

## IN AND AROUND THE PENINSULA

### The Zionist Conversazione.

The subject of race superiority was competently dealt with on Tuesday night by Mr. A. Z. Berman at the Zionist Conversazione.

Mr. Berman at the outset stated that racial questions had not concerned the majority of people until some ten or fifteen years ago. Before this time it was a subject that interested only anthropologists. It had been brought into every-day life within recent years in order to fill a position that had become vacant—the position of that “something” which human society required to bring and join them together. Just as the bond of a common loyalty to the state in the period of the Roman Empire had given place to that of religion after the break-up of the Empire, so religion to-day had made way for something else. Religion had had a long innings and it had its weakness as a human bond—it was too easy to assume membership of a community bound by religion and too easy to cease membership. So a division of humanity into communities with a national bias began to take place; it was far more difficult to join a community bound by other things than merely allegiance and religion—when culture, language, etc., all played a part. This led to a division into races.

The division of mankind into races was sinister and mischievous. It was sinister because it excluded the individual from certain communities without giving him the slightest opportunity of ever joining them. He could not join them by merely becoming naturalised or by changing his religion, and conditions were thus made exceedingly difficult for many persons. The division was mischievous because there was no such thing as clear-cut human races. The division was merely a matter of arbitrary expediency.

Racemongery in Europe went almost hand in hand with belief in racial superiority. The racemongers believed that a superior race could continue to be superior if mixing took place only within the race. But this belief, contended Mr. Berman, brought to light the ignorance of the racemongers regarding the laws of heredity. It presupposed that after the mixing of any two people, a dilution of their qualities would take place in successive generations. But actually this was not correct—such a dilution did not occur. Heredity counted for little in the nature of peoples; it was environment that counted for everything. So the whole purpose of maintaining race “purity” fell away, since a superior race could not transmit its qualities to its offspring. Yet even politicians played with this question, and in the name of “race” unspeakable atrocities were committed.

A discussion took place at the conclusion of the lecture, Mr. M. Comay and Dr. J. Mibashan participating.

Mr. S. Futeran acted as host, and during the evening a pianoforte solo was given by Miss M. Bliden and a recitation by Miss Gell. The news of the week was read as usual.

### Meeting at Claremont.

A very well attended meeting was held in the Talmud Torah Hall, Claremont, on Monday night, under the auspices of the Wynberg-Claremont Zionist Society. The speakers were Mr. J. Weinreich and Mr. Alexander Lewin, both of whom were introduced to the gathering by the Chairman, Mr. E. Berman.

Mr. Weinreich, speaking of the Jewish position in Palestine, said that the success of the Zionist movement lay with the Jews themselves. We could only rely on other people to assist us. We were responsible for our fate.

Mr. Lewin deplored the apathy of the Jewish youth towards matters Jewish—an apathy that was partly the fault of the parents who concerned themselves with all aspects of their children's welfare except that of Jewish education.

Mr. Lewin went on to speak of Palestine as the Jewish National Home, stressing that it was impossible as yet to estimate how many souls it could absorb. So far all calculations were wrong.

Short addresses after the speeches were delivered by Mr. H. Garfinkel and Mr. L. Levy. A vote of thanks was proposed by Mr. R. Newstead and seconded by Mr. Katz.

### Oneg Shabbos.

The Oneg Shabbos held at the Zionist Hall last Saturday afternoon was well attended. Mrs. S. Gordon presided over a large gathering.

Dr. H. W. Altschul was the lecturer and chose as his subject “The Emek.” Dr. Altschul, who incidentally toured the Emek on foot a few years ago, outlined the history of the Emek since biblical times. Many a historical event had taken place in this valley which played a very significant part in the traffic between Egypt and Mesopotamia. In it, too, had clashed the two mighty cultures of the ancient world, of Egypt and Assyria. The lecturer went on to point out the important part the Emek played in the present revival of Eretz Israel.

A humorous sketch by Sholom Aleichem very ably read by Mr. Asher completed an enjoyable function.

### Orphanage Lecture To-morrow.

To-morrow night, at the Cape Jewish Orphanage, Miss Lilian Isaacson will address the children on “Musical Appreciation.” Adv. P. M. Clouts will preside, and the lecture will be illustrated by Miss Blanche Gerstman at the piano, Lionel Bowman, at the piano, Adrienne Immelman who will sing, and Charles Kreitzer who will give a violin solo. All are welcome.

### The Opening of Congress.

The combined local Zionist Societies will celebrate the opening of the Eighteenth Zionist Congress, which takes place in Prague on the 21st of this month, on Sunday evening, 20th inst., at a function to be held in the Zionist Hall. Speeches will be delivered and a musical programme has been arranged.

### Bnoth Zion Function.

The next function of the Bnoth Zion Association takes place in the Zionist Hall on Tuesday afternoon, 22nd inst. Miss Rosa Van Gelderen will deliver an address.

### A Hebrew Organisation.

A Hebrew lecture by Mr. Alexander Levin was delivered on Friday night in the Zionist Hall under the auspices of the Cape Town Hebrew Circle (Talmide Ezra). In the unavoidable absence of the Chairman of the Circle, Mr. A. Levin took the chair.

The lecturer, in speaking on “The Hebrew Word and Book in South Africa,” expressed his deep regret and surprise that in spite of the attempts which were being made in Cape Town to further Hebrew education, and, by a certain section, to popularise the Hebrew press and literature, there was no Hebrew organisation to carry out this work. The only Hebrew-speaking circle in Cape Town was that of the juniors under whose auspices he was lecturing that night.

A discussion took place at the conclusion of the lecture, Messrs. Natas, Levin, Avin, and Telem participating.

It was finally decided to form a society for the purpose of furthering the development of the Hebrew language and literature in South Africa, and a provisional committee was elected consisting of the following: Messrs. A. Levin, G. Telem, Z. Avin, J. Gitlin, Mrs. J. Mibashan, Dr. Resnekov, and two representatives of the Talmide Ezra—Misses. Polly Salber and Wolozinsky.

### Woodstock and Salt River Jewish Cultural Circle.

“The Jews and the Arabs in Palestine” was the subject of a lecture delivered by Mr. Alexander Lewin at the Woodstock and Salt River Talmud Torah Hall on Thursday evening last under the auspices of the Woodstock and Salt River Jewish Cultural Circle.

Dr. C. Resnekov, the Chairman, who introduced the lecturer, also welcomed Mr. I. Mordukhovitz, the Chairman of the Woodstock and Salt River Hebrew Congregation and Talmud Torah, who had returned from a trip through the country.

Mr. Lewin said that the Arab problem in Palestine could best be met by a Jewish majority in the country. This we had to build in the shortest possible time. As long as we had sufficient chalutzim we need have no fear about the future.

After the lecture, Mr. Lewin and a number of the members of the Circle were entertained at the residence of Dr. and Mrs. C. Resnekov where an enjoyable hour was spent in singing Hebrew songs.

The next meeting of the Circle will take place at the residence of Mr. and Mrs. P. Marks, c/o Avenue Road and Salisbury Street, Woodstock, on Thursday, the 17th inst. Mr. Max Ben Arie will speak on “A Bi-National State.”

