

Zionist Conversazione.

The fortnightly Conversazione took place at the Zionist Hall on Tuesday night.

Mr. J. SARIF was in the chair and at the outset referred to the deaths of Mr. Chaim Joffe and Mr. Moritz Herstein and to their work for the national cause. He extended condolences to their families and asked the audience to rise as a mark of respect to their memory.

ADV. P. M. CLOUTS, the speaker of the evening took as his subject "Four focal points of the 1935 Congress."

The first point, he said, was the great deal of time and attention paid by Congress to the Diaspora. This was significant and most important. The Diaspora was the training ground for new recruits for national work and no national body could wish its hands of it. In South Africa a wrong attitude was taken in Zionist matters with regard to the Diaspora, and the Dorshei Zion Association, for instance, took no interest in work in the Diaspora and hence had no influence on the organic growth of Zionism.

In 1933 the Zionist Organisation began to take an interest in the Diaspora and this year's Congress went much further. Many of the resolutions were concerned with the position of Jews in the Diaspora. Ben Gurion was correct in saying that the Zionist Organisation had State duties and responsibilities, and they would have to take a greater share in controlling the life of the Diaspora than heretofore, if they wished to achieve their ultimate object.

The second point was the removal of the Organisation Department to Jerusalem; this implied that the Jewish Agency and Zionist Executive would really eventually be in Palestine which was most urgent. Our influence would be very much more felt if this was the case, and our prestige much higher in the eyes of the world. In Palestine we could more freely speak as we felt and the effects would be far-reaching.

The third point was the decision to form an all-inclusive Territorial Organisation in each country. This was an excellent idea; it would be composed of members of different parties. Mr. Clouts said he had long advocated a Zionist local council in the Cape Peninsula and thought it would bring about excellent results.

He considered the idea that only shekel-holders could be members of the Zionist Organisation wrong. Jabotinsky was more correct when he said that all Jews are born into the Zionist Organisation.

The fourth point was the establishment of a Hebrew Culture and Education Department. This was the beginning of a new phase in the work of the Zionist Organisation and would bring about a great change in the cultural life not only of Palestine but of the Diaspora as well.

In conclusion, Mr. Clouts said that although there were no fireworks about the 1935 Congress a great deal of real and constructive work had been done.

Messrs. W. Rubik, Telem, Shevelev and Dr. Lange took part in the discussion to which Adv. Clouts replied.

Little Miss B. Brodie rendered a piano-forte solo and Mr. G. Telem gave a humorous reading.

The Talmudical Society.

SIUM HAGODOL.

The Gardens Synagogue Talmudical Society celebrated their first Sium Hagodol this week amidst great rejoicings.

On Sunday afternoon members and representatives of local societies and institutions gathered at the Old Synagogue where a reception in honour of the occasion was held.

After Mincha and the Hazkorah by Rev. Kirshner, Mr. A. SILBERT, the Chairman, addressed the gathering. It was a great joy to him, he said, to preside on so auspicious an occasion. He expressed his appreciation to the Cape Town Hebrew Congregation for the great interest they showed in the society, and for allowing them the use of the Old Synagogue. He hoped the Society would go from strength to strength.

REV. A. P. BENDER said that everyone should be proud of the Talmudical Society, for the members were performing a high and sacred duty. They studied not with some ulterior motive, but as a pleasure and a joy. They showed a pride in their race and literature, and were carrying on the great traditions of their forefathers so that the great treasures of Hebrew literature could be handed down from generation to generation. Mr. Bender congratulated the President of the Society on the great services rendered to the community, and on the completion of an important task which reflected credit and honour on the whole community.

RABBI M. B. MORGENSTERN, the lecturer of the Society, delivered the Sium and the Hadran.

RABBI M. CH. MIRVISH paid a tribute to the memory of the late Mr. Israel Atlas who had devoted a great deal of time and energy to establishing the Society on a proper basis. He had a worthy successor in his son-in-law, Mr. M. B. Morgenstern. The audience rose as a mark of respect to the memory of the late Mr. Atlas.

Rabbi Mirvish, in the course of his lecture, said that the study of the Torah distinguished the Jews from other nations and kept them together as a people. The Sium was only a sign that they had to begin their study all over again. He appealed to the members to realise that on them rested the responsibility of preserving

the study of the Talmud here; that they should attend all the meetings and do their utmost to strengthen the Society so that the Shechina might always be with us.

Cantor B. Konwiser sang songs appropriate to the occasion.

Rev. S. Kibel conducted the Maariv Service.

A number of speeches by members and guests followed.

The Banquet.

On Monday night the Sium Hagodol Banquet was held in the Zionist Hall. There was a large and representative attendance. Mr. A. Silbert presided and welcomed the guests.

Mr. L. GRADNER, representing the Cape Town Hebrew Congregation, said it afforded him great pleasure to be present at a function of this nature and extended greetings from the Mother Synagogue. The Talmudical Society, he said, had set an example to the younger generation and he urged them to stand loyally by the traditions of their fathers.

RABBI M. CH. MIRVISH regretted the absence of the youth, who, he said, had a wrong conception of what the Talmud required of them. It did not impose on them a life of asceticism but desired that they should take part in every sphere of life and derive pleasure therefrom.

RABBI I. KRAMER urged all to study the Halacha daily and not be content with being merely members of the Society.

Others who spoke were Rabbi Gunansky, Mr. I. Shuel (representing the New Hebrew Congregation), Dr. C. Resnekov (on behalf of the S.A. Board of Jewish Education, Cape Committee), Mr. B. Chideckel (on behalf of the United Hebrew Schools), Mr. M. Aronson (representing the Muizenberg Chevra Gomorrah, Rev. I. Gordon and Rev. Michaelson.

Songs were rendered by Mr. S. Jochelson, Rev. I. Frank and Cantor B. Konwiser.

Commencement of Talmud.

On Tuesday evening the commencement of the Talmud by Rabbi M. B. Morgenstern took place.

Evening service was conducted by Rev. Kirschner and speeches were delivered by members and guests.

Palestine's Chief Rabbinate.

STATEMENT BY VAAD LEUMI.

Jerusalem.

In connection with the different rumours which are current here about the appointment of a successor to the late Chief Rabbi Kook, the Vaad Leumi (Jewish National Council) has issued a statement in which it points out that the official regulations governing the election of a Rabbi, as passed by the Knesseth Israel, were approved by the High Commissioner in March, 1935. They provide that when, as in the present case, no second candidate exists for a position which is vacated, an election must take place to fill the vacancy.

As regards the demand being made for a Rabbi of the local Jerusalem community, such a person can only be elected by a meeting of the Community Council together with representatives of the important local

(Continued in Third Column).

Death of Zorach Barnett.

FOUNDER OF PETACH TIKVAH.

Jerusalem.

Mr. Zorach Barnett, one of the first members of the Chovevi Zion in England and the founder of Petach Tikvah, the largest colony in Palestine, died at the age of ninety-four.

Mr. Barnett attended the Chovevi Zion Conference in Kattowice in 1884, and on his return to London conducted a propaganda in favour of Jewish settlement in Palestine.

He also founded the Meah Shearim quarter of Jerusalem, and the Jewish community quarter Neveh Shalom at Jaffa.—J.T.A.

(Continued from Second Column).

Synagogues. It follows therefore, the statement concludes that no group or body or persons is qualified to act on its own in this matter and any action taken outside the authorised organisations has no sanction or practical significance.—J.T.A.