

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 dissensions, 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-

ment given by the Board and all its hon. officials have materially helped them in their efforts to reach the present satisfactory position."

Orphanage Functions.

At the Orphanage on Sunday afternoon, 8th inst., two important events will take place. The Rev. A. P. Bender will, at 3.30 p.m., consecrate the beds endowed during 1933, and at 4 p.m. the Mayoress, Mrs. L. Gradner, will present the prizes to the children at the Annual Prize Distribution in the Dining Hall. At the latter function Adv. M. Alexander will preside. All are welcome.

Seder at the Orphanage.

Among the most delightful Sedorim that were held last week was that at the Cape Jewish Orphanage on the second night of Pesach. As usual, the Orphanage Committee had made this an occasion for inviting members of the community to visit the Home, and a very large gathering sat down to the seder, which was conducted in very happy fashion.

After dinner had been served and just before the second portion of the Haggadah was to be read, Mr. J. Weinreich, Vice-President of the Orphanage, in a short speech extended a welcome to all present. Mr. Morris Alexander, K.C., M.P., on behalf of the guests, suitably responded.

Cape Town Maccabee Organisation

All interested in football are requested to meet at Cartwright's Corner on Sunday morning, the 8th inst., at 10 a.m. sharp, when a practice game will be arranged forthwith.

The club-room has been closed from Friday, 6th inst., on account of Passover, but club nights will be resumed as from Saturday, 7th inst.

Union of Jewish Women.

The next meeting of the Union of Jewish Women will be held at the Zionist Hall on Tuesday, 10th inst., at 3.15 p.m. Mrs. Amy Jolly, President of the University Women's Association of South Africa, who led the Cape Town delegation at the Conference of the National Council of Women this week, will report on the work of the Conference. All are welcome.

Hebrew Pesach Celebration.

A very successful Pesach function took place at the Zionist Hall on Wednesday evening, under the auspices of the "Histruth Ivrit."

Mr. J. Gitlin, the Chairman, presided over a very large and representative audience from all over the Peninsula and beyond.

The hall was beautifully decorated and suitable Passover refreshments were served.

Short lecturettes on the significance of Pesach were delivered by Mr. M. Wolozinsky and Dr. J. Mibashan. Other items on the programme were a pianoforte solo by Miss Ruth Cohen, Hebrew songs by Rev. Kassel, of Wodstock; monologue by Mr. G. Laden and a most interesting Hagadah interpretation in dialogue form was rendered by Messrs. M. Natas and Reuveni. Community singing and merry-making were indulged in until a late hour.

Mr. Gitlin, in expressing thanks to all who had helped towards the success of the function, paid a special tribute to Mrs. Mibashan, the Hon. Secretary, without whose efforts the function could not have been held.

Oneg Shabbos.

Dr. C. Resnekov will lecture on "The Structure of Jewish Life in the Feudal Days under the Influence of the Rabbinical Synods and the Bulls of the Popes," at the Oneg Shabbos in the Zionist Hall to-morrow afternoon.

Observatory - Mowbray Jewish Guild.

A meeting of the above Guild was held at the residence of Dr. and Mrs. S. Lizerbrum, on Tuesday, 27th March. About forty-five members were present and Dr. S. Lizerbrum was in the chair.

Mr. Advocate Harry Snitcher addressed the meeting on "Pesach" and treated the subject from an entirely new angle. He urged his audience not to accept Pesach as a festival of the ancients, but to follow their example and act.

After tea and refreshments were served, an interesting discussion took place. Among the speakers were Dr. H. W. Altschul, Mr. Epstein, Mr. Levenstein and others.

Dr. Altschul later complimented the Society on the way their members had carried out the J.N.F. box collections in that area.

Among the members who rendered items during the evening were Mr. C. and Miss J. Flax and Miss B. Miller.

Votes of thanks were then given and the meeting closed with the singing of the Hatikvah.

In Brief.

Mr. M. Haskel, who returned to South Africa last week from Europe, left during the week-end for Johannesburg.

Mr. and Mrs. Chas. Solomon (Adv. Bertha Solomon, M.P.C.) left yesterday by the s.s. "Duilio" on a trip to Europe.

Mr. and Mrs. Harry Baker are being congratulated on the birth of a daughter.

Mrs. G. Kagan left yesterday by the Italian liner, s.s. "Duilio" for Italy, where she will spend about a year with relations.

Among those leaving to-day on a visit to Palestine by the "Llanstephan Castle" are Mr. Ch. Ezrachowitz, Mr. S. Moffsowitz and Mr. Rachman.

Mr. and Mrs. E. Silverman, of Saldanha, are leaving to-day by the "Llanstephan Castle" on an extended visit to Europe and Palestine.

"Mr. and Mrs. Harry Brodie and family are leaving for Europe next week by the "Warwick Castle." They expect to be away about five months.

Mr. S. Futeran returned to South Africa last week from a trip to Europe.

A visitor at present in Cape Town is Mr. J. Goodman, of London, a brother-in-law of Mrs. M. Schrire and Mr. M. and Mr. I. Mauerberger.

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Obituary.

Mrs. L. SCHRIRE.

The many in Cape Town who knew and admired Mrs. L. Schrire, widow of the late Rev. Schrire, will learn with regret of her death which took place on Thursday last.

Mrs. Schrire was a well-known figure in Cape Town and she will be deeply missed by all with whom she came in contact. Although she died at an advanced age, until only two or three years ago she was exceedingly active, and very much interested in all communal affairs. She was extremely energetic and threw herself wholeheartedly into any work she undertook. Practically every Jewish charitable institution in Cape Town received her sympathies which were evidenced in a decidedly practical form, for time and again she was to be seen going from house to house, collecting on behalf of some needy body or individual. She was a woman whose great-heartedness and benevolence won her the respect and esteem of all who knew her and which set her as an example to many a younger person.

Mrs. Schrire will be deeply missed by the community as a whole by the many who have reason to be grateful for her benefactions.

The funeral took place on Friday. The deepest condolences are extended to the son and daughter-in-law of the deceased, Mr. and Mrs. M. Schrire, of Oranjezicht.

Owing to unprecedented advance Booking for first Concert, Plans will open To-day (Friday) for second Concert, Wednesday, 11th inst. Plans at Opera House.

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