

Zionist Conversazione.

Mr. MYER JOFFE ON
"INDIVIDUALISM AND
JUDAISM."

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

Dr. S. E. Kark was in the chair.

Mr. Myer Joffe delivered an interesting lecture on Individualism and Judaism. Individuality, he said, was the basis of all human action; people must live independently and for themselves otherwise they are lost to the community. A mass of people is never responsible or reliable because it cannot think but is moved by emotion. The individual can reason or rather, he reasoned with. Individual responsibility and self-respect must be developed for the benefit of the group.

As a people, the Jews are distinguished by their high individuality which is attributable to their training. Judaism begins with the ten commandments as an ideology, as a moral and ethical force, and from the ten commandments to the end of the Bible, the importance of the individual is emphasised. This is one of the main reasons for the survival of the Jewish people. Other religions did not try to teach the individual but the mass; their idea was conversion. They were in a hurry, so instead of teaching the individual, they preached to the masses. The result was that each individual separately did not count; what was of importance was the preacher and the ceremonies.

Individuality throughout Jewish history, continued the lecturer, was very much encouraged. Every rabbi encouraged differences of opinions and individuality of thought among his pupils. The Jewries who were locked in the ghettos acquired great strength of mind, but those who broke away became very weak because in the course of years they lost all their individuality. They fell away not only because they had not the opportunity but because they did not develop in the same atmosphere where the individual had to battle out things for himself.

This is one of the reasons why Judaism is opposed strongly to any movement which tries to suppress liberty of thought. Since the strength of Judaism lies in individual strength of mind and independence of thought every denial of it is a battle against Jewry. The Jewish world conception is diametrically opposed to the world conception of the autocratic state. Jews must be absolutely opposed to any form of society which deprives the individual of individual responsibility. Dictatorship means licence to a very few and liberty to none. That is why it is the very abnegation of Judaism.

Messrs. L. Rabkin, G. Gitlin, Kotlowitz, Ben-Arie and Mrs. Ch. Cohen took part in the discussion to which Mr. Joffe replied.

Mrs. Phillips rendered a pianoforte solo.

MARRIAGE.

LEVIN - FRANK. — The marriage of Dorothy, eldest daughter of Mr. and Mrs. J. Frank, of 11, Belvedere Avenue, Cape Town to Dr. Joseph Levin, second son of Mr. and Mrs. S. Levin, 48, St. David's Road, Houghton, Johannesburg, will be solemnised at the Wolmarans Street Synagogue, Johannesburg, on Sunday, 22nd November, at 2.30 p.m.

At Home: "Craigmonie," 4th Street, Lower Houghton, Johannesburg, from 3-6 p.m. No Cards.

Green and Sea Point Hebrew Congregation.

INDUCTION CEREMONY OF
REV. I. H. LEVINE.

The Induction Ceremony of the Rev. I. H. Levine, B.A., took place last Sunday afternoon at the Green and Sea Point Synagogue in the presence of many members of the congregation and representatives of the Beth Din and all the Hebrew congregations of the Peninsula.

The service was conducted by Cantor M. Katzin who was assisted by the choir. After the *Boruch Haboh* which was beautifully rendered, the investiture of Rev. Levine was performed by Mr. A. Sacks, the President. Rev. A. P. Bender officiated at the induction ceremony and offered the prayer for the Royal Family. Rabbi M. Ch. Miryish gave an address welcoming the new minister to Cape Town.

Rev. I. H. Levine, in his induction sermon, said that amidst the changing conditions of the present-day world, people were looking for standards of judgment and ideals of action that would lead them in their bewildered groping. What guidance could Judaism give? That had to be the constant concern of a minister to-day.

The welfare of the individual and the brotherhood of all mankind—these were some of the basic teachings of Judaism and of religion. But their eclipse was being threatened in some new forms of government and in the aggression of some nations, because religion had too often lost the chance of being the dynamic force, moulding people's lives and thoughts. A minister should direct his attention towards giving Judaism that vitality and life whereby it would become an integral part of man's attitude towards life, urging and influencing him to work for the establishment of the Kingdom of God on earth.

In the realm of man's personal actions, we had, on the one hand, the attitude that allowed full licence to the instincts of aggression, whilst on the other hand, man was said to be a mechanical product of the preceding conditions of his life. Against these two modes of thought, Judaism insisted that it was possible and necessary to progress beyond the stage of giving expression to one's instincts, that it was possible and necessary to set certain ideals of action before oneself and strive for their attainment. Much of the minister's preaching and influence had to be directed towards giving his congregants these ideals of personal purity and integrity, of right and sympathetic relations with their fellowmen.

The materialistic interpretation of life could not explain man's spiritual yearnings. Throughout the ages, man had felt the presence of the Divine in the world and had worshipped the Holy in the universe. Beginning with strange gropings, man had become more certain in his longings for union between his spirit and the spirit that extended throughout all time and space, that was universal. To instil spiritual values in his congregants and to foster the spiritual side of life was the work of the minister. He had to show how life could be enriched and influenced by the spiritual values of Judaism.

(Continued in Third Column).

Obituary.

Mr. HYMAN SHAPIRO.

The death took place on Sunday morning at the age of sixty of Mr. Hyman Shapiro, of the Strand.

The late Mr. Shapiro was born at Rokiskis, Lithuania, and came to South Africa thirty-six years ago. He settled at the Strand about thirty years ago and was one of the oldest members of the Strand Hebrew Congregation.

He is survived by his widow, three sons and two daughters. The eldest son, Dr. Hillel A. Shapiro, won a Science Research Scholarship in 1935 and is continuing his studies in London. The second son, Mr. Louis Shapiro, is a keen Zionist and is in the employ of the Shell Oil Company in Palestine.

The sincerest sympathy will be extended to the family in their bereavement.

Mrs. CHAYA MIRIAM BAKER.

The death took place on Sunday morning after a long illness of Mrs. Chaya Miriam Baker, mother of Mrs. S. Jocum, Mrs. M. Sakinofsky and Mr. Harry Baker.

The late Mrs. Baker was a woman of very charitable and pious disposition. The sincerest sympathy is extended to her family in their sad bereavement.

Mr. NAT LAZARUS.

The death took place on Saturday morning at the age of fifty-eight of Mr. Nat Lazarus, a well-known member of the community.

The sincerest sympathy is extended to his widow and family in their sad bereavement.

"Democracy Versus Fascism."

By J. ENDENDYK.

This is the first book dealing with this subject to be published by a South African. The author describes the means by which Fascism in Italy and Nazism in Germany came to power.

In a chapter on anti-Semitism, the origin and nature of anti-Jewish feelings in various countries and in various ages are traced, and it is shown that the systematic persecution of the Jews is always to be ascribed to political motives of certain groups anxious to gain or retain power.

There is also an Afrikaans version of this booklet. The price is 1s., and copies can be obtained from the Central News Agency.

(Continued from Second Column).

There was a deep debt of gratitude, said Rev. Levine that he owed to those who had guided him. It was his father who had first taught and influenced him and who had imbued him with the ideals of Judaism. He had, in his ministry, set an example of constant and faithful devotion to duty, an example he hoped he would ever be able to follow.