

In Capetown

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

ZIONIST CONVERSAZIONE.

A forceful attack against South African senior Zionists for their "total neglect of the Jewish youth" was launched at the last Zionist conversazione by Mr. J. Herbstein.

Zionism in this country, said Mr. Herbstein, had become synonymous with Palestine, and Palestine had become but one thing—money-raising, to the exclusion of everything else. As he saw it, Zionism had two planks to its platform—the re-creation in the Jew of his own national self-respect, and the creation of a strong Jewish State in Palestine. But Jewish life in the Diaspora had been totally neglected. No interest had been created in Jewish culture, no interest in the Jewish youth. The result had been a lack of true Jewish leadership in this country, which was deplorable. Zionism had become a charitable movement with an impersonal interest for us. It should have been a vital, personal issue with every Jew.

He did not, concluded Mr. Herbstein, minimise the efforts that were being made to bring Palestine nearer, but there were also other things to be done in this country, and unless Zionism was made a personal issue with every Jew, we would miss the opportunity of ever making Palestine the Jewish State.

Mr. Jack Alexander, the secretary of the S.A. Zionist Federation, who was present, offered a few remarks with regard to Mr. Herbstein's criticism. He admitted that in his analysis he went a good deal of the way with him, but felt that much of what he had said had been exaggerated. Mr. Herbstein had a tendency towards extremism, which did not help.

He agreed with Mr. Herbstein that proportionately too much stress was laid on fund-raising by Zionists. He also felt that far too much attention was focussed on the political side of the movement, and this was obscuring our Zionist vision to an alarming extent. These facts were indications of a weakness in the Zionist movement, but he thought that the thing had to run its own course and that the disease would provide its own remedy. Zionist sentiment was pretty well established, and could not be destroyed so easily.

In the discussion which ensued, the following participated: Mr. M. Joffe, Dr. J. Sachs, Messrs. P. M. Clouts, O. Basson, B. L. Rubik.

Mr. S. and Miss B. Futeran acted as host and hostess, and during the course of the evening Miss Gamsu gave a pianoforte solo and Mr. A. Davis told a number of humorous stories.

WOMEN ON SYNAGOGUE COMMITTEES?

At a well-attended meeting of the Union of Jewish Women of South Africa (Capetown Branch), held at the Zionist Hall on Tuesday, Mrs. B. Nussbaum, the president, gave an account of the executive's action in connection with the appointment of women to synagogue committees. She pointed out that while women were members of the synagogue, paying subscriptions and other dues, only male members were invited to attend meetings, to vote and be eligible for election to the synagogue committee.

Mr. M. Rosen, the president of the Capetown Hebrew Congregation, on being approached by the executive of the Union, had kindly consented to bring forward a resolution at a recent meeting of his committee, entitling women members of the synagogue to vote and have representation on the committee. The resolution was adopted by the committee, and a sub-committee was appointed to consider the matter and to frame a resolution to be brought forward at the annual general meeting of the congregation.

GENERAL.

The marriage was solemnised at the Great Synagogue on Sunday evening last of Annie, eldest daughter of Mr. and Mrs. I. Potash, of Capetown, to Isaac Kaufman, of Van Rhynsdorp, eldest son of Mr. and Mrs. A. Kaufman, of Maitland. The ceremony was performed by Rev. Bender, assisted by Rev. Kirschner and the choir under the directorship of Mr. Boris Rome.

After the ceremony a reception was held at the Zionist Hall, and was attended by a very large gathering.

In Pretoria

News Items should be addressed to P.O. Box 508.

Jewish Guild.

Mr. Laszlo Schwartz, the eminent Hungarian violinist, composer, humorist and caricaturist, will give a concert at the City Hall, on Saturday, the 20th inst., at 8.15 p.m. in aid of the Guild Bursary Fund. He will be accompanied by Miss Mary Kumin, L.R.A.M., and will be supported by Mrs. Fanny Sugarman and Mr. Elwyn Davies. An excellent programme has been drawn up, and a very moderate charge of admission is being made to enable all music lovers to attend. Tickets, 2s. each, can be had from members of the Guild Committee, and advance booking is arranged by Polliacks.

The Guild cabaret, which will be held at the Berea Hall, has been set down for September 10th. Further details will be given later.

Zionist Society.

The inter-debate between the Nordau Club and the Zionist Society on the question of Zionist policy proved to be an unusually great attraction, and for an affair of this nature there was a record attendance.

Mr. Blumenthal opened with the remark that the points of view that would be expressed by him and his colleague would not be merely an attitude in a debate, but would represent the beliefs and convictions of the Nordau Club. He proceeded thereafter to catalogue an enormous list of Zionist mistakes, setbacks and defeats, all of which he ascribed to Zionist policy since 1917. This list was supplemented by Mr. Kagan.

Mr. Sapirstein and Adv. D. Gould could not deal adequately in the time at their disposal with all the points raised. An attempt was made, however, to reveal the struggles of Zionist leaders with the almost overwhelming problems with which they were confronted. It was shown that the handicaps of restricted immigration and controlled land dealings were fully appreciated by the Zionist authorities, but that the evils were due to circumstances outside their control. The fact that Zionism was not successful in combating the forces at work against it reflects not the measure of the incompetence of the leaders, but the measure of the weakness of the masses.

A lively discussion ensued, and a highly successful evening terminated at a very late hour. Mr. P. Machanik, who presided, ably conducted the debate.

ASSOCIATION OF JEWISH GROUPS (Johannesburg).

The Association of Jewish Groups continues to hold interesting and instructive meetings. Amongst the most successful ones held recently have been the Olga Guinsberg and Sarah Aronson Groups.

The former met at Miss Sieradzki's house last Wednesday. Advocate Gus Saron read his paper on "Jewish People Under Roman Dominance." He dealt with the period from 100 B.C. to 100 A.D., and by careful investigation in the Roman writers and historians of the day he gave an excellent impression of the social conditions under which Jews lived in Rome and under Roman government in Palestine. As well as this interesting paper, Miss Madge Marks arranged readings from original Hebrew literature.

On Thursday last the Olga Guinsberg Group met at Mrs. Z. Cohen's residence. For this meeting Miss Ben Jacob wrote a paper in Hebrew, and chose as her subject "The Religion of the Prophets is the Religion of the Chalutzim." The paper was translated and read by Miss Fanny Cohen, and it provoked a lengthy discussion on the spiritual life of the chalutzim.

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