

Zionist Conversazione.

The fortnightly Conversazione took place on Tuesday night.

Mr. J. GITLIN was in the chair.

Mr. Z. AVIN gave a lecture on "Time and Conditions." At the outset he said it was not his intention to deal with the present crisis in world affairs and their effect on the Jew, but to give a survey of the past history of the Jewish people and to show in how far thus should govern our views as to the future.

To be able to look ahead into the future one must first unveil the past. In the ghetto the Jew lived a full Jewish life and cared nothing for the world outside. With the Haskalah movement there began the cleavage between "Jew" and "Man," and the soul of the Jew was torn by conflicts. The Jewish people, however, never succumbed to the idea of total assimilation; the will to live is strong within them and is indeed their chief characteristic. The Jew concentrated on the future rather than on the present; hence arose the Messianic idea. Under modern conditions there was estrangement between fathers and children, between the old generation and the new; the foundations of Jewish life were tottering and many Jewish groups were breaking away from Judaism. Nevertheless the desire for life and the prolongation of life was stronger than ever.

Here Mr. Avin quoted the theories of various well-known writers such as Geiger, Achad Ha'am, Sokolow, etc., giving their views as to the solution of the Jewish problem. The only solution, however, he considered, was Zionism, which was the only means by which the future of the Jewish people could be ensured. The secret of the survival of the Jewish people had been that they could exist as a people without a land; but to-day the upbuilding of Eretz Israel as the Jewish National Home was essential. The idea of righteousness was the secret of Judaism and that must be the foundation on which Eretz Israel was to be built up. An original culture must be created, based on the past, and each individual must realise that he is "the heir of all the ages" as far as Jewish history and culture are concerned.

The upbuilding of Eretz Israel, however, could not be achieved through a miracle; it required sacrifices and active participation by every individual. The leaders must show the way by comforting and strengthening the masses, and teaching them that what was needed was faith combined with work.

Mr. A. Levin, Mr. B. Mirvish, Mrs. Ch. Cohen, Dr. H. W. Altschul and Dr. C. Resnekov took part in the discussion, to which Mr. Avin replied.

Miss F. Rogoff rendered a pianoforte solo, and Mr. Lipshitz (accompanied by Miss Rogoff) Hebrew and Yiddish songs.

Mr. G. Laden gave a humorous reading.

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piano-accordion. Mr. Louis Volks sang in a pleasant tenor voice and was accompanied by Mrs. H. Bloch. Miss Joey Sacks rendered a piano solo which was well received by the audience.

During the interval refreshments were served.

A hearty vote of thanks was extended to the speakers by Mr. Jack Friedman and seconded by Mr. J. J. Wilk.

The proceedings terminated shortly before midnight with the singing of Hatikvah.

Bnoth Zion Association

ANNUAL GENERAL REPORT.

The annual report of the Bnoth Zion Association reflects a year of intense activity. Since the last annual general meeting two new branches have been formed and the membership has grown considerably. All the branches, as shown in the report, have functioned well and each has contributed to the success of the whole.

The activities of the Association cover a very wide field. A marked improvement is discernible in Jewish National Fund work and the revenue has been increased by the introduction of a quota system for each Branch. Substantial amounts for the J.N.F. were realised through the Cabaret held in June, and the "Holiday Fair" at Muizenberg in January.

The work of placing and clearing J.N.F. boxes has been carried out as usual in Sea Point, Muizenberg, Oranjezicht and other areas.

The Women's 1934 Keren Hayesod Campaign excelled all previous efforts, and the amount of £2,298 6s. 6d. was promised, £400 of which is still outstanding. Fifty per cent. of the money raised is delegated for the Wizo.

Seven members of the Association attended the eighth Wizo Conference held in Tel-Aviv in April, 1935. Miss M. Oblowitz acted as leader for the whole delegation. The delegates gained valuable information regarding the scope and organisation of the Wizo.

The Hebrew Kindergartens have done excellent work this year in spite of financial difficulty, and an appeal is made to parents and others to take a more personal interest in the work of the Kindergartens.

A large number of interesting and important functions were held during the year, both by the Central Committee and by the various branches.

NEWS IN BRIEF.

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Roumanian Senate, also paid a tribute to the late Jewish philologist's work.

The Academy decided to assign the sum of 140,000 lei for publishing Tiktin's work. —J.T.A.

LITHUANIANS SENTENCED FOR SPREADING BLOOD-LIBEL RUMOURS.

Kovno.

The Commandant of the Ponevezys district has sentenced seven persons to two months' imprisonment and a fine of fifty lits each for spreading rumours that Jews had kidnapped a Lithuanian child from a peasant for ritual murder purposes.

The Commandant has issued a special appeal to the population in which he declares that the vanished child of the peasant has been found in a neighbouring village. —J.T.A.

JEWISH OFFICER APPOINTED TO IMPORTANT POSITION.

Kovno.

The President of the Lithuanian Republic appointed Dr. J. Segal, a Jewish officer in the Lithuanian Army, as chief of the anti-gas defence in the Lithuanian Army.

Dr. Segal took an active part in the liberation wars of Lithuania. After the War he was for many years the Director of the Hebrew Secondary School of Riga, Latvia. He returned to Lithuania a few years ago, when he was again invited to join the army. Till recently he was the chief of the Sanitary Department of the Kovno Garrison. —J.T.A.

Johannesburg Hebrew-Speaking Circle.

ATTITUDE TO "YIVO" DECIDED.

An extraordinary general meeting was held on Saturday, 4th inst., at the Hebrew High School, Johannesburg, in order to decide the attitude of the "Hebrew Speaking Circle" to the Yivo and its campaign now being held. A large gathering was present.

Rabbi I. M. Gervis presided.

Mr. J. Rubik gave in his lengthy address information received from well-known personalities from overseas, explaining what the Yivo stands for. The Chairman stressed the fact that the attitude of the founders and leaders of the Yivo towards Hebrew, and the upbuilding of Palestine as a National Home for the Jews and as a spiritual-cultural centre is well known.

The many members who took part in the earnest discussion criticised sharply the attitude of the local official Zionists and other Jewish personalities who, instead of criticising the position as was expected, gave the Yivo campaign their moral support: this had a negative influence on the Jewish masses.

The Chairman thanked the "Barkai" and the editor, Mr. J. Rubik, on behalf of the Hebrew Speaking Circle for the correct and truthful attitude of the "Barkai" to Yivo and its campaign. The following resolution was then passed:

"In view of the fact that the Yivo has always served as a place of refuge for the outspoken antagonists of the Hebrew language and culture, and in view of the fact that the leaders are well-known for their unmitigated opposition to and hatred of the revival of Hebrew as our national language and Palestine as a Jewish National Home, the Hebrew-speaking public of Johannesburg express their strong protest against the Yivo and against the campaign now being conducted in its interest in South Africa."

The meeting further resolved that they view with anxiety the unprecedented fact that leading Zionists in this country are lending their name and assistance to a campaign of such a nature, and they call upon all who are loyal Zionists and adherents of Hebrew to abstain from assisting the Yivo morally or financially.

Worcester Bnei Ubenoth Zion.

The monthly conversazione took place on Thursday, 2nd instant, in the Zionist Hall. It proved to be a most enjoyable function.

Dr. I. Sagor and Miss F. Sagor acted as host and hostess.

There was a good attendance, and the host being in the Chair, extended a very cordial welcome to the guests of the evening, namely, Mr. Louis Gradner, Mr. Nelson, of Paarl, and Mr. Berks, Mayor of Mafeking. These gentlemen, who were delegates sent to attend the Municipal Congress at Worcester, addressed the gathering. Mr. Louis Gradner, ex-Mayor of Cape Town, being the principal speaker.

A delightful musical programme had been arranged by Mr. M. Rabinowitz. Miss Rose Behrman entertained well with her

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