

## SPRINGS ACTIVITIES

### Important Progress of the Talmud Torah

(From Our Own Correspondent)

#### LAG BA'OMER CELEBRATION.

THE pupils of the local Hebrew School gathered at the Supper Hall of the Town Hall to celebrate the Lag Ba'Omer Holiday. Prominent speakers addressed the large audience, who displayed keen interest in the local Jewish education among the youth.

The chairman of the congregation, Mr. L. Gordon, opened the proceedings by welcoming the community and the distinguished guest from Johannesburg—Rabbi Kossowsky. He stressed the importance of Jewish education and made an appeal for more financial and moral support for the Talmud Torah. The chairman said that the Springs Jewish community were fortunate in securing the services of a highly qualified principal, Mr. E. Shmuely, who had a fine pedagogical career.

Rev. Melamed, speaking in Yiddish, dwelt on the historical significance of Lag Ba'Omer, which calls back memories of our ancestor's attachment to the commandments of the Torah.

The children participated in a number of special recitations for Lag Ba'Omer, in Hebrew, Yiddish and English, the following taking part: Mirges H. Kessel, F. Gishen, C. Steinberg and I. Robins. Thereafter 16 boys and 16 girls performed the Eretz Israel march and drill, the girls wearing special costumes with white and blue. The marching with Zionist flags and singing of Hebrew songs to the accompaniment of the piano, made a deep impression upon the audience.

Mrs. Gordon distributed prizes to Misses M. Narotzky, H. Sharp, I. Denis and Masters R. Levitt, L. Vilensky, N. Effren, N. Wolpert and L. Lewis.

To ameliorate the present condition of the Springs Hebrew School, Mr. Shmuely suggested the formation of two ladies' organisations to promote Jewish education—a Parents' Association and a Ladies' Auxiliary. Mr. Shmuely said that the above ladies' organisations exist generally in America and do extremely important work for the advancement of Jewish education. After outlining briefly the programme of activities for the above organisations, the chairman called for nominations and the following were elected:—Mrs. L. Gordon, chairlady; Mrs. Lipman, vice-chairlady; Mrs. S. Cohen, treasurer; Mrs. I. Arons and Mrs. L. Ronthal, joint hon. secretaries. The remaining members of the committee were Mesdames M. Arons, R. Effren, I. Elias, S. Kapelus, S. Klein, M. Labe, W. Levitt, P. Miller, D. Panovka and Y. Sarak.

A powerful address by Rabbi Kossowsky followed, in which he spoke of Rabbi Jochanan Ben Zackai, the great leader of old, whose teachings had been the guiding principles of Jewish life for two thousand years. He stressed the importance of the endeavours of the Springs Jewish Community to provide proper and adequate accommodation to house the Jewish spirit.

Mr. A. Kapelus, the vice-chairman of the United Hebrew Institutions of Springs, proposed a vote of thanks to the speakers and to the principal, whose untiring efforts have undoubtedly helped to make the function a success. He thanked the ladies who assisted with this function.

#### FIRST MEETING OF THE LADIES' AUXILIARY.

The Ladies' Auxiliary of the United Hebrew Institutions of Springs held its first meeting on Thursday evening, the 20th ult., to discuss the new venture they are about to embark on. Besides the ladies there were also present Mr. Gordon, the president of the congregation, and Mr. Shmuely, the principal of the Hebrew school. Mrs. L. Gordon, the chair-lady of the Ladies' Auxiliary, opened the proceedings, urging the ladies to do their utmost for such a deserving cause as Jewish education.

Mr. Shmuely dwelt on the important work of the Ladies' Auxiliary organising the Parent-Teachers' periodical meetings. Here an opportunity is given to the parents to expound their views on the various problems confronting the Jewish education of their children. Closer contact between teachers and parents would tend towards a clearer understanding. Parents were urged to visit the school periodically. The establishment of personal relations between school and home would help to raise the standard of discipline and foster a school pride amongst parents as well as children.

The Ladies' Auxiliary would get in touch with the mothers of school-age children not attending Talmud Torah and remind them of their duties towards the Jewish education of their children. A few canvassing days should be set aside by the Ladies' Auxiliary twice a year when new pupils are enrolled in the school.

Proper equipment for the school was one of the first essentials. The Ladies' Auxiliary provide for the smaller expenses involved in the upkeep of the school, such as a school library, prizes, maps, text-books, decorative pictures, special pictures for the study of Hebrew conversation, costumes for concerts, etc., etc. There exist many ways of raising funds—card parties, dance parties, bazaars, raffles, auction sales, school concerts, and profits from annual pamphlets, etc.

The work of the Ladies' Auxiliary in promoting Jewish education should not only be for school age children, but should extend to the various youth organisations. Hebrew schools in America have their "Alumni" societies, which hold a series of courses for the various groups of former Talmud Torah pupils between the ages of 14 to 20. A course in Jewish history, discussions on current events in Jewish life, debates on the various Jewish religious and national movements, evoke their interest in all things Jewish and imbue the youth with a true national spirit.

## South African Board of Jewish Education

### Preliminary Announcement of Forthcoming Conference.

The Council of the South African Board of Jewish Education announces that the fifth biennial conference will take place on the 3rd and 4th October next. The venue of the conference, as well as other details, will be announced shortly.

**Mr. Alexander Lewin's Tour.**—Mr. Alexander Lewin has left on a tour of South-West Africa in the course of which he will visit all Jewish communities in that province.

**Opening of New School in Upington.**—The official opening of the Hebrew School and Communal Hall recently erected in Upington will take place on the 2nd June. The South African Board of Jewish Education will be represented at the opening by Mr. Alexander Lewin.

**Hebrew Self Taught.**—Lesson No. XIV. of Hebrew Self Taught has now been issued and will be distributed early next week.

### Soiree Musicale

#### SUCCESSFUL ZIONIST YOUTH CONCERT.

A GALAXY of musical gems, delightful singing and a strong cast of competent artists were the features of the "Soiree Musicale" organised by the Transvaal Zionist Youth Executive at the Johannesburg City Hall on Wednesday of last week.

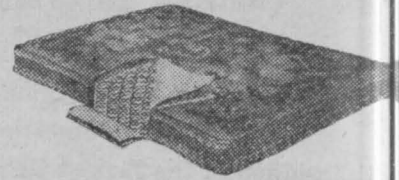
A tap dance by the Sadie Regal Troupe, with Harry Rabinowitz at the piano, opened the concert. A fine dramatic recitation, "The Burglar," was performed by Esther Lutrin. Alfred Selby, accompanied by Cav. Danza, followed with a rendering of Verdi's "La Donna e Mobile." His singing was much applauded. As an encore he sang Toselli's "Serenade."

"Slavische Tanz No. 2" (Dvorak) was well rendered by the Joffe Trio. Signor A. Terrasi sang the "Prologue from 'Pagliacci.'" He was encored three times. Cav. Danza gave a sympathetic and beautiful rendering of Beethoven's "Moonlight Sonata," and followed this with Longo's "Tarantella." The first half of the programme was brought to a close with a jazz recital by Michael de Villiers and his piano accordion band.

After the interval the orchestra, under the baton of Joseph Traunek, gave an interpretation of Schubert's "Unfinished Symphony." The orchestra, consisting of sixty players, harmonised with balanced precision and were a delight to listen to. Sadie Regal gave another dance. Two synopated piano solos were performed by Michael de Villiers. Robert Kofsky, accompanied by Miss Zena Cohen, gave a cello solo, "Polonaise Concert," by Popper. Signor Terrasi sang "Ballet Masquerade" with great depth of feeling; and Nat Kofsky, with Miss Anne Taylor, gave a beautiful rendering of Verachini's "Largo" and "Humoresque" by Tchaikovsky-Kreisler. The programme concluded with a dance, a "Hoop Duet," by the Sadie Regal troupe, with Harry Rabinowitz at the piano.

J.M.B.

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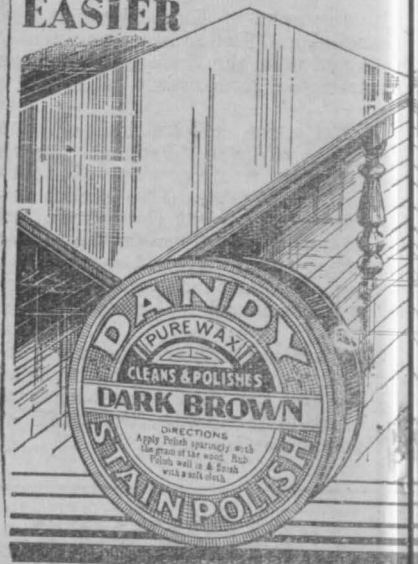
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S.A. ZIONIST FEDERATION, Progress Buildings, 156 Commissioner Street, Johannesburg, P.O. Box 18.

Special Branch at 85, Plein Street, Capetown, the office of the Cape Zionist Youth Executive.

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