

## AN ENGLISH-SPEAKING MINISTER FOR CHEVRA KADISHA?

### Important Communal Matters Discussed at Annual Meeting in Johannesburg

**T**HE proposal to appoint an English-speaking Minister and the suggestion that a local Jewish hostel be established were among the matters discussed at the 47th annual meeting of the Jewish Helping Hand and Burial Society of Johannesburg and Suburbs, which took place on Sunday morning last at the Hebrew High School. Mr. M. Reuvid presided.

**A**T the outset, generous reference was made to the labours of the late Mr. Max Rubinstein, who had been president and vice-president, and who had always devoted himself so loyally to the welfare of the organisation.

In moving the adoption of the annual report and balance sheet, the chairman said that although the society was at the moment in a flourishing condition, he regretted the small attendance at the meeting. He felt that more personal interest should be shown in the affairs of the association. At the same time he praised the local Jewish public for their munificence.

#### New Jewish Cemetery.

Mr. S. B. Friede, in seconding the motion, declared that it was time the society had a large surplus on hand. They ought to be careful, however, how they distributed their funds. Particularly they needed much money in connection with the lay-out of the new Jewish cemetery at Westpark.

Regarding vocational training of the local Jewish youth, he was glad that the matter had gone a step forward and the Chevra Kadisha was, in this respect, working in co-operation with the S.A. Jewish Board of Deputies and the local Ort-Oze.

A serious problem facing them was the finding of permanent livelihoods for middle-aged folk who were formally small shopkeepers and tradesmen.

#### A Jewish Hostel.

Rabbi I. Kossowsky referred to the visiting of the Johannesburg Hospital by their ministers. He suggested that the Chevra Kadisha should engage a man especially for this purpose to give daily comfort to the Jewish patients.

The speaker suggested that the society should take the lead in calling together a conference of other local communal bodies

to discuss the establishment of a Jewish hostel for school children coming from the countryside. Today numbers of their children went to non-Jewish boarding schools, where they were being reared in an alien atmosphere.

#### A New Minister.

Mr. Louis Spitz, on behalf of the United Hebrew Congregation, said they had on an average of 70 Jewish patients daily at the General Hospital. It was impossible for the mini-

sters of his congregation and a few others, to visit all the Jewish sick. It was time that certain other rabbis and cantors aided in this particular task.

Finally, he pleaded that the Chevra Kadisha should in the near future engage an English-speaking burial minister in view of changed circumstances due to the growing-up of the younger generation.

Opposing the idea that a minister be engaged to conduct the burial service in English, Councillor H. Kroomer declared that they should be satisfied with the arrangements at present prevailing at the cemetery.

Mr. Kroomer was followed by Messrs. I. J. Hersch, M. Wolpert and H. Schlapobersky, who were unfavourable towards Mr. Spitz's suggestion, whilst Mr. H. Baranov supported the latter.

Replying to an attack made on "Chazonim," one of the speakers, Cantor B. Chagy, said that the "Chazonim" were at all times prepared to help in the sacred work of the Chevra Kadisha, and that they were doing their share in-so-far as hospital visitation was concerned. He, too, believed that there was no occasion to appoint an English-speaking burial minister.

The annual report was unanimously carried.

It was then agreed that Mr. Spitz's suggestion for the appointment of a minister should be discussed at a special general meeting of the society to be held in the near future (provided the Chevra Kadisha received a requisition to that effect).

The following were then elected to the Executive Committee for the ensuing year of office: Messrs. M. Reuvid, president; S. Kessel, vice-president; M. Fox, hon. life vice-president; S. B. Friede, treasurer; and A. W. Katzen, hon. secretary.

The meeting decided not to elect a second vice-president this year. This was done to honour the memory of the late Mr. Max Rubinstein.

The following were chosen as the governing committee: Messrs. A. L. Beinashowitz, H. Daniels, J. Ben, T. Fleiser, D. I. Fram, S. Finger, H. Hersov, H. Kroomer, M. Kavnat, and H. Schlapobersky. The "Baalei Messakim" were re-elected with the addition of Mr. M. Miller.

#### Chug Ivri

The Chanukah concert arranged by the Hebrew Speaking Circle on the 1st inst., drew a large audience despite the inclement weather. Chief Cantor Steinberg kindled the Chanukah lights and rendered several songs. He was accompanied by Professor Drutman, who also played a number of piano solos.

Rabbi I. M. Gervis spoke on the spiritual and national revolution brought about by the Maccabean uprising. Mr. Blumenthal presided.

#### Success of Guild "Review"

The Jewish Guild Musical Art Section's production, "Cotton Club Revue," is still drawing crowds. There was another packed house on Sunday last; many were turned away. This show which is produced by Louis Sachs has a cast of over 60, Alec Benjamin's special band, an accordion band, and two delightful troupes of dancers, trained by Miss Gerty Schneider.

The programme abounds in spirited singing, dancing, rollicking (Concluded at foot of next column).

#### ZIONIST YOUTH ACTIVITIES

The Executive's Tennis League.—The first rounds of the tennis league were played off during the past month. Ten teams entered. Competition between the leading teams has been close. Central Districts have won all three matches in which they played, whilst Judiths Paarl shows promise with three wins in four matches. Germiston have taken two matches out of three.

League matches will carry on to March of next year when a knock-out competition will be staged. Trophies for these two competitions have been kindly presented by Mr. D. Dunsky and Mr. Henry Kirsch.

An all-day mixed doubles tennis tournament will be held on Dingaan's Day, at Rosedale.

Springs Zionist Youth Society.—A dance which proved both a social and financial success was held on the 21st ult. Proceeds were towards the society's J.N.F. youth campaign pledge. On the 13th inst., an inaugural meeting of the study group will be held. The first lecture of this group will be delivered on the 21st inst. A society mass meeting is being arranged for the 14th inst.

Benoni Zionist Youth Society.—On the 30th ult., a successful "Chanukah Evening" was held at the society's club room. After the kindling of the lights by Rev. Klaff, of Boksburg, a comprehensive paper on the significance of Chanukah was read by Mr. Slick Silberman, and this was followed by an appropriate address by Mr. H. Phillips on the "Modern Maccabees." After Chanukah "latkes" had been served, all present joined in the singing of Hebrew songs, ably conducted by Rev. Klaff.

Coming events include a party at Miss B. Fine's residence on the 11th inst.; the second cultural meeting on the 14th inst., and an all-day tennis tournament at the Benoni High School courts on the 19th inst., for which entries must be in by the 12th of the month, as a large entry is anticipated.

Northern Districts Zionist Youth Society.—A fair attendance of members enjoyed a stirring "Chanukah Message" delivered by Mr. S. Hirschmann on Sunday, the 28th ult. The lecturer outlined the problems facing Jewish youth in South Africa and advocated a spirit of courage and confidence in the justice of the Zionist cause.

The previous week Mr. J. Daleski, a member of the Executive of the South African Zionist Federation, addressed the society on the Partition issue. The comprehensive and logical manner in which the speaker attacked Partition awoke a thorough response amongst the audience, most of whom firmly supported the speaker's attitude.

The lecture to have been given by Advocate G. Saron at the Berea Synagogue Hall on Sunday, the 12th inst., has been postponed until the end of January owing to the mass meeting organised by the S.A. Zionist Federation taking place the same evening at the Coronation Hall.

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