

Fine Address on Nahum Sokolow

Advocate B. L. Rubik Lectures in Johannesburg

IN spite of the severe cold weather there was a good audience at the H.O.D. Hall on Sunday evening last, when Adv. B. L. Rubik, of Capetown, delivered an address on "Nahum Sokolow: His Life and Work."

Mr. J. Daleski, a member of the Executive of the S.A. Zionist Federation, presided.

The lecture was delivered in eloquent Yiddish. The speaker proved himself to be an orator of rare ability and his address was listened to by his audience in rapt attention.

In the course of his address, Mr. Rubik said that Sokolow had no special following in the same way as Achad Ha'am had. The whole of the Jewish people were Sokolow's pupils. He was in a remarkable degree a combination of the two worlds of thought as typified by Herzl and Achad Ha'am. The chief life-work of Sokolow had been his editorship of the "Hazeferah" and his leadership of the Jewish people. One could not over-estimate the importance of the influence of the "Hazeferah." It had brought light and life to the Ghetto, and ultimately helped to break down its walls. The paper had also brought Western Europe to the doors of Eastern European Jewry.

Although Sokolow had not been a Zionist before Herzl, yet in his Europeanisation of the Ghetto, he prepared the way, and but for his preparatory labours Herzl's message might not have evoked its subsequent response. In those days, he had already become the legend which Jews wove around those whom they love. His literary gifts were remarkable, but the pleasure his readers gained was not only from his intellectual contributions, but in his essential Jewish spirit.

It was at this stage in Sokolow's life that the modern Zionist movement was commenced. Although not originally a Zionist, he attended the first Zionist Congress. He then became a real *Bal Tshuva*, and was soon wrapped up in the movement. On Herzl's death he was elected general secretary of the organisation and later founded the Hebrew journal "Haolam." He was always too broad in his Zionist ideals to become identified with any definite party in Zionism.

Sokolow was largely responsible for the synthesis between cultural and political Zionism. He assisted considerably in the victory of practical Zionism over the others



Mr. B. L. Rubik

who looked only for results through political activity. He it was who emphasised the fact that Zionism was not only aiming to give a new life to the Jews in Eretz Israel, but that it was a movement for the redemption of Jewry as a whole.

Sokolow was blessed with the spirit of youth throughout his long life and his optimism of spirit is perhaps the greatest debt which Jewry owes to him.

The lecturer then went on to explain that Sokolow had been saved by fate from the tragedy of a good many of our leaders who remained with a torn soul and broken heart in the process of going over from the Beth Hamedrash to the Haskalah and from the Haskalah to National Judaism, and Salamandra-like had to be born afresh from their ashes. Sokolow possessed an epic tranquillity of mind and an inward harmony which is indispensable for the preservation of peace and happiness.

In his Republic, Plato enthroned Kings who were philosophers. In Sokolow, the Jewish people had a philosopher who, on account of his wise leadership, became almost a king and certainly a great Prince in Israel.

A Hebrew Address.

On Wednesday evening, Adv. B. L. Rubik delivered an eloquent Hebrew address, under the auspices of the Histadruth Ivrit, on the subject of "Dr. Shmarya Levin" on the occasion of the anniversary of the death of the great Zionist leader.

Local Hebrew Writers Meet Professor Brodetsky

ON Sunday afternoon, the 24th ult., an interesting function took place at the Carlton Hotel, at which local Hebrew writers had an opportunity of meeting Professor Brodetsky.

Mr. J. Rubik (Editor of the *Barkai*) presided. Addresses were delivered by Rabbi I. M. Gervis; Rev. B. D. Glass; Messrs. I. J. Hersch; M. Ginsburg; Dr. S. Mallinick and Mr. A. Smith (Chairman of the S.A. Mizrahi).

In the course of an eloquent Hebrew address, Professor Brodetsky said it was a pleasure for him to meet Hebrew speakers and writers. He also added that he was pleased that a Hebrew journal was being published in this country.

"Without a Hebrew language a Zionist movement cannot exist, and this is the truth which cannot be denied," he declared. "I wish to add that there is a Hebrew language in existence as well as a Hebrew movement. Our language was never dead. Through the youth in Palestine it has today become an important factor in Zionism."

Professor Brodetsky concluded by wishing every success to Hebrew development in this country. Adv. B. L. Rubik of Cape Town proposed a vote of thanks to Professor Brodetsky.

Jewish Reform Congregation

Dr. Deborah Katzen and Dr. J. Coplans will address the Sisterhood of the Johannesburg Jewish Reform Congregation on Wednesday, 17th June, at 8 p.m. at the Langham Hotel, on "The Arabs versus Jews in Palestine." The public is welcome to attend.

Benoni

The H.O.D. (Sir Harry Graumann Lodge No. 4) of Benoni, will celebrate its twenty-fifth anniversary on June 10, at the Hebrew Hall. The celebration will take the form of a Grand Jubilee Ball. Full particulars may be had from the Secretary, Mr. Hyman Ostrofsky (Phone Benoni 688).

Zionist-Revisionists

A meeting of Zionist-Revisionists of the Johannesburg and Reef will be held at the H.O.D. Hall, on Sunday, June 7, at 3 p.m.

The purpose of the meeting is to reorganise Revisionist work throughout South Africa.

Union of Hebrew Teachers

On Monday, the 8th inst., a conference of Hebrew Teachers of Johannesburg and the Reef will take place in the Hebrew High School, Wolmarans Street, at 10 a.m. Important questions will be discussed. All teachers are invited and no special invitations will be sent.

Hatikvah

A new edition of the Jewish National Anthem has just been received by the South African Zionist Federation. The music has been arranged for voice, tonic solfa, violin and piano. Printed on a good quality paper, with all the verses of Hatikvah provided in both Hebrew and English, and with the Hebrew transliterated in English for the benefit of those who cannot read Hebrew, this publication should be in the hands of every Jew and Jewess. Obtainable from the South African Zionist Federation, Johannesburg. Price 1s., post free.

'THE UNGUARDED HOUR' AT THE METRO.

Commencing from to-day "The Unguarded Hour" is the feature film at the Metro theatre. It is an exciting romance, telling of a husband and wife who each experience "one unguarded hour." Taking the part of the husband, who is a brilliant young lawyer, is Franchot Tone and playing opposite him is lovely Loretta Young. Others in the talented cast include Roland Young and Lewis Stone, and the picture is well up to the standard of the Metro Goldwyn Mayer Company's films.

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