

## S.A. Jewish Board of Deputies.

(CAPE COMMITTEE).

During the last week and over the weekend the Cape Committee of the Board has been extremely busy in carrying out the policy of informing the Jewish public of its work.

At Stellenbosch, a well-attended meeting of the Jewish community took place in the Talmud Torah Hall on Thursday night, 13th inst., under the Chairmanship of Mr. J. Shulman. Mr. M. Alexander, K.C., M.P., Mr. G. Saron, General Secretary of the Board, and Mr. J. Dwolatzky dealt in detail with the work of combating anti-Semitism and the wider issues at stake as a result of the war. After questions had been asked and answered, Mr. Sam Sacks proposed a vote of thanks to the speakers and pledged the support of the Stellenbosch community to the Board; Mr. H. Gelb seconded.

On Sunday, Messrs. G. Saron, J. Philips and J. Dwolatzky journeyed to Robertson and Worcester. At Robertson Rev. S. J. Josefowitz presided over a well attended meeting of residents and of visitors from Montague and Bonnievale. Mr. L. Goldberg, Vice-Chairmen of the Robertson Hebrew Congregation, proposed a vote of thanks and stressed the appreciation of the Board's work, and Mr. I. Groll identified himself with these sentiments.

At Worcester that evening the same speakers addressed a less well attended meeting of the community in the Communal Hall, presided over by Mr. I. J. Sennett. They stressed that there was nothing incompatible between the fight for Jewish self-defence in South Africa and support for Zionism; and emphasized that there is no truth in the allegation made in certain quarters that the Board is anti-Zionist. Mr. E. Traub, in proposing the vote of thanks, suggested that the Cape Committee might very well consider holding meetings of Deputies in country towns occasionally.

On Monday night, 17th inst., a public meeting was held in the Muizenberg Talmud Torah Hall under the Chairmanship of Mr. B. P. Philips. Mr. M. Alexander, K.C., M.P., Mr. G. Saron, General Secretary of the Board, and Rabbi Kossowski, the Rav of the Federation of Synagogues in Johannesburg, addressed those present. Adv. M. Barnett proposed a vote of thanks to the speakers.

### CAPE JEWISH ORPHANAGE. MONTROSE AVENUE, ORANJEZICHT.

## INVITATION

This Sunday, 23rd inst.,

The Consecration of Endowed Beds and Memorial Plates donated since the last Consecration ceremony held on 28th July, 1940, will take place in the Orphanage Shul at 3.30 p.m.

The Service will be followed by a Barmitzvah Reception in the Dining Hall, for six lads who have been confirmed during this year.

All Orphanage friends are cordially invited to attend these functions.

E. H. KLOOT, Organising Secretary.

## Zionist Conversazione.

ADDRESS BY Mr. G. SARON.

The last fortnightly Conversazione of the season was held at the Zionist Hall on Tuesday night.

Mr. Leon Segal was in the chair.

Mr. G. Saron, general secretary of the S.A. Jewish Board of Deputies, gave an address on "A Zionist approach to Communal Problems." Jewry, he said, was facing tremendously difficult problems. We were living in a time of flux and it might be necessary to re-interpret some of the old conceptions. He found in certain Zionist circles a good deal of misunderstanding. The work the Board of Deputies was doing was a logical outcome of Zionism and Zionists could not take a hostile attitude towards it.

The whole Jewish world had been completely shaken by events in Germany. Many Jews had said that Germany had proved that emancipation was a myth and the only hope for Jewry lay in Palestine. This was an entirely wrong point of view and showed a defeatist mentality. The destruction of Jewish rights elsewhere did not strengthen but weaken the National Home. Palestine and the Galut had their respective places in Jewish life and it was important that the issue should be clarified. Jews must integrate themselves in the country in which they live and at the same time strengthen the National Home in Palestine. Responsible Zionists throughout the world to-day accepted this approach to the problem and did not agree that the destruction of German Jewry was the basis on which the Jewish future was to be built. Jewish rights in Palestine and in the Galut went hand in hand and this was clearly laid down in the Balfour Declaration. Zionist Congresses had always demanded equality of rights for Jews as men everywhere.

### Safeguarding Jewish Position.

Mr. Saron referred to Prof. Brodetsky's article, "Zionism versus Evacuation or Assimilation," which put the whole question in proper perspective. It was impossible to conceive of a Jewish National Home in a Nazi world. The pre-condition of the rights of nationhood was the recognition of the rights of the individual. The Board of Deputies was endeavouring to safeguard and strengthen the Jewish position in South Africa. This was a task in which all Zionists should be interested. At the last Zionist Conference in Bloemfontein it was accepted that the defence of Jewish rights was an integral part of Zionist work in South Africa. Two important principles underlay the work of the Board: the equality of rights of citizenship, and the right for Jews to be "different" in a society which should allow for differences. This was the basis of democracy. The Board had done a great deal in exposing the technique of Nazism in South Africa and in enlightening the public by facts and figures with regard to the true position of the Jews. It was difficult to say what the total effect was, but there were many signs that the work was achieving results.

The Board was often charged with being assimilationist in tendency. This was a misuse of language. The Board welcomed such a body as the Society of Jews and

Christians, for it had mobilised a large number of earnest and sincere Christians who realised there must be a common front against Nazism; there was ample evidence that the message was being transmitted to the general public and was being understood.

It was doubtful whether there could be any one single solution to the Jewish question. The Board of Deputies certainly did not offer any such solution. The work of the Board was to build bridges of understanding, and this was not unrelated to the work of Zionism. Some might feel that the Zionist viewpoint was not being adequately expressed by certain members of the Board; but the Board was a democratic institution and the personnel could be changed by election. Those who felt that there was something wrong with the Board should associate themselves more closely with its work. Only if the community as a whole was behind the work of the Board could it succeed in strengthening the Jewish position in South Africa.

Mr. J. Bobrov and Mr. B. L. Rubik took part in the discussion, to which Mr. Saron replied.

During the evening Mr. H. Rabinowitz and Mrs. S. Hirschmann rendered songs which were very much appreciated. Miss R. Rabinowitz accompanied and was presented with a certificate for ten trees in appreciation of her services as soloist and accompanist at the Conversaciones.

### KOWNO HEBREW FRIENDLY SOCIETY.

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## PUBLIC MEETING

to be addressed by

Rabbi Dr. E. W. KIRZNER, M.A.

and other prominent speakers  
will take place at the

ZIONIST HALL,  
Hope Street, Cape Town,

on

TUESDAY, 25th NOVEMBER,  
at 8.15 p.m.

Subject: Pictures from Jewish Life in Kowno  
and other Baltic Centres.

ADMISSION FREE. ALL WELCOME  
In the Chair: E. Mankowitz, Esq.

## Literary Assistant Wanted

Male or Female.

A well-known Jewish weekly newspaper (English medium) published in Johannesburg, requires the services of a literary assistant with some knowledge of Zionism. Previous experience, whilst highly desirable, is not essential.

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