on his achievement.

The adjudicators, Mr. J. H. Barnett (President of the Guild) Adv. B. A. Ettlinger and Dr. N. Hirschman (Vice-Presidents) awarded the prize for beauty to Miss Maloon, who was duly crowned Carnival Queen. The winners of the novelty dances also received prizes, all of which were presented by Mrs. J. H. Barnett. Dancing continued till a late hour to the strains of the Jewish Guild Orchestra, and a most enjoyable and novel evening was spent.

It is at Kantara that they join the Palestine train, and this place is accordingly, for customs, passport and all other purposes, the frontier point for them. The assistance of an experienced and sympathetic Zionist official at this stage in their journey is therefore of inestimable service, and all South African tourists should accordingly not fail to look out for and avail themselves of the good offices of the "Zionist Information Bureau for Tourists" at Kantara.

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