

## Senator Brookes Addresses Sea Point Massadah.

### "ZIONISM, S. AFRICAN CITIZENSHIP AND DUAL LOYALTIES."

Senator Edgar Brookes, Chairman of the Parliamentary Pro-Palestine Committee, was the speaker at a meeting of the Sea Point Massadah Association on Tuesday, 6th May, at the Talmud Torah Hall, Sea Point. A representative gathering of Sea Point Jewry was present.

In a scholarly and informed address, entitled "Zionism, South African Citizenship and Dual Loyalties," Senator Brookes set out to prove that there need be no conflict between Zionist and civic allegiance. However, the problem does exist; for instance, it is not easy at present for a Jew in England to have both allegiances.

#### MOTIVE FORCE BEHIND ZIONISM.

Senator Brookes posed the question: what is the motive force behind Zionism? Is it religion? To find a refuge? Is it nationalism?—it is not quite like other nationalisms. The motive overriding all these motives is the desire to be like other men, to have a homeland, and not to be the perpetual exception and scapegoat. Above all, the desire to regain self-respect is the reason. Coupled with this there is the desire to find an outlet for the emotions, in an age when there is an abnormal tendency to repress the emotions.

#### JEWS IN S.A. PUBLIC LIFE.

Touching on the question of citizenship, Senator Brookes referred to the many Jews who were prominent in S.A. public life. He paid special tribute to Dr. Gluckman, the Minister of Health, for his efficiency and sincerity. He also paid tribute to Dr. Kark for his selfless work for the Health Centre with which he is connected. Many prominent Zionists, said the Senator, have given themselves unstintingly to public life in this country. A conflict of loyalties is therefore not inevitable. If he were asked whether such a conflict were possible, he would have to answer yes. He cited as an example the case of Prof. Laski today. One possible solution would be to choose one of two extremes—to be just a Zionist or just a Jewish citizen. However, there is another way out, and that is to find a synthesis of Zionism and citizenship, a higher loyalty which will count for more than either separately. The answer is human brotherhood. Senator Brookes said he drew this conclusion although it was not easy for full-blooded Jews to see eye to eye with Britain today. Yet the British tradition has been the tradition of resolving incompatible loyalties.

#### ESSENTIAL TO RETAIN HOPE.

Senator Brookes ended his address with an appeal to Jews to maintain their faith. It was essential to retain hope—not the facile optimism which would blind us to the fact that our cause is beset with difficulties, but the belief that there is a cause beyond all these. He could not believe, said the Senator, that humanity would betray the great venture in Palestine. He had faith in the future. "We should translate this faith into action by working to the utmost for the cause we have at heart. 'Just as Britain triumphed over 1940, so you will triumph over 1947,' he concluded.

Mrs. Sadie Levine, who presided, expressed appreciation of Senator Brookes' unflinching interest in the Zionist cause. Several questions were asked at the conclusion of the address, to which Senator Brookes replied.

Rabbi Dr. A. T. Shrock, proposing a vote of thanks to Senator Brookes, said that his address had been the work of a master. It was clear that we must accept both loyalties if confusion was not to follow. He thanked Senator Brookes for his message of hope, which was deeply appreciated.

## BOOKS

Saadya Gaon.—The Book of Doctrines and Beliefs. Abridged Edition translated from the Arabic with an introduction and notes by Alexander Altmann; Oxford, East and West Library.

Saadya, the tenth century thinker, who at the age of 36 was appointed Head of the Jewish Academy of Sura, was a man who knitted all strands of current thought into one system and gave us a complete statement of Jewish religious philosophy. He left an indelible impression on Jewish literature in all its branches.

His main work, the Book of Doctrines and Beliefs, was written to guide the Jews of his time, whose path was assailed by doubts and errors, along the right path.

This truly fundamental work has not hitherto been accessible to English readers. The translator, Alexander Altmann has been guided in the principle of selection by his main consideration to give the reader a faithful and well proportioned picture of the book as a whole. The volume is based on Landauer's Critical Edition of the Arabic original (1889) and is accompanied by explanatory notes.

Philo.— Selections edited by Hans Lewy. Oxford, East and West Library.

This anthology of the works of Philo of Alexandria, the Hellenistic Jewish philosopher, to whom we owe the greatest extant monument of the fusion of Greek and Jewish thought, consists of passages from his writings in which the speculative and ethical concepts are brought out most clearly. The volume will be welcomed by those wishing to become acquainted with a Jewish genius whose philosophical and exegetical writings sprang from the need felt keenly in the enlightened Jewish communities, of reconciling the Pentateuch with current philosophical ideas and who has influenced Jewish and Christian thinkers alike. An introduction by the Editor, Hans Lewy, gives an appraisal of the work and philosophy of Philo.

The Waging of Peace, by Samuel Fielding, Executive Member of U.N.A., Johannesburg Branch; (Distributed by Central News Agency Ltd.)

In this thought-provoking little book, the author sets out to show that the conception of the United Nations Charter is mankind's only hope for the future peace of the world, and that the Charter must become the World Constitution, not merely a scrap of paper. This can only be done by revolutionising the United Nations Organisation and giving it the means by which the full intent of the Charter can be carried out. The first job of the United Nations Organisation should be, in the opinion of the author, to adopt a motto, which by its implication, is an inspiration in itself and he suggests: "The world is my country; Humanity my People." He believes that if the idea of a super World State is an impracticable ideal of the moment or even of the near future, that does not mean to say that it is an utter impossibility and he proceeds to give the reasons. The sovereign state ideal, he says, is obsolete if for no other reason than that it is incapable of saving its own people against aggression without the help of other states.

In a chapter on "The Jewish Problem," the author says: "The sacrifices

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## Children's Village— Cyprus.

A message from Youth Aliyah Head Office in Jerusalem states that there are approximately 1,800 boys and girls in the "Children's Village" in Cyprus. Of these, 160 arrived on the boat "Moledet," and at least 600 on the "Theodor Herzl."

Youth Aliyah Headquarters has been flooded with telegrams from people working in the Children's Village, asking for more teachers, books and equipment. Six teachers left Palestine for Cyprus recently, and large quantities of books and clothing have already been despatched. Every effort is being made to meet the requirements.

#### Continued from Second Column.

and efforts of the Jews in the war entitled Jewry to admission into the United Nations Organisation. To be denied admission is an affront and an injustice." As regards Zionism, he believes that the political process is doomed to failure because it is imbued with conflict. The spiritual process, on the other hand, is more powerful ultimately, because it is the only means which can unite and inspire Jewry and touch the conscience of Christianity and of humanity.

"The Leaders of World Jewry", suggests the author, "whatever be their political opinions, should meet in conference again and again if necessary, in order once and for all to formulate a Charter of Zionism." The preamble to this proposed Charter the author himself has written, basing it on the preamble of the Charter of the United Nations Organisation.

With the lofty aims outlined in this preamble no one can quarrel. The author gives little indication, however, as to how they can be carried out in practice.

## Music Festival at Ein Gev.

Jerusalem.

The second annual Music Festival at Ein Gev settlement on the sea of Galilee ended on 12th April with a performance by the pianist, Stefan Askenaze.

The Festival lasted throughout the Passover week, and a concert was given every evening, attended by large crowds from Tiberias and the neighbouring settlements. The opening concert was given by Miss Pnina Salzman—her first appearance since her return to this country. Some of the best musicians in Palestine performed during the Festival week.

The Ein Gev Music Festival is to be an annual event.

#### BARMITZVAH.

HOFFMANN.—Leonard, elder son of Mr. and Mrs. B. W. Hoffmann, will read a Portion of the Law and Maftir at the Great Synagogue, Cape Town, on Saturday, 17th May, 1947. At Home Sunday, 18th May, 5 p.m. - 7 p.m., at Rainsor, Upper Orange Street, Cape Town. Relatives and friends are cordially invited. Kindly accept this as a personal invitation.

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