

## In and Around the Peninsula

### Dorshei Zion Association.

There was a very large gathering at the Zionist Hall on Tuesday night when a Succoth Celebration Evening (Simchath Beth Hashoevah) was held under the auspices of the Dorshei Zion Association.

Mr. J. Gitlin conducted the proceedings, and among those who contributed to the programme were Cantor M. Katzin, Cantor B. Rome, Cantor L. M. Goldwasser, Dr. A. Birnbaum, Mr. B. Padowich, Mr. H. Konwiser, Mr. I. Sacher, Miss R. Reznick and Master Kugel.

Mr. Gitlin announced that the Dorshei Zion Association had, during the year, inscribed in the Golden Book the names of Dr. and Mrs. A. Birnbaum, Mr. and Mrs. M. Zuckerman, Mr. J. Zuckerman and Mr. M. H. Goldschmidt. He paid a tribute to Mr. M. Zuckerman, one of the founders of the Dorshei Zion Association, who was unable to be present, and presented Mrs. Zuckerman with the certificate. Mr. B. L. Rubik also spoke in glowing terms of Mr. Zuckerman's devotion to the Zionist cause. Mrs. Zuckerman thanked the Dorshei Zion Association for their fine gesture, which was deeply appreciated.

Mr. J. Caspi, Chairman of the Haifa Chamber of Commerce, who was welcomed by Mr. Gitlin, gave a talk in Yiddish on the celebration of Succoth and Simchath Beth Hashoevah in Palestine. He gave a colourful description of "Aliyat Haregel," the procession to the Kotel Maaravi in Jerusalem during the festival, and expressed the hope that those present and other South African Jews would be able to participate in this traditional ceremony.

There was community singing, and a very pleasant evening was spent by all present.

### Broth Zion Association.

The Eleventh Branch were responsible for the organisation of a most successful cabaret-ball at the Barbizon-Plaza Hotel on Monday evening, October 7th. This was a great financial and social success and thoroughly enjoyed by the three hundred odd people present.

During the evening dancing interludes were contributed by Dorothy Dymond and members of her studio, and Doreen Marcus of the Freda Fernandez school presented an attractive tap number. Miss Diana Berrill sang two Russian numbers which were enthusiastically received.

The outstanding success of the evening was a tribute to the hard work and perfect organisation of Mrs. Dolly Goodman and Mrs. Nan Hessen, who were responsible for the smooth working of this outstanding function.

### Union of Jewish Women.

A very large number of women attended the joint meeting of the Union of Jewish Women and the Women's War Appeal Committee which was held at the Zionist Hall on Tuesday, 8th October. A very short agenda was presented by the Union. Mrs. R. Mowsovic was in the chair.

The Chairman reported that the quota of £3,000 for the Hebrew University Hostel had been completed and handed over to headquarters. Cape Town branch had been commended for being the first branch to do so.

A letter from the Mayoress was read enumerating various functions for Our Children's Day. It was announced that the annual concert for Orphanage residents will be held on Friday, 8th November, and an appeal was made to those present to buy the tickets which enable the children to attend and enjoy the concert in the City Hall.

The meeting was then taken over by the Women's War Appeal Committee of which Mrs. S. R. Sloman is chair-

man. (A report of Lt.-Col. Nadich's address was published last week.)

### Friends of Biro-Bidjan.

A highly successful function was recently held in the Minor Zionist Hall. The chairman, Mr. H. Turok, stated in his opening remarks that the news reaching here from Biro-Bidjan was most encouraging and that every effort should be made to hasten the upbuilding.

The principal speaker, Mr. P. Barski, stressed the importance of popularising the weekly publication "New Life," which is the official organ of the American Biro-Bidjan movement. "Our attitude to Biro-Bidjan," said Mr. Barski, "is not sentimental but strictly practical inasmuch as the concentration of Jews on that territory will create the conditions of a healthy national culture in the nation's mother tongue. A great humanitarian campaign has been launched by the American Committee to settle 35,000 Jewish war orphans in Biro-Bidjan. Under the guidance of Prof. Albert Einstein, its honorary president, the committee has already transported to, and provided homes for, in Biro-Bidjan, nearly 4,000 of these innocent victims of Nazism. We in South Africa cannot shirk responsibility in this connection. In the near future the Friends of Biro-Bidjan will inaugurate a country-wide campaign to raise a fund for the settlement of Jewish war orphans in Biro-Bidjan."

Musical items were ably rendered by Miss Rachel Rabinowitz (piano), Mrs. Cohen (violin) and Mr. Krupenik (songs). Mr. Rubinstein contributed recitations in Yiddish. Mrs. R. Turok recited some of her own verses which were enthusiastically received by the large audience.

### Vredehoek Congregation and Ladies' Guild.

On Monday evening, 14th inst., the Vredehoek Congregation (Beth Hamedrash Hachodosh) in conjunction with its Ladies' Guild celebrated a Simchath Beth Hashoevah at the Talmud Torah Hall which was filled to capacity with members and guests from sister congregations who sat down to tastefully decorated tables laden with all the traditional yiddishe maacholim and mashke.

Mr. J. Talberg, the President of the Vredehoek Congregation, welcomed the large gathering and expressed his great pleasure that at last the opportunity had arisen when he could welcome Dr. A. T. Shrock amongst them, an opportunity too long delayed. Mr. Talberg voiced the regret of everyone at the absence of Rabbi M. Ch. Mirvish, due to indisposition, and wished him a speedy and complete recovery.

The Chairlady of the Vredehoek Synagogue Ladies' Guild, Mrs. M. Marks, conveyed her pleasure at seeing so large a gathering and took the opportunity to give a brief outline of her Guild's work, whose proudest achievement was the Vredehoek Hebrew Kindergarten, which was proving outstandingly successful.

Rabbi Dr. A. T. Shrock, Minister to the Green and Sea Point Hebrew Congregation, said that it gave him great pleasure to be present; the presence of such a large gathering at a celebration which dated back to Temple times confirmed the many good reports he had received of the Vredehoek Congregation, whom he wished further success in their efforts for the cause of Judaism. He went on to give to a rapt audience an absorbingly interesting outline of the ancient observance of the Sacrifice of Libations in the days of the Temple in Jerusalem during the Festival of Tabernacles. This was celebrated in a carnival spirit of real joyousness aroused by spiritual emotions. Where spiritual joy exists there the Shechina is to be found, he added. In fact, it was said that "If one has

not participated in a Simchath Beth Hashoevah one has not experienced joy."

After Temple days the celebration was transferred to the Succah and though the custom had prevailed to this day it was but a shadow of the real thing and to-day this was applicable to everything else. Everything was but a semblance of the real thing and this was particularly true of Judaism in South Africa. We try to capture the spirit but it eludes us. "The Tabernacle that is falling" described Judaism in the Diaspora—a structure temporary and crumbling—and it behoved us to make more determined efforts to support the fabric of Judaism. In his moods of despair, the speaker went on, he felt that there was not much ahead of us in this country and that our only hope lay in Palestine where Judaism's real future was. In the same way that we were unable to recapture the spirit of a Simchath Beth Hashoeva so will we never recapture the real spirit of Judaism till Eretz Israel was once again ours and we obtained a new lease on life radiating from Palestine to all corners of the Diaspora, reinvigorating the structure of Judaism. He looked upon a function such as that night's merely as a sign of our determination to regain Eretz Israel. He hoped that we might soon be re-established in our own land and holding such celebrations in Eretz Israel.

Mr. M. Segal, the vice-chairman, moved a hearty vote of thanks to Dr. Shrock for his inspiring address and also thanked the ladies for their excellent work in arranging the evening and their co-operation generally. Rabbi O. Lifshitz and Councillor I. Frank also spoke.

Cantor A. Rudy feelingly rendered several moving Yiddish folk songs. During the interval there was community singing of Hebrew songs lustily led by members of the Synagogue Youth Oneg Shabat.

### Kenilworth Massadah Association.

A most successful meeting, held at the home of Mrs. A. Friedberg, Kenmain Gardens, on 10th October, took the form of a Living Newspaper. Contributions were of the highest literary standard and amusement value, and a most enjoyable evening was spent by all present.

## Sending of Yiddish Letters to the Continent.

The J.W.A. has received advice from the Continent that letters for Germany in Yiddish characters either do not pass the censors or there is an indefinite delay in passing them. It is therefore suggested that those who desire to communicate in the Yiddish language should write their letters in Latin characters, so that the censors can decipher it.

It is known that Yiddish letters written in Latin characters have reached their destination.

### DEATH.

DWOLATZKY, L. E., passed away at Senekal, O.F.S., October 4th. Deeply mourned by loving wife, sons Jack (formerly of Cape Town), Sidney, Jock, daughter, daughters-in-law and grandchildren.

## J.W.A. Suburban Functions Addressed by Col. Nadich.

A successful meeting was held in the Wynberg Communal Hall on Saturday, October 12th, attended by residents of Rondebosch, Claremont, Kenilworth, Wynberg and districts.

Rabbi Dr. E. W. Kirzner presented to Col. Nadich the Sefer Torah which had been subscribed for by the Claremont community for the use of European Jewry, and Col. Nadich, in accepting the Torah, stated that he was deeply moved as this gift would forge the closest link between the Jews of this country and the Jews of Europe. It showed that the Jews of South Africa were mindful not only of the material needs of their brethren but the needs of the spirit, as the Torah was the most precious possession of the Jews.

Continuing with his moving address, Col. Nadich appealed to those present for support for the J.W.A. Campaign and a gratifying response was made by those present. Mr. H. Dubow was in the chair.

The following evening Col. Nadich addressed a meeting of the residents of the Northern Districts in the Communal Hall, Parow. The hall was packed to the doors and Dr. Karpas, who was in the chair, expressed his deep gratification at the large number who had answered the emergency call and would not fail in this time of need. There was an unprecedented response to Col. Nadich's appeal for funds.

In addition to these larger functions a series of drawing-room meetings was arranged by members of the Cape Committee, which were addressed by Col. Nadich, and the response in each case to his appeal for funds was extremely gratifying.

Col. Nadich left Cape Town on the 14th instant to visit Worcester, George and Oudtshoorn.

## Fiftieth Birthday of Prof. L. A. Mayer.

In honour of the fiftieth birthday of Professor L. A. Mayer, Professor of Art and Archaeology of the Near East and head of the School of Oriental Studies, the Jewish Palestine Exploration Society has dedicated to him its last Bulletin (Vol. XII, 1946), which contains a 12-page bibliography, compiled by Uri Ben-Horin, of the books and essays written by Professor Mayer between 1917 and 1944.

### CONSECRATION.

GREENSTEIN.—The consecration of the Tombstone in memory of the late Mrs. Mary Greenstein will take place on Sunday, 20th October, at the Muizenberg Cemetery, at 11 a.m. Relatives and friends are kindly invited to attend.

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