

IN AND AROUND THE PENINSULA

The Zionist Conversazione.

That civilisation in the West is declining was a conviction expressed by Dr. Sachs at the Zionist Conversazione on Tuesday night.

Dr. Sachs stated his belief in Spengler's view that civilisations only rose to a certain point after which they sank—like fruit on a tree they blossomed, ripened and then fell. Various civilisations had come and gone this way in history, for when a civilisation ripened it lost its original impulse. It became too mechanised, too "frozen," too removed from the concrete things of its beginnings to be able to continue indefinitely.

Western civilisation to-day showed all these signs of ripening before the fall. In the spheres of art, economics, religion, morality it showed that it had lost touch with the original sources from which its strength and power were drawn. There was too much intellectualism with a resultant paralysis of the will.

At every late stage of any civilisation, the Jews always seemed to get the worst of it. It had been so in Egypt just before the Exodus, it had been so in Rome when it captured Judea, and it had been so in Spain at the time of the expulsion. To-day we were seeing the same thing in Germany in which the fruit of civilisation had not only fallen but had already begun to rot. There was a reason for this—it was because the Jews were not a materialistic people, whereas decadent civilisations were generally materialistic in outlook. The Jews were essentially a cultural people with whom qualitative values weighed more than quantitative. The exact opposite was the case with those civilisations which had risen to great heights and had persecuted the Jews, and the result was naturally a conflict in which, for obvious reasons, the Jew came off worst.

Although Jewish culture was also a little "frozen," we still had that elemental force and vitality in us that could never bring us to the same situation as Germany was in to-day. But it was necessary for us to effect a return to a more primitive fundamental life, to the soil and the soul from which we had sprung. In the East, too there could still be found a greater wholeness, a greater integration of faculties and an emotional life with power to act. For these reasons, Dr. Sachs gave it as his opinion that civilisation which was sinking in the West would rise in the East.

Those who took part in the discussion that followed the lecture were Mr. S. Futeran, Dr. S. E. Kark, Mr. B. Mirvish, Mr. J. Weinreich, Mr. M. Comay and Dr. Hurwitz. Dr. and Mrs. Mibashan acted as host and hostess.

During the evening Miss Cohen gave a pianoforte solo which was much appreciated, and the Jewish news was read as usual.

Celebration at the Orphanage.

The Committee of the Cape Jewish Orphanage arranged a very pleasing little celebration at the Home after their meeting on Thursday evening, the 10th inst.

During the last few months four of the girls who have passed through the Home have become engaged, and a special party was arranged in order to offer joint and individual congratulations to the various couples. Members of the Committee subscribed towards the necessary expenses and a very happy gathering was the result. The four young couples were Miss Nellie Hans and Mr. Frankel, Miss Molly Shapiro and Mr. I. Cohen, Miss Polly Mandelblatt and Mr. Kapelus and Miss Sarah Lewis and Mr. Glass.

The table in the Committee Room was tastefully decorated and arranged by Mrs. Ch. Beresinski, the Orphanage Matron, and some eighteen members of the Committee were assembled to show their interest in and extend their felicitations to the couples.

In the absence from town of the President, Mr. H. J. Stodel, the Vice-President, Mr. J. M. Weinreich, occupied the chair. Has was ably supported by Messrs. Kadish, Gradner and Crasnow, all past Presidents, who offered the couples the warmest congratulations. Mesdames Lurie and Gradner, in the unavoidable absence of the Chair-lady, Mrs. Stodel, also expressed the delight of the ladies of the Committee at this *Simcha*.

Mr. Frankel replied on behalf of the young men, and the gathering dispersed at about 11 p.m. after a very happy social gathering.

Students' Jewish Association.

The S.J.A. of the University of Cape Town received a stirring address from Adv. J. Herbstein on Thursday evening, 10th inst., on "The Chalutz Movement." Mr. S. N. Herman presided.

Adv. Herbstein traced the early methods of colonisation in Palestine and the growth of the Zionist movement. He described the spontaneous immigration into Palestine on the part of the Chalutzim and drew a picture of the life and work of the Chalutz.

In conclusion he mentioned the Chalutz scheme of the South African youth and urged those present to realise the necessity of being active participants in it.

Mr. J. Bobrov proposed a vote of thanks, after which the meeting terminated. Promises totalling over £6 were handed in.

Farewell to Mr. and Mrs. Ch. Kovarsky.

The Zionist Socialist Party, on Tuesday, gave a farewell evening to their members, Mr. and Mrs. Ch. Kovarsky, who leave for Palestine to-day. The Talmud Torah Hall was crowded to capacity till past midnight

by members of the Zionist Socialist Party and friends who came to bid farewell to their departing comrades.

Mr. Ch. Kovarsky was one of the founders of the Zionist Socialist Party in Cape Town about three years ago. Since then he has always been active among the circle of enthusiasts who developed the party to its present state. He was the party's first Secretary and rendered yeoman services as a member of the committee.

Farewell speeches were delivered by Mr. G. Telem, the Chairman, who opened the evening, Mr. Ch. Achron, Mr. Z. Avin, Mr. B. Padowich and Mr. L. D. Hirschowitz, who spoke on behalf of friends and sympathisers of the Zionist Socialist Party. All the speeches expressed encouragement and wishes of bon voyage to Mr. and Mrs. Kovarsky, but contained at the same time expression of regret at the parting, as both Mr. and Mrs. Kovarsky have endeared themselves to all who came in contact with them. A camera was presented to them as a token of the Party's appreciation of their services and in commemoration of years of friendly associations and comradeship.

Address by Miss Van Gelderen.

A large gathering of ladies assembled at the Zionist Hall on Tuesday afternoon when, under the auspices of the Bnoth Zion Association, Miss Rosa Van Gelderen delivered an address on her impressions of Palestine.

Miss Van Gelderen spoke very enthusiastically about all she had seen in Palestine during the five weeks she had spent there recently. She had been particularly impressed by the attention given to the children, all of whom looked very healthy and happy, and by the health work done there. She spoke very highly of the Central Emek Hospital at Afuleh.

Mrs. S. Gordon presided and at the conclusion of the lecture conveyed the thanks of all to Miss Van Gelderen for her address.

During the course of the afternoon Mrs. Max Cohen, Hon. Secretary of the Cape Branch of the S.A. Board of Jewish Education, announced that an "Education Week" was being held in the Peninsula during the week between Rosh Hashona and Yom Kippur. She urged those present to volunteer as assistants in the work this involved.

Hebrew Teachers' Association.

The monthly meeting of the Hebrew Teachers' Association was held on Sunday, 20th August, in the Talmud Torah Hall, Cape Town. Mr. A. Levin presided.

The outstanding feature of the meeting was a detailed report of the Education Conference delivered by Mr. Z. Avin, who dealt with the various problems of the Conference and stressed the importance of the resolutions adopted.

A lively discussion followed in which Messrs. A. Sive, M. Natas, A. Levin, Ch. Beresinsky, J. Abitz and Z. Avin participated.

Several other matters were also discussed. The lecture on "Games and their Educational Value" was postponed owing to the late hour till the next meeting.

