

## IN AND AROUND THE PENINSULA

### Oneg Shabbos.

Dr. H. W. Altschul delivered a lecture on "Sfirat ha-Omer and Bar-Kochba." The lecturer first dealt generally with pagan customs associated with the season of the year, the festivals of spring, the Roman Floralia and its development into the Christian May Day. But underlying this happier motif was a more sombre one as witnessed in the Feasts of the Dead which took place in May in ancient Rome, and Walpurgis Night of the Teutonic mythos.

Next he briefly sketched the customs and laws appertaining to the Counting of the Omer and the customs still prevalent in Europe on Lag B'Omer customs which implied an association with Youth, Rabbi Akibah, War and Death. No one really knew why the Days of the S'fira was a period of mourning and why Lag B'Omer was permitted as a respite.

The lecturer then dealt with the apocryphal Book of Tobit and analysed it and drew from it the association of the S'fira period with a period when Jewish corpses lay unburied in the fields, by command of the ruler, and the encouragement to every Jew to perform this last sacred rite at the risk of his own life as an act of merit in the eyes of God.

After this Dr. Altschul outlined the conditions in Judaea prior to the Bar Kochba Rebellion. He related how a new and virile generation had grown to manhood since the destruction of the Temple by Titus, and how its national ardour had been stirred by the activities of the Tanaim, who in the rabbinic schools, moulded Judaism to suit the altered needs of the day. Rabbi Akibah in particular did great service in this respect travelling to all the Jewish communities of the Near East.

Illustrating his talk with anecdotes from the Hagadah, "the mine of Jewish history," the lecturer told of Bar Kochka, the man and the patriot, and the war which he waged so successfully for two years. Finally the Romans sent over Julius Severus, the greatest general of his day, and he, following the tactics of Vespasian, was able to surround the Judean army in the fortress city of Bethar. Betrayed here by his Samaritan allies, Bar Kochba and the flower of the Jewish youth were slain. Moreover, the revenge of the Romans was the most terrible in all the annals of our people. The corpses of the slain were to lie on the fields and hillsides and not buried; the practice of every religious law (even the minutest) was forbidden; and the rabbinic schools were closed. At one blow Hadrian, the Emperor, struck at the Jewish people, its land, and the Torah.

That is why to this day we count the days of the Omer in sorrow.

### United Hebrew Schools Annual Ball.

The annual ball in aid of the United Hebrew Schools took place at the Zionist Hall on Thursday night, 2nd inst., and

was very successful. Mrs. A. Stodel was the Hon. Organiser and was assisted by Mrs. S. Zuckerman and Mrs. A. Silbert.

The hall was tastefully decorated with red and blue streamers, and dancing took place to the music of Al Roberts and his orchestra, presented by Felix de Cola.

### Paarl Young Israel Society.

On Sunday, 5th May, the Junior section held a Cultural Evening in the Talmud Torah Hall.

The news was read by Mr. H. Bloom, and this was followed by three interesting papers written on various subjects dealing with Palestine, read by Miss J. Kramer, Mr. M. Sacks and Mr. M. Lewinsohn.

Mr. I. Cohen, who was in the chair, then conducted a debate which passed off very successfully.

### Union of Jewish Women.

Members are asked kindly to note that the annual general meeting of the Union which is taking place on May the 14th will start punctually at 3 p.m. and not at 3.15 p.m. Dr. Benzion Shein, the distinguished lecturer from overseas, will deliver a lecture on "Important Jewish Problems," the same afternoon.

Members, their friends and all ladies interested are cordially invited to attend.

### Dorshei Zion Association.

At a special general meeting, held on Sunday morning, the following delegates were appointed to the forthcoming S.A. Zionist Conference:—

Messrs. I. Ochberg, M. Alexander, J. Gitlin and Dr. S. E. Kark.

Alternatives: Adv. H. M. Bloch and Adv. J. Herbstein.

The following resolutions were adopted:

- (1) That provision be made to ensure that a large number of certificates be allocated to South Africa.
- (2) That in the settlement of lands acquired by the Keren Kayemeth with South African funds, preference be given to South African Chalutzim, all things being equal.

### Woodstock-Salt River Talmud Torah.

The official opening of the new building by Rabbi M. Ch. Mirvish will take place on Sunday, 12th May, 1935, at 3 p.m.

His Worship the Mayor (Councillor L. Gradner) will attend the ceremony.

Supporters and friends are cordially invited to be present.

### South Peninsula Zionist Society.

A very successful Maimonides evening took place at the Talmud Torah Hall, Muizenberg, on Tuesday, May 1st. Mr. D. L. Davidowitz presided.

Rabbi M. Ch. Mirvish briefly traced the life and times of the Rambam, and then went

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## Social and Personal.

The marriage of Elizabeth, youngest daughter of Mr. and the late Mrs. M. Pevsner, of Beach Road, Muizenberg, and Paul (Paddy), youngest son of Mr. and Mrs. J. L. Maister, 19, Woodside Road, Tamboers Kloof, will be solemnised at the Great Synagogue, Gardens, on Tuesday, 21st May, at 10.30 a.m. Reception at the Banqueting Hall (City Hall) at 11 a.m. Relatives and friends cordially invited. No cards.

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Mr. H. Schauder, M.A., son of Mr. and Mrs. A. Schauder, of Port Elizabeth, returned last week to South Africa after carrying out two years' research work in unemployment under the terms of the H. B. Webb Research Scholarship which was awarded him after he took the M.A. degree at the Rhodes University College, Grahamstown. He spent a good deal of his time in England, America, Russia, Palestine and Switzerland.

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Ittawar, son of Dr. Moses Romm, of Bloemfontein, was recently ordained a rabbi in Palestine at the early age of sixteen. He is a fine Talmudical scholar and is continuing his secular studies at the Hebrew University. He is known to be an excellent public speaker and frequently addresses audiences in Palestine in English, Hebrew, Yiddish and Arabic. It is his intention to visit South Africa shortly.

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Dr. Max Greenberg, of Johannesburg, is leaving to-day in the "Carnarvon Castle" for Europe. In September he will represent the Witwatersrand branch of the British Medical Association at the Congress in Melbourne.

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on to give a detailed and extremely interesting analysis of the Rambam's works in the religious, ethical and medical spheres. He stressed the most important points in his philosophy and urged his audience to make a personal study of that great figure.

Mr. B. L. Rubik also spoke.

At the conclusion of the address, refreshments were served by the Ladies' Society. After Mr. N. Wolman had proposed a vote of thanks, the meeting concluded with the singing of the Hatikvah.

### Cabaret at Zionist Hall.

The cabaret in aid of the Jewish National Fund which is to take place at the Zionist Hall on the 12th June promises to be even gayer and more enjoyable than last year's.

Mrs. L. Burman, who is again Convenor, is most enthusiastic about the plans for the cabaret.

A bar will be open till midnight and dancers must reserve their tables well in advance. During the course of a full supper popular cabaret turns will be presented by a number of well-known professional artists. A card room is being prepared for those who do not wish to dance, and for this tables must also be booked in advance.

Stan Thomas' famous orchestra will provide the music.

### J.N.F. Campaign Committee.

Rabbi A. R. Abrahamson has been co-opted on the Committee.

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