

## Youth Conversazione.

Rev. I. H. LEVINE ON  
"RELIGION AND POLITICS."

At a well attended Youth Conversazione in the Zionist Hall on Sunday night, under the auspices of the Cape Town Herzlia, Rev. I. H. Levine delivered a brilliant address on "Religion and Politics."

The problem of Religion and Politics, said Rev. Levine had been made more acute by the rise of Communism and Fascism, because each of these, in its own way, threatens the freedom of the religious conscience; each had an attractive appeal, offering to their followers what is to them a new religion.

Three aspects of the problem were dealt with in detail, viz.: (1) To what extent must religion influence state affairs? (2) What attitude must it adopt towards political movements? (3) How are the teachings of religion to be applied to modern problems?

The duty of religion was to provide the conscience of the world and of civilisation. Once, however, it failed to do this, it became the slave of political movements. If it fulfilled this purpose, it became a determining factor in the governments of people. The speaker gave a comprehensive analysis of the theoretical foundations of Fascism and Communism in their relation to religion. In Italy no open conflict ensues between the state and the church, but in Germany the religious opposition to Hitler is showing a greater strength and obstinacy than was ever dreamt of. In Russia, indications seem to point to a return to religion.

In democratic countries, if people wish to enjoy the advantages of religion and of democracy, they must apply the principles of the welfare of the individual, of brotherhood and of peace to the conditions under which they live. Religion and politics should be solidly interlocked in the individual, with religion as the mainspring of our endeavour to improve the world and advance the cause of humanity.

After the tea interval, the subject was discussed freely by members of the audience, and Rev. Levine replied. A vote of thanks by the chairman, Mr. E. Charlaff was loudly applauded, showing the appreciation of the audience for this excellent address. Mrs. L. Charlaff and Mr. H. Rabinowitz were responsible for a piano and vocal solos respectively.

## WORCESTER BNEI UBENOTH ZION.

A very successful Conversazione took place in the Zionist Hall, Worcester, on Thursday night, the 10th inst.

Mr. and Mrs. Jack Friedman acted as host and hostess.

After the host had welcomed the public, he introduced Mr. Solly Friedman, his brother, who was on a short visit from Eretz Israel.

Miss Joyce Sacks rendered a piano solo, after which Mr. P. Sacks read the news service. This was followed by two songs by Miss S. Broudie.

Mr. Solly Friedman gave descriptions and his personal impressions of the life and inhabitants of Tel Aviv, Jerusalem and Haifa, followed by a short account of the  
(Continued in Third Column).

## Book Review.

"BRAND PLUCKED FROM THE FIRE" by Jessie E. Sampter. Jewish Publication Society of America.

"Brand Plucked from the Fire" is a collection of poems by the well-known American Jewish poetess, Jessie E. Sampter who has been resident in Palestine for nearly twenty years. Written in simple but beautiful language they reflect her passionate love of Zion and her high ideals of humanity. She deals with various aspects of life in Eretz Israel and her devotion to the land and the people finds expression in numerous verses, e.g.:—

O Jerusalem, rose-grey and opalescent,  
White as light,  
And shadowless as the heavens,  
O Jerusalem,  
Dark and terrible and human  
And shining white as a city in the heavens,  
Is it a wonder that your suffering children  
Dream to build of you a holy city,  
A miracle,  
A city in the heavens?

(City in the Heavens).

We've pitched our tents against the moon  
In the Galilean mountains,  
In a hollow cup that's tilted up  
Towards the everlasting fountains.  
I boil the beans and garden greens  
And fry the rice in oil,  
For several dozens of "German cousins"  
Come hungry from their toil.  
I'm richer than a profiteer,  
Securer than his daughter,  
We own the land on every hand,  
But still must dig for water.

(The new Kvutza of Workers)

Jessie Sampter sees poetry in the humblest occupations whether it be digging or toiling, cleaning or scrubbing, e.g.,  
Shama dances down my floor,  
Her dipping knees near drubbing it,  
And with the scarf she waves before  
Her hands divinely scrubbing it.  
Now step and stoop, now step and whirl  
A stream of water in a swirl.  
No music guides this ancient rite  
That moves itself melodious  
And makes a metrogracious sight  
Of labour known as odious:  
With tender hands and slender feet  
She waves the dirt to vile retreat.

(The Dance of the Yemenite  
Scrub Woman).

Her philosophy of life in general is to be found in her "Little Songs of Big and Little Things," "Coming of Peace," and "Psalms in Struggle." Amongst them are some exquisite little gems through which there shines the nobility of soul of one who has suffered intensely both physically and spiritually but who has not lost her faith in God or in humanity:

Let us weep for our sorrows, freely as  
children, though secretly;  
Let us pour out the bitterness—  
We shall pour out also the sweetness—  
Let us be glad, whenever, wherever joy  
calls us,  
Let us sing when we may, though we sing  
of a blade of grass,  
We will sing, we will laugh, we will leap  
forward into life, blindly,  
Blindly into death, into pain, singing while  
we may, weeping when we must;  
Praising Him with joy as the flowers.  
(A song of Praise in the Spring).

The book is beautifully printed, and contains six interesting black and white drawings by Maxim B. Gottlieb.

## Cape Zionist Youth Activities

Youth Mass Meeting.

On Sunday night, the 20th June, 1937, Mr. Maurice Samuel will address a Youth Mass Meeting in the Major Zionist Hall at 8.15 p.m. The subject is "The Structure of the Homeland." The privilege of listening to so brilliant an orator on so important a subject should be grasped by all. Make sure that you do not miss this intellectual treat; and bring your friends along. Donation 1/-.

Executive Meeting.

The second Executive meeting of the new session was held on Sunday, the 13th June, when the various sub-committees, their functions and S.A. Youth Conference were discussed.

Eretz Israel Wall Maps.

A supply of Wall Maps of Eretz Israel has been received in the Office and are available at a price of 6/- each.

The Educational Sub-Committee has issued its second batch of cultural material of the session, consisting of Questions and Answers relating to the Government of Eretz Israel, and a Broadcast Talk by Mr. McGowen which the Government of Palestine suppressed.

Cape Town Herzlia.

The Bialik Circle meets to-night at the residence of Miss M. Catzel, c/o Hilton Road and Marchmont Avenue, Orangezicht. Mr. E. Charlaff, the chairman of the society, will speak on that fascinating subject—"Chassidism."

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On this Sunday, the Herzlia is spending the day up Table Mountain, and all who wish to spend a happy day are invited. The party will leave Kloof Nek at 8.45 a.m. sharp.

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On July 4th in the Zionist Hall, Dr. Felix Gross will be the speaker at a Youth Conversazione. The subject will be "Jewish Music through the Ages," and will be illustrated by songs, piano, violin and gramophone records. All welcome.

Muizenberg Young Israel Society.

The Muizenberg Young Israel Society held a very well attended meeting on Sunday, 13th inst. Mr. I. Sacks, Sports' Convenor, gave a short talk on the sport activities of the society which are numerous and very popular. Following the News Service, a most enjoyable and instructive lecture on "Jewish Humour" was delivered by Mr. Natas who at times kept the audience in fits of laughter. A debate  
(Continued on Page 460).

(Continued from First Column).

various Jewish settlements. A few words were devoted to the very successful Palestine Symphony Orchestra, composed of some of the very finest musicians in the world.

After interval, Mr. Friedman dealt with the recent riots, pointing out the reaction of the Jews and the immediate results. In spite of all the sufferings, the Jews had benefited by being forced to become more self-supporting.

The lecture was excellent in every respect, and the chairman, Mr. Louis Volks, in proposing the vote of thanks, expressed the appreciation of the public.

The evening concluded with the singing of Hatikvah.