

IN AND AROUND THE PENINSULA

The Zionist Conversazione.

The special Conversazione held in the Zionist Hall on Tuesday night under the combined auspices of the Dorshei Zion and Bnoth Zion Associations was well attended, among those present being a number of visitors at present in the Cape on holiday.

Mr. Morris Alexander, K.C., M.P., acted as host, and extended a warm welcome to all present. A short musical programme followed in which Miss Sara Gordon gave a pianoforte solo, Miss Rabinowitz sang, and Mr. Laden read a humorous Chanukah sketch.

Rev. M. I. Cohen, of Bulawayo, on behalf of the visitors, expressed appreciation of the warm welcome which Jews from other parts of the country always received in Cape Town. He proceeded to speak briefly on modern Jewish conditions which were bringing back so large a number of Jews to Judaism. To-day it was difficult to define the Jewishness on which we could rely.

In these troublous times it was more than necessary that Jewry should make a concerted effort towards achieving unity in its ranks. He was even inclined to think, said Rev. Cohen, that it might be necessary for us to have some sort of Fascist domination that would unite us one under common rule.

The main speaker of the evening was Mr. B. L. Rubik, who delivered a short address in which he raised a number of controversial points. Jewry had, he said, to revise not only its attitude towards certain aspects of the national question but to a certain extent its terminology as well.

Zionism had established in Jewish life something worth living for. It was hard to say whether, if not for the Zionist movement, hundreds of thousands of Jews would not have forsaken Judaism altogether; but at the same time the Zionist movement had also stimulated certain ideas not so salutary. For instance, it had brought about a change in the Jewish attitude towards philanthropy. To-day the term "philanthropy" was used by Zionists with a certain amount of distaste, yet philanthropy was one of the great Jewish virtues. The time had come for us to revise our attitude towards this work of extreme importance.

There was another matter in which our attitude had to be revised, and this was in regard to our attention to what the Goyim said about us. From an attitude which had consisted in bemoaning the fact that our life had been too deeply influenced by what the Goyim might say, we had gone to the other extreme and were prepared to discard any idea or action which had an element of this "what the Goyim might say" ideology in it. It was necessary to realise to-day that we had to a certain extent to take into account what was said by the people around us.

A most important aspect of the Zionist movement was the propagation of Zionist ideas among those who stood aloof from the movement, but there was a danger in forcing Zionism down people's throats. It had to be made clear that Palestine was not a panacea for all Jewish ills; it could not absorb within it all the Jews who were persecuted and down-trodden; it could not necessarily solve individual Jewish problems. It solved the problem of the Jewish people in that it gave them a home. It was particularly necessary to remember this to-day in view of the catastrophe which had befallen German Jewry. The tragedy of German Jewry lay in the fact that they were suffering but did not know for what they were suffering. They had not been prepared for the tremendous change in the outlook of the German people towards the question of Jewish emancipation. Zionism alone was not sufficient to make them understand this tragedy in their lives. What was wanted was an intensification of Jewish life not only for the purpose of making Jewish life worth while and of resisting anti-Jewish attack, but in order to obviate this comic-tragic situation where Jews suffered and did not know why they suffered.

A short discussion took place on the lecture in which Messrs. B. Mirvish, D. Getz, M. Ben Arie and E. Kluk participated. Mr. Rubik replied to the various points raised.

A Mayoral Treat at the Orphanage.

The children of the Cape Jewish Orphanage spent a delightful evening on Saturday when a Chanukah Treat was given them by the Mayor and Mayoress of Cape Town, Councillor and Mrs. L. Gradner. The function took place in the dining-room of the Home which had been very prettily decorated for the occasion, and which presented a bright and festive appearance. Besides the children there were present the members of the Orphanage Committee and many friends.

The tables were laden with an abundance of delicious refreshments, and the children were liberally served. Musical items were rendered by Miss Muriel Kadish who sang, Miss Joyce Kadish who recited, Miss Betty Brown's dancing pupils, and by Mr. H. Nathan who as "Satan" performed several excellent conjuring tricks.

The fact that the function was a Chanukah and not just an ordinary treat was not overlooked. At the outset the ceremony of lighting the Chanukah candles was very beautifully performed by the children, whilst in the speeches that followed the significance of the festival was stressed repeatedly.

Mr. Morris Alexander, K.C., M.P., presided, and expressed the gratitude of all to Mr. and Mrs. Gradner for the delightful treat they had given the children. The Mayor, he said, was like a light that kindled the various lights in the Council and in the Jewish community in particular.

Others who expressed grateful appreciation were Mr. H. J. Stodel, Dr. C. Resnekov, Mr. J. Weinreich and Mr. B. A. Crasnow. Reference was also made to the fact that Mr. Gradner had the previous day celebrated his fifty-first birthday, and the heartiest congratulations were extended to him. A presentation on behalf of the children was made to him by the senior Orphanage boy, Jack Ellis, who expressed the thanks of all the children to Mr. and Mrs. Gradner for the treat they had provided and for their never-failing interest in and work for the Home.

Mr. Gradner, in expressing his thanks for the gift, said there was no institution as dear to his heart as the Orphanage, of which he had been one of the founders. He appreciated the kind remarks which had been made about him. He owed a great deal of what he had achieved to the driving force and inspiration of Mrs. Gradner.

Mrs. Gradner expressed her happiness in having arranged the function. The children of the Orphanage, she said, were her children. The institution was very dear to her, and she would continue to serve it as long as she had the health and ability to do so.

The function was brought to a close after each child had been given a present and a box of chocolates.

Brith Trumpeldor Chanukah Concert.

On Saturday night a very successful Chanukah concert was held in the Betar Hall, Hope Street. A large gathering of children from the Woodstock Junior Branch provided the main feature of the evening's programme. English and Hebrew songs and recitations dealing with Chanukah were rendered.

Mr. Ben-Arie, in opening the function, dealt with the rise and significance of the Betar movement.

Mr. Kluk, in the course of a short address, compared the Hasmoneans with the Halutzism, stressing that the former were not merely mercenaries, like their foes, but were urged to give up their lives for their people under a sort of spiritual compulsion. Although less in numbers, they were successful.

The Halutzim were the embodiment of this Hasmonean spirit. This same spirit, added the speaker, was being infused into the Jewish youth by the Betar movement.

Mr. Rogoff spoke on the development of the Betar in the Cape.

Refreshments were served and the gathering, which included many parents, dispersed at a late hour.

C.T. Maccabee.

All members desirous of joining the Maccabee Camp at Muizenberg to be held from 24th to the 26th December, both days inclusive, are requested to meet at the Cape Town Railway Station at 9 a.m. on Sunday, the 24th inst. Owing to an error in last week's announcement it was inadvertently stated that the charge would be 7s. 6d. per head including food. This is incorrect, and should have read 2s. 6d. exclusive of food, which members will be expected to provide for themselves.

