

IN AND AROUND THE PENINSULA

Pesach Synagogue Services.

There were large attendances at the Synagogue Services during the first two days of Pesach. The services were very impressively conducted.

In the Gardens Synagogue Cantor L. Kirschner, assisted by Rev. S. Kibel and the choir under Mr. Boris Rome, officiated, and on Saturday morning Rev. A. P. Bender delivered a very fine sermon.

In the Roeland Street Synagogue the service was conducted by Mr. Friedgood.

A Unique Seder.

Perhaps the most unique of all Sedorim on the second night of Pesach was that held by the Jewish Rover Scouts who, together with 130 brother Rovers from all parts of South Africa, were gathered under canvas to attend the South African Rover Scouts' Indaba held at Glencairn during the Easter week-end.

The service was attended by seventeen of these young men, six of whom hailed from Pretoria, the others being members of the 2nd Muizenberg Jewish Rover Crew who made all the arrangements for the Seder.

The service, which was carried out by candlelight in an unoccupied farm house within the bounds of the camp, was led by one of the Muizenberg Rover Mates.

Thus while the faint singing of those attending the camp fire in the distance reached the worshippers' ears, these Jewish men upheld the traditions of Pesach with full ritual observances and fitting dignity.

The Zionist Conversazione.

How to create homogeneity out of the "confounded confusion" which the general Jewish scene presented to-day was the subject of a discussion initiated at the Zionist Conversazione on Tuesday night by Adv. H. M. Bloch.

In reviewing briefly conditions in the Jewish world to-day, Mr. Bloch stated that no matter from what angle it was viewed—national, religious, social, economic or cultural—Jewish life lacked homogeneity or unity. Homogeneity could be created either by the personality of a leader or by mass idealism translated into some positive activity, but no such leader had presented himself since Herzl, and Zionism, though it had been a force of mass idealism thirty years ago, had ceased to be so to-day because of its internal disruptions.

Mr. Bloch went on to discuss how Zionism could be remodelled so as to make it once more an effective unifying agency. The spiritual urge of the movement, he said, still remained as strong as ever, but weakness lay in its physical structure—its governing and directive machinery—which had collapsed, principally owing to the inability to withstand the repercussions of party political activity. This machinery had been created for an entirely different purpose from the one which it now served.

It had been brought into existence to conduct political agitation for a National Home and to do propaganda work internally. Congress, with a franchise consisting of the purchase of a 2s. 6d. shekel, had been an adequate expression of public opinion. The Executive had had to deal with the academic problems of a state in the future instead of the practical ones of a state *in esse*.

To-day the machinery was hopelessly out of place and archaic, since the National Home actually existed and the necessity for propaganda had also substantially disappeared. It had now become the machinery for the government of an actual Eretz Israel and its virtues as a propaganda machine had become its evils as an executive one. The purchase of the Shekel, for instance, was an absurd basis for representation upon the government of a country. It laid the movement dangerously open to the influence of the demagogue and the ignorant. A more selective means of representation could easily be found.

His main objection, however, said Mr. Bloch, was to Congress, which tended to make Palestine a reflection of the Jewish political ideology of the Diaspora. It tried to synthesise a conflict of sociological, political and economic ideas possessed by the Jews of numerous countries and to make of that synthesis a mould out of which Eretz Israel was to be fashioned. It tried to build Palestine from Europe—an impossible feat. Palestine had to grow up by the process of organic development. The government of its destinies had to be taken away from Congress and vested in a Palestinian body which, even in its disensions, would reflect a *natural* evolution, and which would be selected by those who had a right to representation. It did not follow that such a Palestinian body should not act in certain matters with a body representing Diaspora Zionists in a consultative and advisory capacity. The present Congress machinery could be utilised to convene such a body from time to time. Such a Congress would further the spiritual development and growth of Zionist sentiment in the Diaspora and make it a unifying force in world Jewry.

Mr. Bloch's arguments came in for much criticism in the discussion which followed. Those who participated in the discussion were Messrs. J. Goodman, S. Futeran, B. Mirvish, Dr. J. Sachs, H. Snitcher and Kotlowitz. Mr. Bloch replied to the various points raised.

Mr. and Mrs. S. Gesundheit acted as host and hostess and during the evening a recitation was given by Miss E. Gutman. The Jewish news was read.

Headed Discussion at S.J.A.

On Thursday night last the above Association held its first meeting of the year in the Students' Union of the University at Rondebosch. It was primarily a freshers'

gathering and in his opening remarks the Chairman, Mr. S. N. Herman, heartily welcomed the newcomers and expressed the hope that they would continue to associate themselves with the Society throughout their stay at the University.

After a number of musical items had been rendered, Mr. Herman entered on a brief outline of the work of the Association. He emphasised that the members of the Society should take a greater interest in Zionism and that the Association should concern itself chiefly with that aspect of Jewish life. Zionism, he said, should be more than a mental pastime—it should be a way of life. At such a time, with anti-Semitism rampant in every quarter of the globe, it was but natural that the Jews should turn to Zionism, the only salvation of Jewry.

A heated discussion followed Mr. Herman's address, the opinion being expressed by some students that the Association was being based too much on the principles of Zionism. More stress should be laid on other aspects of Jewish life and even anti-Zionist speakers should be invited to address the members. These views were opposed by other members and matters were becoming so heated that a suggestion was put forward that too much of a rift was being caused and that the discussion should be closed. The suggestion, however, was not adopted, it being declared that the arguments put forward were an indication of the interest that had been awakened—something which the S.J.A. sorely needed.

In replying to his critics, Mr. Herman emphasised once more that the Association existed for the discussion of any phase of Jewish life; moreover, members should not confine themselves to mere criticism, but should indulge in active, constructive work as well. It was the "Kadimah" Jewish Association of the University of Vienna that first gave Theodor Herzl support, and it was for other Jewish student bodies to follow in its footsteps.

After further musical items the meeting closed happily with the singing of the Hatizvah, God Save the King, and the College Song.

Passover Conversazione.

A Passover Conversazione will be held by the Cape Town Zionist Revisionist Association in the Zionist Hall on Sunday, 8th inst., at 8.15 p.m. Dr. I. M. Hurwitz will deliver an address.

Orphanage Appreciation of Board of Education.

The following resolution was unanimously passed by the committee of the Cape Jewish Orphanage on Tuesday evening, March 27th:—

"That the special thanks of the full Committee of the Cape Jewish Orphanage be rendered to the Board of Jewish Education (Cape Branch), its Chairman and hon. supervisors and examiners, for the invaluable assistance rendered by them in the reorganisation and development of the Hebrew and Jewish Education of the children of this Institution.

"Members of this Committee fully recognise that the advice and encourage-

