

## In and Around the Peninsula

### Bnoth Zion Association.

The monthly meeting was held in the Zionist Hall, Hope Street, on Monday afternoon, 19th May. The meeting unanimously passed resolutions dealing with the Youth Movement, Hebrew Education and the Holding of Wizo Conference Elections, which were to be submitted to the S.A. Women's Zionist Conference to be held in Cape Town in July.

A short play, "The Children Shall Enter," by Florette Arens-Schach, was produced by Mrs. Arens with the members of the Sea Point Wizo Group, who acted with sincerity and feeling.

After the tea interval Mrs. A. Lieberman (in the chair) extended a welcome to Rabbi Dr. H. Freedman, B.A., Ph.D., of Melbourne, Australia, who then addressed the meeting on "Zionism and Youth."

The speaker said that this was the first time in human history that youth had emerged as a separate entity in the community. This was probably due to the fact that the youth of our time grew up later than in previous years, thus between childhood and adulthood there was an intermediate period of adolescence and beyond. The outstanding characteristic of youth were their enthusiasm, the freshness, keenness and vigour which, if rightly used, could be of the greatest benefit to the community as a whole, and their spirit of iconoclasm, which was an outcome of their enthusiasm and led them from a sense of impatience with conventional and accepted standards to become revolutionary.

The greatest demand youth made on adults was the demand for sincerity. Adults have learned through experience to sacrifice their ideals for the sake of expediency. Youth is intolerant of this and it is healthier for the community as a whole if youth persists in refusing to accept its philosophy of expediency. Occasionally youth demanded guidance from the older members of the community, but they did not insist on that too seriously.

As a reciprocal right, adults could demand from youth their their enthusiasm and youthful illusions, also that they suspend their judgment while using their youthful years as a spiritual and mental training for the good of the community.

The effect of Zionism on youth may be measured in two ways—the effect it had on the youth who would proceed to Eretz Israel and those who would remain. To those who went to Palestine it was an opportunity to live a free life without having to justify their existence to the non-Jew as was the fate of all Jews living in Galuth. Every community had in itself its justification for existence, and where that was lacking it perished by natural law. But this right of existence was a natural right, and where the community felt conscious of a necessity to prove its right to other communities, an unhealthy state prevailed. Freedom to develop according to the natural bent of his community instead of the distorted way imposed on him by the Galuth, was the greatest benefit youth would derive from Eretz Israel.

To those of the youth who did not proceed to Aretz, association with Zionism would give them a source of legitimate pride in their existence, a sense of belonging, a natural pride in real creation achieved in Eretz Israel and an object for group work.

Youth played a tremendous part in the upbuilding of Eretz Israel by virtue of their physical strength, enthusiasm, keenness and vigorous outlook. The kibbutzim were manned exclusively by the youth and all young men and women in Palestine did a year's free service on a kibbutz before proceeding with their profession or trade. Although this was not compulsory by

law, the force of public opinion made it so and few wished to evade it.

Mrs. I. Abrahams thanked Rabbi Freedman on behalf of the Bnoth Zion Association for his thoughtful and eloquent address, also the Sea Point Wizo Group for their work in producing the charming little play, also the Rondebosch branch for the teas.

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A very pleasant cultural evening was spent by members of the Gardens branch at the residence of Mr. and Mrs. V. Friedman, Pearl View, Virginia Avenue.

Mr. J. Blesovsky, the guest speaker, gave an address in Yiddish on "Women's Activities in Jewish Life," which was very much appreciated by the members and visitors. The Hon. Life President, Mrs. Ch. Cohen, gave a short talk in Yiddish, which was most appropriate. Miss Lily Futeran rendered pianoforte soli. A vote of thanks was moved by Mrs. Goldberg, the Vice-Chairlady.

Mrs. Ch. Cohen thanked Mr. Blesovsky for his very interesting lecture.

### Cape Town Jewish Reform Congregation.

At the first meeting of the new Council of Temple Israel, the Cape Town Jewish Reform Congregation, held recently, the following were elected to the Executive Committee: Dr. H. Kramer, President; Mr. S. Roy, Vice-President; Mr. S. Josephson, Hon. Treasurer; Mr. Richard Myers, Hon. Secretary; Messrs. L. Frank, W. Rothkugel, Dr. E. Liberman and Mrs. S. Salamon, Sisterhood representative.

Mrs. D. Sherman entertained the newly elected members of the Sisterhood Committee and Executive to tea on Friday afternoon, 9th inst.

At a public examination held on Sunday morning, 11th inst., at the Temple Israel Community House, the following candidates were accepted for confirmation: Leonard Glass, son of Mr. and Mrs. E. Glass; Joan Maister, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Z. Maister; Manfred Salamon, son of Mr. and Mrs. S. Salamon.

The Confirmation exercises will be held on Sunday morning, 25th May, in conjunction with the regular Shevuot Service.

The Confirmants have been receiving instruction from Rabbi Sherman and have shown remarkable progress in their studies.

### Sea Point Massadah Association.

The first meeting of the Study Circle for the new session took place at the residence of Mr. and Mrs. H. Vogelman, Avenue La Croix, on Sunday, 11th May, when a new syllabus was commenced.

Mrs. Harriet Levin read extracts from reports of the Palestine debate at U.N.O., followed by an interesting discussion. Mr. S. M. Levin delivered a talk on the Keren Kayemeth, giving little-known facts about the problems encountered by the Fund as a result of the land restrictions. Mr. H. Vogelman presided.

The meetings of the Study Circle are held on fortnightly Sunday evenings, and the next one will take place at the residence of Mr. and Mrs. S. M. Levin, Green Point, on Sunday, 25th inst.

### Zionist Socialist Party.

A report on eight months' activity of the Western Province Zionist Socialist Council was given by Mr. E. Kluk, the Chairman, at a meeting held at the Zionist Hall on Sunday morning, 18th May, which was attended by representatives of all the branches of the Zionist Socialist Party in the Western Province. Mr. Kluk stated in his report that the establishment of the Council had had very good results in that it had co-ordi-

nated the activities of the branches. Contact, both personal and otherwise, had also been maintained with the Johannesburg head office. The Council is represented on the Board of Deputies and the W.P. Zionist Council and is sending a representative also to the Yiddish Cultural Conference shortly taking place in Johannesburg. A number of functions, among them an outstanding May Day function, had been arranged by the Council. The Chairman mentioned that far greater co-operation between the senior Party and the Youth had taken place than ever before.

A report on the activities of the Cape Town branch was given by Mr. I. Bitnun, the Chairman. The branch had held a number of successful functions and were now holding regular bi-monthly study circle meetings, which draw many members from all the branches.

Mr. G. Hoffmann, Chairman of the Paarl branch, Mr. K. Zabow, Chairman of the Sea Point branch, Mr. H. Green, Chairman of the Vredehoek branch, and Mr. H. Katz, of Woodstock, gave brief reports on the activities of their branches.

The Youth report was given by Mr. Barney Singer, the Youth Chairman, who said that, as a result of the success of the previous Youth camp held at Hout Bay, a Zionist Socialist Youth camp would be held again at the end of the year.

The Council will meet again on Wednesday, 28th May, to discuss important matters which were not dealt with at this meeting.

### Oranjezicht Massadah Association.

The Annual General Meeting was held at 7, Rosmead Avenue on Tuesday, 20th inst. Mr. R. Schneider presided and presented the report for the past session. After discussion Mr. E. Charloff, Chairman of the Central Massadah Executive, delivered an inspiring address, and films of Palestine were exhibited by Mr. I. Sachar.

The elections resulted as follows: Chairman: Mr. Julius Gelb; Vice-Chairman, Mr. G. Woolf; Treasurer, Miss E. Turest; Secretary, Mrs. C. Kassar; Committee members: Miss S. Jaffe, Messrs. R. Schneider and M. Sacks.

Sincere thanks are due to Mr. Charloff and to Mr. Sachar for their participation.

### Woodstock-Salt River Cultural Circle.

Mr. W. Rybko addressed a meeting in the Talmud Torah Hall, Woodstock, on Thursday, 8th May. Mr. A. Basker was in the chair. Mr. Rybko delivered an address in Yiddish on the political situation in which the Jewish people found themselves to-day. Mesdames Toekar, Seidel and Katzeff were the hostesses for the evening. Rev. Barron, seconded by Mr. Z. Galloon, proposed a vote of thanks.

### Rondebosch Talmud Torah.

With reference to the report published last week under the heading "New Congregation at Rondebosch," the "Jewish Chronicle" has been informed by the Cape Board of Jewish Education that Mr. M. Bobrov was mainly responsible for the establishment of the Rondebosch Talmud Torah and has been Chairman of the Committee since its inception.

### Mizrachi Organisation of S.A.—Cape Town Branch.

There was an exceptionally fine attendance at an "At Home" at the Balmoral Hotel, Muizenberg, on Sunday, 11th May. Mrs. E. Maissel, who was in the chair, in welcoming Rabbi Dr. H. Freedman on behalf of the Cape Peninsula Women's Mizrahi, drew attention to the fact that the Women's Organisation, which had proved so successful, had been started in Muizenberg. Advocate M. Barnett welcomed the Rabbi on behalf of the Muizenberg Hebrew Congregation, and Mr. B. Phillips welcomed him on behalf of Chevrah Gemorrah. The Rabbi then addressed the gathering in Yiddish and English. He inspired all

present by his brilliant address on the ideology and work of the Mizrahi. Mr. J. M. Weinreich moved a very sincere vote of thanks to the Rabbi.

A large gathering attended the quarterly combined meeting of members of the Cape Peninsula Women's Mizrahi which took place on Monday, 12th May, at the Zionist Hall. Mrs. P. Marks, the Vice-Chairlady of the Organisation, was in the chair. She brought greetings and an apology from Mrs. E. Maissel, who was unable to be present. A report on the activities of the movement was read by Mrs. N. Aronson, which was followed by reports read by Chairladies on accomplishments during the last three months. Letters and congratulations from the Omen Women's Mizrahi were also read, and announcements of forthcoming meetings were made. Mrs. E. W. Kirzner presented two certificates to Mrs. Ch. Cohen and Mrs. N. Kahn on the occasion of the birth of a great-granddaughter and granddaughter respectively. After tea Rabbi Dr. H. Freedman brought greetings from the women in Eretz Israel, telling of the outstanding work being done by them. The Mizrahi consists of two sections, the American Women's Mizrahi and Omen Women's Mizrahi, the latter is supported by the South African Women's Mizrahi. Their educational system can compare with the best in the world. There are kindergartens, hostels for young girls, and the Motza orphanage, and many institutions which the Mizrahi can be proud of. The Rabbi's talk was very much appreciated by all. Mrs. A. T. Shrock moved a hearty vote of thanks to the speaker.

A well-attended meeting of the Maitland Jewish community was held at the residence of Mr. and Mrs. B. Schwabsky, Spencer Street, on Tuesday, 13th May. Rev. S. Efron was in the chair and welcomed Rabbi Freedman. The Rabbi addressed the gathering and inspired all present with his clear and logical explanation of the ideology and the need for Mizrahi in Eretz Israel. The opportunity was taken to reform the women's branch of the Mizrahi at Maitland, and the following ladies were elected to the Committee: Mrs. S. Efron, Hon. President; Mrs. Berzack, sen., Chairlady; Mesdames Ostrin, Samson, Kark, Committee. Mesdames E. Maissel and P. Marks, Chairlady and Vice-Chairlady, respectively, of the Cape Peninsula Women's Mizrahi, also addressed those present. Rev. Kaufman moved a vote of thanks to the speakers and the host and hostess.

A large gathering of members and friends attended an "At Home" at the residence of Mr. and Mrs. N. Munitz on Wednesday, 14th May. Mr. I. Merkel, Chairman of the Woodstock Hebrew Congregation, presided and welcomed Rabbi Dr. H. Freedman and those present. Rabbi Freedman delivered a most inspiring and interesting address on the ideology of the Mizrahi and the practical work done in Eretz Israel. Mrs. E. Maissel, Chairlady of the Women's Mizrahi, addressed the gathering and appealed for support in the formation of a strong Men's Mizrahi movement. Rev. Baran delighted the audience with Hebrew melodies. Dr. A. J. Gans moved a hearty vote of thanks to the speakers and host and hostess. Many members were enrolled in the Mizrahi Organisation.

There was a well-attended gathering when Rabbi Dr. H. Freedman addressed members of the Muizenberg Massadah and Young Israel Society on Thursday, 15th May, at the residence of Mrs. S. Borok, Towers Road. Mr. Silber, Chairman of the Massadah, welcomed the Rabbi and Mr. M. Berzack, Chairman of the Men's Mizrahi Organisation. The Rabbi delivered an inspiring address on The Age of Youth, which interested all present. Many

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## South African Industries Fair.

The South African Industries Fair will be held in Durban from 8th September to 13th September, 1947.

The objects of the Fair are: To illustrate the growth of South African industry; to provide an opportunity for the general public to become acquainted with South African products as the first step in a "Buy South African Goods" Campaign; to provide an opportunity for South African and overseas buyers to view South African products with a view to encouraging sales.

The Fair will be open to the members of the Chambers of Industries of South Africa and constituent bodies.

Government Departments will also be asked to contribute items of interest connected with Industry.

The Durban City Council and the Durban Chamber of Commerce have been invited to co-operate in making the Fair week a Gala week, with illuminations and a "Buy South African Goods" shopping week.

The Fair will be organised by the Natal Chamber of Industries.

### HOTEL ACCOMMODATION.

Visitors are advised to make early arrangements for their accommodation. An Hotel Guide Book is obtainable from the Durban Publicity Bureau.

### Jerusalem.

More than 2,800 pairs of nylon stockings were among the articles which are alleged to have been smuggled from Transjordan into Palestine and were found in a motor car belonging to the Transjordan Royal Household when police searched it in a Jerusalem garage.

Other articles which were stated to have been found in the car were 277 cigarette-lighters and 350 cigarettes.

The driver of the car, together with two other occupants—not members of the Transjordan Royal Household—have been arrested.

## AND AROUND THE PENINSULA.

### Continued from Previous Page.

Questions were put and these were answered. At the conclusion of the meeting the Chairman, Mr. Silber, thanked the speaker and hostess.

Rabbi Dr. H. Freedman was the guest of the Cape Peninsula Women's Mizrahi at an Oneg Shabbat held at the Zionist Hall on Friday, 16th May. Rabbi E. W. Kirzner, who was in the chair, welcomed the large gathering. Rabbi Freedman, speaking in Yiddish, told of his experiences in Eretz Israel and how deeply he was impressed by the work of the Mizrahi Organisation and the Hapoel Hamizrachi kibbutzim, where the chaverim combined their love of Torah with the work of the land. Cantor Immerman led the gathering in community singing, and Rabbi M. Morgenstern thanked the speaker and all present for making the evening a memorable occasion.

## SHORTHAND - TYPISTE WANTED.

Vacancy occurs in the office of the Executive Committee of the S.A. Jewish Board of Deputies for an experienced and efficient shorthand typiste. Five-day week and top wages to suitable person. Replies to Secretary, Box 3330, Cape Town.

## שבת

Sabbath commences on 23rd May at 6.00 p.m. and ends on 24th May at 6.16 p.m. Portion of Law: Bamidbar, chaps. 1 to 4. Haftarah: Isaiah Mispar, Hosea, chp. 2.

## CORRESPONDENCE.

### Reform Synagogue Pamphlet.

The Editor, "S.A. Jewish Chronicle."

Sir, Since you have given space to a personal attack on me by a correspondent who cloaks his identity under the pseudonym of "Thinking Jew," may I ask you to publish my reply.

His efforts to teach me the doctrine of Reform Judaism are most touching, but I have always made it a practice to go for my information only to authoritative sources. His caricature of Reform Judaism is so far removed from the original as to be hardly recognisable. Reform Judaism has been established in this country for 13 years and in Cape Town for 3 years. Our services are open to the public and we make no secret of our programme or activities. Anyone is free to come and see for himself what a world of difference there is between Reform Judaism as it really is and that species of Reform which exists only in the imagination of your "Thinking Jew."

It is significant that he can find so little to criticise in our actual programme that he must invent a programme for us, compounded of stray utterances torn out of their historical context and attributed to gentlemen who have been dead many years, and hence in no position to defend themselves. This, he says, is Reform Judaism, and then he proceeds to demolish his own straw man with great gusto.

If he really wanted to know the Reform attitude towards circumcision, he could easily find the authoritative statement on page 8 of the Reform Rabbis Manual. It is the prayer which the father is required to recite, "In conformity with ancient and hallowed Jewish observances, I present my son for circumcision to bring him into the covenant of Abraham our father." This is the official Reform position in regard to circumcision.

Moreover, he tries to confuse the basic issues by indentifying Zionism with Orthodoxy, and branding Reform as Anti-Zionist. This same type of confused thinking appeared also in a recent leader published in your Youth Supplement. Don't these writers know that a large and important section of the Orthodox Rabbinate is opposed to the Zionist Movement? Have they never heard of the Agudas Israel, a super Orthodox organisation which considers Zionism as an Heretical movement? As a matter of fact Zionism is a political movement which cuts across every shade of religious belief and unbelief. If some Reform Jews are Anti-Zionist so are many Orthodox Jews, and among them are some of the leaders of the Orthodox United Synagogue in Great Britain. A recent Public Opinion Survey of American Jewry reveals that there is no significant difference between Reform and Orthodox Jews in regard to Zionism. Indeed it shows that the overwhelming majority of Reform Jews are Zionist, and what is more, the foremost leadership of the Zionist Organisation is drawn from their ranks. To mention only a few names such as Wise, Silver, Heller, Brickner and Bernstein should be sufficient.

Finally he takes exception to the fact that our leaflet on Reform Judaism carries the name and the address of our organisation. This is a strange argument from a gentleman who is ashamed to reveal his own identity. We are prepared to take full responsibility for our statements, and we are also prepared to welcome into our ranks all Jews who subscribe to the Reform viewpoint.

RICHARD MYERS.



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## UNITED HEBREW SCHOOLS

### ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Annual General Meeting of Members of the above Schools will be held on

SUNDAY, 1st JUNE,

in the

ROSE AND WOLF HARRIS HALL,

of the Talmud Torah, 103, Hope St., Cape Town, at 10 a.m. at which Members and Donors are cordially invited to be present.

GEO. LADEN, Secretary.

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