

## Fifteenth Anniversary of Jewish Legion

COMMEMORATED BY NORDAU CLUB

A meeting convened by the Nordau Club was held at the Hebrew High School on Sunday evening in commemoration of the 15th anniversary of the formation of the Jewish Legion.

Mr. I. E. Judes spoke of the Tel-Hai organisation, which he said was a financial instrument to support Jewish institutions, whose aim was to promote and teach Jewish youth physical culture provided these institutions had the true character of Jewish nationalism. Tel Hai meant a "living hill." It was the name of a Jewish colony in northern Palestine which was successfully defended by 50 Jewish colonists against 1,000 Bedouins. The victory was due mainly to the personality of the leader of the 50 defenders, the late Joseph Trumpeldor, who, unfortunately, fell in that defence. The Tel-Hai would like to create in the Jewish people, especially among the youth, such heroes as Trumpeldor.

Mr. J. Daleski gave a short history of the formation, the activities and the eventual disbandment of the Jewish Legion, as well as of the great part taken therein by Mr. Vladimir Jabotinsky, its founder. In the course thereof he said that to the ordinary European it was an interesting perhaps a dramatic episode in the fortunes of the War, but to us Jews it represented something of the stuff of which dreams were made, bringing back to the Jewish conception the Maccabeans, Bar-Cochba, and the other heroes that illumined the pages of Jewish history.

In the early part of the war, Jabotinsky had clearly realised that the hour of redemption of the Holy Land by the Jewish people was near, by reason of the critical situation in which the Turkish Empire found itself. He saw that no matter what the fortunes of war might dictate as to the main contestants in the West, one thing was clear, the Turkish Empire, as it was then constituted, would at the end of the war be dismembered. Here, therefore, was the opportunity of the Jewish people to regain their ancient land. Jabotinsky felt that mere historic and ethical right was not sufficient and that it was essential that the end of the war should find Jewish troops, under the banner of the Allies, in possession of the land. It was amazing how events tallied in the end with Jabotinsky's prophecy. Who knows how much anguish the Jewish people would have been spared, how many obstacles would have been removed from its path if the end of the

war had found 50,000 Jewish troops in possession of the Holy Land.

The first step taken by Jabotinsky was the formation, in active conjunction with that Jewish hero, Trumpeldor, of the Zion Mule Corps which served with the Allied forces in Gallipoli.

After the disbandment of that Corps, Jabotinsky enrolled in the British Army as a private, and from there commenced the negotiations which eventually resulted in the formation of the Jewish Legion.

The speaker believed that the time was ripe when, if given the chance, Jews could fight their own battles and give a very good account of themselves. Another lesson that was learnt from the Jewish Legion was that mere enunciation of policy by a Government was not enough; it was the local administration in the country which had to carry out the policy that counted, and not the Government, thousands of miles away. The same applied to the present Zionist policy. It was primarily in Palestine itself that their battles had to be fought, not in Downing Street.

Mr. Person, who was a member of the Legion, told of his experiences in London in the establishment of the Legion.

Mr. Blumenthal dealt with the personality of Jabotinsky, who had brought the Legion into existence and who understood then the importance of having a fighting Jewish unit.

The Chairman (Mr. M. Kaplan) thanked the speakers, after which Mr. M. Haskel proposed a resolution, which was unanimously carried, that the meeting send a cable to Jabotinsky congratulating him as the founder of the Legion, and expressing indignation at his being prohibited from entering Palestine.

### MR. DAVID FRAM IN DURBAN.

THE young Jewish poet and litterateur, whose book of poems in Yiddish was recently reviewed in the *Zionist Record* and other journals throughout South Africa, has just returned to Johannesburg from a successful visit to Durban. During his stay there, Mr. Fram was the guest of the Rev. M. Menachemson, the well-known Jewish cantor, and was given a most cordial reception by the Jewish community.

Mr. Fram lectured at the Jewish Club on "Modern Jewish Poetry," and also read some of his own recently published poems. During Mr. Fram's visit, a generous number of copies of his work was purchased and much credit is due to Rev. M. Menachemson, who organised the work.

Articles on the Yiddish poet were published in the *Natal Mercury* and the *Natal Advertiser*.

## The Chevra Kadisha Drive.

### Urgent Appeal to Johannesburg Community.

THE campaign on behalf of the Witwatersrand Jewish Helping Hand and Burial Society (Chevra Kadisha), is proceeding according to plan.

A large number of canvassers has been enrolled, it being the duty of each of these to call upon certain members of the Jewish community in order to obtain from them immediate and generous donations in cash.

The aim is to raise £20,000 from the Jews of the city to be exclusively devoted to the relief of the distress among a big section of Johannesburg Jewry. The claims on the Chevra Kadisha are so numerous that little short of the cash total mentioned will enable this Jewish charitable organisation to continue its work of succouring the needy during the next 12 months.

### Songs from Palestine.

THE Hebrew songs of the youth of Eretz Israel bring to Jews abroad something of the spirit of the new Jew, and serve as a link between Eretz Israel and the Diaspora. Those who sing the same songs are spiritually united.

The Jewish National Fund, realising this efficacy of the new songs of Palestine, has published a set of 12 Hebrew songs, each on a separate post card, which bears the text (pointed) and musical annotation. The set comprises 12 such songs, which are all representative of the new Hebrew folk song that is being composed and sung in Eretz Israel.

The songs are available at 6d. per set from the Literature Department of the S.A. Zionist Federation, or the J.N.F. Office, P.O. Box 18, Johannesburg.



# PICARDIE

## BRANDY

### For Age, Quality and Flavour

