

IN AND AROUND THE PENINSULA

The Zionist Conversazione.

Dr. A. Birnbaum was the speaker at the Conversazione held at the Zionist Hall on Tuesday evening. The subject of the lecture was "Spiritual Ideas among the Jews at the end of the 19th Century," and Dr. Birnbaum dealt with it in a very interesting and able manner.

Two essentials, said Dr. Birnbaum, go to make up every nation—the material welfare of each individual and the culture of the nation, and therefore there are material and spiritual leaders. This duplicity is specially noticeable in a nation that lives an abnormal life, like the Jews. While the Jews lived in the Ghetto they could live their own cultural and spiritual life, but by the end of the 18th century the spiritual side began to be sacrificed, and assimilation set in. The assimilators were of two types—those who like Mendelssohn wanted to assimilate with the people in whose midst they lived, and those like Karl Marx who wanted all other nations to become cosmopolitan. Had assimilation proved a success, the problem of each and every Jew would have been solved, but not that of the Jewish nation. But it failed. The nations in whose midst we lived opposed this and suspected us.

Peretz Smolenskin was the first who tried to prove that we are a peculiar nation who need no state or language. According to him we are a spiritual nation and need only study our culture. The individual problem does not interfere with the existence of the nation. These ideas were developed by Achad Ha'am. Dubnow was also a follower of Smolenskin. Judaism survived, he thought, because always in one country the Jews had autonomy. Therefore we had only to fight for autonomy because it would give us the possibility of manifesting our spirit. The language should be Yiddish as it was absorbed in the spirit of the people.

Another group which considered Dubnow as leader was the "Bund." They went further and wanted to break the chain binding us to Moses. They added Socialism to the ideas of Dubnow. Then came Herzl who wanted a solution of the problem for each individual Jew. His followers—the Zionists—realised that this was a Utopia—that Palestine could not solve this problem, and therefore they combined the ideas of Herzl with those of Achad Ha'am. Synthetic nationalism looks for the solution of the national problem and of that of each and every Jew. The problem of the Jews in the Diaspora is as important as that of those in Palestine.

Dr. Birnbaum concluded by stating that the position of Hebrew education in this country, although showing some improvement, was far from satisfactory, and that it was the duty of Zionists to keep up Judaism in the Diaspora and to realise that they must devote as much time and money

to their own country for cultural purposes, as for Palestine.

A discussion followed in which Messrs. B. Mirvish, C. Resnekov, D. Getz and M. Wolozinsky took part.

Dr. S. E. Kark acted as host, and the news-sheet was read by Mrs. I. M. Hurwitz. Miss R. Kantor rendered a pianoforte solo.

Zionist Socialist Party.

Two very successful functions recently took place under the auspices of the above Party. On Thursday, 23rd inst., a Chaverim meeting was held. Mr. B. Pado-wich delivered an address dealing with the present situation in Zionism and the tasks of the Labour wing. A lively discussion followed in which many present took part.

On Sunday, 26th inst., a very successful concert took place.

The programme consisted of various musical, dancing and dramatic items, which were ably rendered.

Those who participated were Miss R. Kessel (piano solo), Misses R. Trakman and A. Radowsky (recitations), Miss Pearl Lazarus and her Pupils (exhibition dances), Mr. H. Bloom (songs), Mr. M. Kreitzer (violin solo), Mr. G. Laden (humorous reading) and Miss R. Reading, Messrs. P. Dobowitz and A. Natas (sketch by Sholom Aleichem).

A Bialik Evening.

Under the auspices of the Zionist Socialist Party a Bialik evening will be held on Sunday, 2nd September, at 8.15 p.m. in the Zionist Hall.

Mr. M. Natas will deliver a lecture in Yiddish on the "Life and Work of Ch. N. Bialik." All are welcome.

Consecration of Sea Point Synagogue.

It will be of interest to many to learn that the Sea Point Synagogue will be officially opened on Sunday, 2nd inst., at 3 p.m. Rev. A. P. Bender will consecrate the building.

A cordial invitation is extended by the committee to all desirous of attending. Individual invitations are not being issued.

Jewish Girls' Association.

Members of the Cape Town Jewish Girls' Association are extremely grateful to Dr. Louis Herrman for a most interesting and instructive lecture on "Early Jewish Settlers in South Africa," delivered to them on Monday evening.

In the absence of the President, Mrs. Weinreich, Miss F. Charnass, Vice-President, took the chair. A vote of thanks was proposed by Miss Minnie Cohen, Secretary of the Association.

Meeting at Woodstock.

The monthly meeting of the Woodstock and Salt River Jewish Cultural Circle will be held at the residence of Mr. and Mrs. M. N. Marks, "Rosdene," Milner Road, Woodstock, on Tuesday, September 4th, at 8 p.m.

Mr. M. Wolozinsky will speak on "Jewish Festivals and their significance."

Members and friends are kindly invited to attend.

Boys' Own Zionist Society.

A meeting of the Boys' Own Zionist Society was held at Mrs. Tarshish's residence on Saturday last.

Due to the absence of the Chairman, Chaver Kaganson, the Vice-Chairman, presided.

The news was read by Chaver Sacks.

Chaver Berret spoke on the late Chaim Nachman Bialik. A discussion afterwards took place on the subject: "Whether Palestine should ultimately become a spiritual or Political Centre."

Union of Jewish Women.

The next meeting of the Union of Jewish Women will take place in the Zionist Hall on Thursday, 6th September, at 3.15 p.m. Miss R. Van Gelderen will speak on "The Ultimate Result of the Educational Conference."

A Palestinian Visitor.

There arrived in Cape Town on Monday, by the "Winchester Castle," Mr. A. I. Rappaport, a well-known colonist of Eretz Israel, who is farming at Kfar Saba.

Mr. Rappaport has come to South Africa on private business, but he will be pleased during his short stay here to give information and advice to those interested in settling in Palestine. His address is 12, Kloof Street, Cape Town. (Telephone 2-0876).

J.N.F. Activities at Woodstock.

Members of the Woodstock and Salt River Junior Zionist Society are requested to note the following functions arranged for J.N.F. week:—

Thursday, 30th August.—Mass meeting in Zionist Hall.

Saturday, 1st September.—Oneg Shabbos in Talmud Torah Hall, Woodstock.

Sunday, 2nd September.—Mystery Hike and Mock Trial followed by Hobo dance in the evening.

Monday, 3rd September.—Games evening and treasure hunt.

Tuesday, 4th September.—Lantern slide lecture at the residence of Mr. A. J. Basker, 51, Roodebloem Road, Woodstock.

Wednesday, 5th September.—Dr. Hurwitz and Mr. C. K. Friedlander will speak in the Talmud Torah Hall, at 8.15.

Thursday, 6th September.—Social and dance at the residence of Miss T. Ruskin, 21, Milner Road, Woodstock.

