

IN AND AROUND THE PENINSULA

Bnoth Zion Association.

At the last "At Home" held at the Zionist Hall on 29th October, Mr. P. M. Clouts spoke on the "Invasions of Palestine." He traced the history of the Jews throughout the Biblical period, the Middle Ages and modern times, emphasising their connection with their Homeland. Wherever the Near East was historically important Palestine had been important. When the Near East was the cradle of Western civilisation, Palestine was the central land of interest. Later on the Mediterranean became the busy ocean and Palestine loomed large. The trade routes from the East to Europe passed through Palestine. Then the centre of gravity moved to Europe and the Far East become relatively unimportant until Napoleon's time. To-day Palestine is an important strategic base, and in proportion to its size, is assuming an enormous position in the world of politics.

Mrs. Movsovic, the President, welcomed to the meeting Mrs. Machanick, who was an ex-President of the Pretoria Women's Zionist League. Miss Maggie Oblowitz read extracts from a Council meeting of the Wizo and spoke of the importance of the work done by the women in Eretz Israel in establishing a Council of its own.

Miss Rachel Rabinowitz rendered a piano solo. Mrs. M. Epstein proposed a hearty vote of thanks to the speakers and the artist.

A combined "At Home" of the Oranjezicht, Tamboers Kloof, Gardens Branches took place at the Zionist Hall on Tuesday night.

Mr. Laden's humorous sketches were, as always, very much appreciated. Miss Rabinowitz rendered a pianoforte solo and Mr. Rabinowitz sang.

Dr. Altschul exhibited a series of lantern slides depicting women's work in the up-building of Eretz Israel, which proved both interesting and instructive and was much appreciated by all.

Mrs. Kanty proposed a vote of thanks to Dr. Altschul and the artists.

The competition organised by the Gardens Branch in aid of the Bnoth Zion Hebrew Kindergartens was won by Mrs. A. Ospovat, Virginia Avenue.

Union of Jewish Women.

A meeting of the Union of Jewish Women took place on Tuesday afternoon at the Zionist Hall. Mrs. Lewis presided.

Mrs. F. Sloman gave a comprehensive report on the last Congress of the Union of Jewish Women held in Johannesburg. Her remarks were supplemented by Mrs. Lewis, Mrs. Clouts and Mrs. Epstein.

Dr. Syngalowski gave a very interesting address on the "Economic Position of the Jewish Woman."

The Jewish woman, he said, was the weakest part of an economically unhealthy people, and emancipation for her meant essentially economic self-defence and with it economic relief for the people. In ancient times, the Jewish woman in addition to having all the virtues usually associated with the "Jewish mother," bore the brunt of earning

a living. She often replaced the man altogether and took upon her shoulders the whole economic burden, showing remarkable strength and capability.

Gradually the Jewish woman began to demolish the fence that stood between her and the outer world from which her husband in the Synagogue was excluded. In that way there finally came the recognition that a woman must have secular education. It was by way of her mundane economic activity that she once more discovered the Tree of Knowledge and found access to the cultural world around. While there were always individual women who rose to considerable heights of mental attainment, the first real change occurred at the beginning of the sixteenth century with the appearance of the "Ivri Taich," written for the Jewish woman. Originally it was purely religious; then it became also secular. This meant a new epoch in the history of the Jewish woman; the development of literature in Yiddish and other factors affected her outlook and economic position.

In the course of the nineteenth century, and especially the latter half, great changes took place in the economic life of the Jews and with them the economic role of the woman lost much of its importance since man more and more took the burden upon himself. This led to the economic dependence of the woman on the man, and to a large extent intensified the economic crisis amongst East European Jewry. The Jewish woman was not mentally prepared for modern business methods and felt strongly the disgrace of "manual" work. The number of Jewish dressmakers and factory-girls never reached that of the former women shopkeepers, traders and market dealers. Tools, except for the needle, were considered man's special prerogative. In short, in the process of going over from trading to trades, the Jewish woman remained behind the march of the times.

To-day the demand of the Jewish woman in all East European countries for work in the workshop and field was becoming ever greater. Unfortunately the prevailing economic inactivity could not disappear of its own accord. For that enlightenment and organised technical and material aid was required and it was here that the Ort did such great work in training the Jewish woman in the trade schools and workshops.

Mrs. A. Lieberman proposed a vote of thanks to Dr. Syngalowski.

Brith Trumpeldor.

Gdud Tel Hai held a successful Mock Trial on Wednesday, 4th November. The acting was exceptionally good, and a large audience was present. The thanks of the organisers are due to all concerned for their co-operation.

Gdud Yehuda held its weekly meeting on Thursday, 5th November. Mefaked B. Krawchuk delivered a lecture on "Max Nordau." He pointed out that Nordau had disagreed entirely with the policy of the official Zionist Organisation since the Balfour Declaration.

Gdud Benjamin held a successful meeting on Saturday, 7th November, under the chair-

manship of Mefaked B. Zuck. The official opening of the Gdud will take place on Saturday, 14th November.

Owing to the increase of Betar membership in the past few weeks, the Mifkadah has decided to add another Gdud to the Cape Town Ken. The inaugural meeting will be held within the next two weeks.

Applications for participation in the great annual Betar Camp are coming in rapidly. All interested should write immediately to the Secretary, Ken Betar, P.O. Box 1960, Cape Town, for further details.

A few copies of "The Ideology of Betar" by Vladimir Jabotinsky are still in hand. A copy will be sent for 7d., post free, on application to the above address.

Kowno Hebrew Friendly Society.

An interesting lecture was given by the Rev. H. Michelson on "The Earliest Days in South African History, and the part played by the Jews in that period."

Referring to the statement made by Herodotus (the Grecian historian who lived 500 B.C.) that Pharaoh Necho, King of Egypt, had sent a fleet manned by Phoenicians to travel round Africa, the lecturer proved that it is a mistaken conclusion that that ancient fleet was led by Phoenicians. From several places in the Bible he showed that the expedition was of a political and military nature, and not a commercial venture as it is claimed by Professor Holland-Rose, Lecturer of Marine History at the Cambridge University, and that it was led by the fleet of Judah.

The chief aim was to gain contact with the remnants of the ten lost tribes, as well as with the merchant Jewish colonies which had been established ever since the days of King Solomon. Such an alliance would probably have checked the power and onslaught of Babylon which was the dread of all the nations. The expedition is supposed to have taken place 610 B.C. and definitely corresponds with the time of the death of King Josiah at Megiddo, when Judah came under Egypt.

Numerous other interesting points leading up to the time of Spain and Portugal were also mentioned which threw an entirely new light on the subject.

The Rev. Nathan Cohen was in the chair. Mr. M. Kuperman proposed a vote of thanks.

Zionist Conversazione.

The next fortnightly Conversazione will take place at the Zionist Hall on Tuesday, 17th November, at 8.15 p.m.

Mr. Myer Joffe will lecture on "Individualism and Judaism." All welcome.

Omission.

The name of Mrs. S. Wendel, 10s. 6d., was inadvertently omitted from the J.N.F. Box Collection Lists published last week.

Oneg Shabbos at Claremont.

Rabbi A. R. Abrahamson will lecture on "The Nation's Struggles and its Remedy," to-morrow (Saturday) at 4 p.m., at the Talmud Torah Hall, Grove Avenue, Claremont.

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Plant Trees in the Dizengoff Forest—House-to-House Collection, Sunday, November 15th.

