

Re-Opening of the Doornfontein Synagogue and Library

Need for More Attendance and Study Urged

ON Sunday there took place in the presence of a large and representative gathering the re-opening of the Doornfontein Synagogue and Library. The synagogue, which was recently damaged by fire, is one of the oldest in the city. It has now been renovated.

The re-opening ceremony was performed by Councillor Maurice Freeman (ex-Mayor of Johannesburg), who was accompanied by Mrs. Freeman. Mr. Freeman was presented with a golden key for the purpose by Mr. A. Smith, president of the congregation.

After Cantor S. Saphir had tonefully recited *Ma Tovv* and *Mincha*, Chief Rabbi Dr. J. L. Landau, in the course of an eloquent address, referred to the lesson of last week's *Sidrah*. The speaker went on to remark on the building of synagogues by people who were captivated by the idea, but later on lost all interest in those particular institutions.

"Synagogues are being built in many parts of the Union," he declared, "but what is the use of such buildings? Those who lay the foundation stones of synagogues, often do not enter the buildings.

"Many who give their cash contributions, big or small, think they have done their duty in doing so. This is far from enough. It is not sufficient to ensure that the foundation stone is well and truly laid, and that the building is well erected. The Jewish soul must enter it. Only then will the spirit of the Almighty rest upon the Synagogue, and upon those who built it.

"It is not enough to have a Rabbi. The Rabbi must have scholars, and I hope that this Synagogue will be a place where the worshippers will be imbued with the real spirit of Judaism, a place where they will not only come to pray, but also learn and study.

"It is both unpleasant and even painful for me to come here and point out the faults of other places of worship. We have had Jewish millionaires in our midst, but they have left us. We have the sons of

rich men who do not even identify themselves with us."

MR. M. FREEMAN, who recalled his long association with the congregation, thanked them for the honour they had conferred upon him.

Affirming his belief in Traditional Judaism, the speaker felt that that institution should be more than a house of assembly; it should be a house of learning. Their library should attract all concerned and would prove the golden bridge to span the gap between young and old among them.

Mr. Freeman, in conclusion, called attention to the civic side of their local activities, and opined that the Jew in Johannesburg could rise to the highest position possible and at the same time be mindful of his association with his faith and people.

MR. A. SMITH, president of the congregation, deplored the neglect of many local Jews so far as their contact with the synagogue was concerned. As a part solution to that problem, and also to attract the younger generation to their side, they had established a library where books could be found in a language that the younger generation would be able to understand and appreciate.

After *Maariv* had been chanted, Rabbi I. Kossowsky (Rav of the Federation of Synagogues of the Transvaal) spoke. The conception of the *Beth Hamedrash*, declared the speaker, was a unique feature in Jewish life, for it typically conveyed their mass-idea to study. It was the *Beth Hamedrash* which had carved out the course of Jewish life throughout the ages.

Announcements were then made of those who had generously donated to their synagogue and library.

Apart from the service, conducted by Cantor Saphir, Cantor Berele Chagy, of the *Beth Hamedrash Hagodel*, intoned the Psalm of Dedication. A small orchestra, under the direction of Mr. Ichilchik assisted in the musical portions of the service and rendered a selection of Jewish music. The service concluded with the singing of *Hatikvah* and God Save the King.

Johannesburg Symphony Society

At the next concert of the Johannesburg Symphony society, which takes place on Wednesday, 25th inst., at the Wanderers, a first performance will be given of the Symphony No. 4 "Romantic" by Anton Bruckner. None of the nine symphonies of this great Austrian composer of the nineteenth century has yet been performed in this country.

Professor P. R. Kirby, of the University of the Witwatersrand, will give a short talk on Bruckner's life and musical mission, in order to introduce the composer's symphonic idea to the audience. The orchestra under Joseph Trauneck, will be specially augmented for the occasion, and will consist of 60 performers.

"You're Tellin' Me"

A GREAT SUCCESS AT THE JEWISH GUILD.

In view of the remarkable success which "You're Tellin' Me," the Jewish Guild Musical Art Section's latest success has attained, it has been found necessary to put it on for the fourth time. It was originally intended to present this on three Sunday evenings, but owing to numerous requests for another presentation, a special Gala Night has been arranged for Sunday, March 22, at 8.15 p.m. There will be changes in the programme and cast, and a number of new songs and humorous sketches will be introduced. This is definitely the final performance.

Honorary Teachers Wanted.

Several teachers are required to teach the newly-arrived German immigrants the English language and to do so gratuitously. Those who wish to offer their services should write to either Miss L. Pollack, 14 Raleigh Street, Yeoville (Phone Yeoville 182) or to Mrs. Maurice Franks, 7 Mentone Court, Killarney (Phone 41-2014). In this connection it is pointed out that a knowledge of German is not necessary.

Palestine Goods for J.N.F.

The veteran Zionist of Port Elizabeth and Palestine, Mr. B. Weinronk, has just presented to the Jewish National Fund a quantity of Palestine goods which when sold will realise a few pounds for the redemption of the soil of Eretz Israel. Geulath Haaretz is never absent from the thoughts of Mr. Weinronk and whether he has a wager or attends a Simcha or function, he always remembers the Fund, which hears from him frequently wherever he may happen to be.

UNION OF JEWISH WOMEN.

The next monthly meeting of the Union of Jewish Women of South Africa will take place at the Jewish Guild Hall on Monday, March 30, at 10 a.m.

The speaker on this occasion will be Mr. I. Goss, B.A., who will deliver an address on the "Origin of Christianity." All members and friends are cordially invited.

Johannesburg Women's Zionist League

Yeoville Branch.—The annual meeting and election of the branch took place recently at the residence of Mrs. Schlom. Mrs. A. M. Lipchitz and Mrs. D. Abraham resigned their posts respectively as chairman and treasurer at the end of 1935 owing to ill-health. Mrs. E. Pincus was elected chairman, Mrs. Chasan vice-chairman, Mrs. B. Holtz, hon. treasurer, Mrs. J. Furman, hon. secretary and Mrs. A. Sieff, secretary for Keren Hayesod work. The present committee also includes Mesdames R. Lipshitz, R. Blend, S. Sieff, Schlom, T. Sieff, B. Wittert, M. Wittert, Braude, E. Hurwitz, Pearlman, Freinkel, Ustiev, I. Fine, R. Horvitch, Shatz, E. Abrahams.

Houghton Branch.—The branch is holding a literary afternoon on April 1, at the residence of Mrs. H. L. Karnovsky, 39 St. Patrick's Road. Rabbi M. C. Weiler will speak on "The Dangers of the Second Exodus," and Mme. O. Ryss will render some songs. All who are interested are cordially welcome.

Presentations of "Tree Certificates" will be made to mothers of new babies in the district.

Bertrams-Judith Paarl Branch.—An interesting literary afternoon was held on the 12th inst., at the residence of Mrs. M. Frame. Mr. Abrahamson delivered an inspiring address on "Zionism, the Creed of Life," which was much appreciated by the large gathering. Mrs. Isaac Marks proposed a vote of thanks to the speaker and also to the hostess. Miss Evelyn Palker rendered some delightful musical items.

Parkview-Westcliff Branch.—A pleasant afternoon was spent at the residence of Mrs. Cassel on the 25th ult. The occasion was a farewell to Mrs. Epstein who was chairman of the branch during 1934. She and her husband have left on a short trip to Palestine. Mrs. Cartoon thanked Mrs. Epstein for her good work for the branch during the past year and presented her with a cigarette case, suitably inscribed, from the committee.

During the afternoon Miss Renee Cassel recited several pieces which were much enjoyed by the guests. Mrs. Cartoon also sang delightfully.

Mrs. Epstein thanked all present for their kind thought in giving her such a pleasant send-off and hoped when she returned to continue her work with the branch.

Yeoville Branch.—A literary afternoon was held recently at the residence of Mrs. Broude, Page Street, Yeoville. Dr. Shein gave an interesting lecture on the "Chasidic Movement" and Miss Edythe Sonnenberg recited two charming pieces. A presentation consisting of a certificate of five trees was presented to Mrs. A. M. Lipschitz who had been chairman of the branch for fifteen years, and had devoted so much time and work to the branch.

The presentation was made by Mrs. S. Pincus, the new chairman. Mrs. Holtz read current news items, and Mrs. R. Horvitz proposed the vote of thanks to the lecturer, artist and the hostess.

A Purim Ball

The Pretoria Jewish Women's Benevolent Association are organising a Purim Ball to be held in the new City Hall on Wednesday, March 25, from 9 p.m. to 1 a.m. The Revellers' Personal Orchestra will be in attendance.

CICELY COURTNEIDGE AT THE METRO

"The Perfect Gentleman"—the Metro theatre's attraction from to-day—is Cicely Courtneidge's first American picture. It is an ideal comedy for this brilliant artiste's remarkable talent as a comedienne, and she is well supported by Frank Morgan as her leading man and an all-English cast including Heather Angel, Herbert Mundin, Una O'Connor, Henry Stephenson and Forrester Harvey. The supporting programme includes interesting news reels, attractive short features and the playing of the Wur-litzer by Mr. Archie Parkhouse.