

A FEW WORDS TO THE EDUCATION CONFERENCE

(Concluded from previous page)

writing letters to communities in the best English could achieve very little practical results. It is only now, as your correspondent remarks, that a re-organisation is about to take place and the Board in Johannesburg realise that the Shochet-Teacher must be encouraged and assisted personally instead of as hitherto submitting reports to his committee.

Deceiving Themselves.

BUT if the Board imagines that with the appointment of a Director, holding the best European diplomas, they will ring order out of chaos, they are only deceiving themselves and the public. It cannot be done unless this Director has the assistance of at least three inspectors under him, who travel about and hold lectures for the adults and entirely dissociate themselves from finance.

By so doing reports from the inspectors will be worth reading and acting upon; communities will feel that the inspector in giving guidance is not actuated by any monetary consideration obtained from their community towards the funds of the Board.

Again, it should be realised that members of the Board of Jewish Education should also be possessed of some Hebrew knowledge and not be like the member of a Talmud Torah Committee who, when a teacher was speaking of "Chumosh with Rashi," naively enquired, "who is that woman Rashi!"

It is also imperative that the constitution of the Board should be amended to allow for statutory members of the various national and religious institutions. Thus the Zionists and Mizrachi, the Agudists and Rabbonim and the teachers should all have a representative on the Board, for whatever differences of opinion may exist between the various organisations there can be no quibbling about the urgent necessity for more and better Hebrew Education.

If all these institutions were to have representation on the Board, it would do away with the constant destructive criticism one hears levelled against the Board. By all means let everyone come in and realise the immense odds against which the Board will have to fight its way to success.

De-Centralization Needed.

FINALLY, if the Board of Jewish Education wishes to do constructive work it must decentralise. For that it will be necessary that there should be created in three of the most important centres of South Africa committees, each of which should have an Inspector of Schools. A Director should be at the head of all the Inspectors and by a system of consultations be-

tween the Director and Inspectors, uniformity of methods could be attained.

Let no one imagine that Education can be treated in any other way than by personal visits made frequently to the individual schools. Office work and the writing of letters may do some good, but it is the experience of everyone engaged in communal work that nothing can compare with the results achieved by personal contact with the teachers and committees of Institutions. It is more than certain that the Cape would join under such a scheme, for already the Cape has educated public opinion to such a degree that the Cape Board was empowered to appoint an Inspector (not a Director), who is doing excellent work both in Hebrew schools and in educational work amongst the adults.

As for finance, which is after all the crux of the matter, it must be insisted that a campaign should be held once every three years and that all the communal forces and especially Zionists must assist. Hitherto it is unpleasant to state that official Zionism has only given lip service to the cause of Jewish Education. With Partition looming large on the horizon, it becomes apparent that there will be a Galuth for many many years, and it is imperative that Zionists should recognise that the only connecting link between the two Jewries—the one in Eretz Israel and the other in South Africa—should be strengthened by having a common bond in our language and our literature.

If members attending the Conference bear this in mind, no sacrifice could be too great to make this Conference a signal success and a landmark in the history of South African Jewry.

Germiston Women's Zionist League

A most successful concert was organised by the Germiston Women's Zionist League in the supper room of the local Town Hall on Sunday evening, the 12th ult. Over 400 people attended and thoroughly enjoyed the attractive programme of the concert. The outstanding performance was by the well-known Jewish artist, Sarah Sylvia, who sang a number of Jewish folk songs and gave a few sketches. In addition every one of the items which followed proved a great attraction: Piano and violin solos by Miss Aremband and Master Aremband; dancing items by the pupils of Miss Irene McGillivray; recitations by Miss Lily Rubin; Charlie McCrow's banjoliens who played Jewish music.

Mr. Hareven acted as M.C. and proposed a vote of thanks to the artists and to the chairlady, Mrs. G. Barris, and her committee for the excellent entertainment which realised the sum of £36 for the Jewish National Fund.

After the performance, Mr. and Mrs. A. Senior entertained the artists and committee to tea at their residence.

Pretoria Women's Zionist League

The monthly "At Home" of the Pretoria Women's Zionist League was held on Thursday, the 23rd ult. at the Memorial Hall, Beatrix Street. The meeting was presided over by Mrs. Sylvia Katzen (in the unavoidable absence of the chairlady, Mrs. J. Janower).

Dr. Deborah Katzen spoke on "Bal-four—the Second Cyrus." Dr. Katzen showed a deep understanding and wide knowledge of the history of our people. After the lecture Mrs. E. Rostovsky delighted the audience with her fine singing.

Three certificates for newly-born babies were presented by the chairlady, and Mrs. W. Ravid proposed a vote of thanks to the lecturer for her address, and Mrs. E. Rostovsky for her singing, and also to Dr. Bella Shawsin for her accompaniment.

The hostesses for the afternoon were Mesdames N. L. Rom, H. Schwartz, Seligson, Davis and Miller.

THE FUNCTION OF YOUTH

(Concluded from page 14)

But that movement must be supported by a wide educational activity, at least on the scale which it has already achieved in Europe. Literature, summer schools, travelling lectures, must be provided. The gap in the education of the English youth which the National Fund has been unable to fill because its resources were absorbed largely in Continental Europe, can be bridged by the greater capacity of the combined Centre of the Zionist Organisation and both its Funds.

It is an encouraging sign that precisely at a moment of acute political crisis, organised Zionist youth has turned its attention to the spiritual and permanent values of our movement. For over and above all else the meaning of Zionism is that Israel will triumph whatever sacrifices the transitory stages of its history may require of it.

LANOAR SERIES

The Story of Modern Jewish Pioneering

What constitutes one of the most stirring records of modern Jewish pioneering in Eretz Israel is contained in the "Lanoar" series of booklets published by the Keren Kayemeth. Three of the booklets in the series are now available in English—"Dagania" (the story of the first kvutzah) by Joseph Baratz, "Hadera" (one of the earliest moshavoth) by Moshe Smilansky, and "Nahalal" (the first moshav ovdim) by Samuel Dayan. The writers in each case were among the pioneer-founders of the settlement whose story they so vividly tell.

The booklets are priced at 1s. per copy, post free, and are obtainable from the Propaganda Committee of the S.A. Zionist Federation, P.O. Box 18, Johannesburg.

PLAZA THEATRE ATTRACTION.

The attraction at the Plaza Theatre for this week is a brilliant comedy entitled "Keep Your Seats Please." The stars in this delightful film are George Formby and Florence Desmond and they are supported by a good cast. The first half of the programme is interesting and entertaining.

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"THE EMPEROR'S CANDLESTICKS"

Baroness Orczy's famous "The Emperor's Candlesticks" has been brought to the screen by Goldwyn-Mayer, and is the latest attraction at the Metro Theatre this week. The great stars of "Ziegfeld," Powell and Luise Rainer, are together in this intriguing production which tells the story of a diamond in St. Petersburg. The supporting cast includes such well-known names as Robert Young, Maureen O'Hara, Frank Morgan and Stephenson. The first half of the programme is enhanced by Dorrick, who plays so delightfully in Metro Wurlitzer.

CUTHBERT'S FOR BEDROOM SLIPPERS