

Oudtshoorn Reunion.

The Coronation Hall, Johannesburg, was infused with the atmosphere of "Little Jerusalem" on Thursday night of last week, when close on 300 former Jewish residents of Oudtshoorn came together for a re-union. The function is the first of its kind to be held in Johannesburg and is probably unique in the history of the South African Jewish community.

Dr. I. J. Balkin presided, and among those present at the function were Madame Mabella Ott-Penetto, famous opera star; Sallie Kussel, Organiser-Secretary of the Union of Jewish Women, who flew to America this week to attend the International Conference of Women at Philadelphia; Mr. David Mierowsky, the first Director of the S.A. Board of Jewish Education, and himself a former Hebrew teacher at Oudtshoorn; Major "Simie" Weinstein, former Assistant Principal Jewish Chaplain to the U.D.F., and at present on the Zionist Federation Secretariat; and Mr. M. H. Mann, former Assistant Editor of the "Zionist Record," all of whom had contributed in earlier years to the growth and development of the one-time fabulous city of Feathers.

Apart from former "Oudtshoornites" living in Johannesburg and on the Reef, several parties came from Pretoria and Pietersburg. Four generations of Oudtshoorn Jews were represented at the gathering and there were moving scenes as old friends met each other again after an interval of many years.

Messages were read from the United Hebrew Institutions of Oudtshoorn and prominent Oudtshoornites who were unable to attend.

Dr. Balkin, in opening the function, called on the gathering to stand as a gesture of sympathy with Madame Ott-Penetto on the recent death of her father, Mr. G. B. Lewin, who had lived in Oudtshoorn for the greater part of his life.

Reminiscing on the old days in Oudtshoorn, Dr. Balkin recalled the yeoman work done by the old Jewish residents of this town for the upbuilding of the community in this country. He expressed the hope that the descendants of these pioneers would continue to serve the community and suggested that this could best be achieved by contributing to and working actively for the S.A. Jewish War Appeal.

Mr. Mann, who spoke in Yiddish, stressed the great role played by the Yiddish language in the life of Oudtshoorn Jewry. It was heard in the streets, in the shops and on the farms, and served as a unifying bond among the Jews of the town. For this reason, he said, former Oudtshoornites welcomed the establishment of the Yiddish Cultural Federation, which he hoped would revitalise the language of the old 'Gemorrah Yidden' of this country.

Speaking in Afrikaans, Mr. Sam Locketz referred to the friendship and goodwill that were shared between Jew and Afrikaner in old Oudtshoorn. He appealed to the Jewish community to take a greater interest in the Afrikaans language, literature and culture. In the past, he said, Jews had benefited from their interest in Afrikaans culture and several had also made valuable contributions towards it. In this connection he referred to Sarah Goldblatt, executrix of Langenhoven's literary estate, who for many years had been the "right hand" of the great Afrikaans poet. Mr. Locketz expressed his confidence that closer contact and co-operation between Jew and Afrikaner in the cultural sphere would result in mutual benefit.

Mr. Mierowsky spoke on the intense Jewish life led by the pioneers of

Oudtshoorn. When one moved to this town from any other South African kehillah, he said, one felt again the warm and vivid Jewishness of towns such as Kelem and Shavli. In no other South African town was the sanctity of the Sabbath so faithfully observed. In old Oudtshoorn it was not merely a day of rest, but also a day of holy study. It was particularly for this reason that Oudtshoorn acquired the proud nickname of "Little Jerusalem" of South Africa.

"Oudtshoorn," added Mr. Mierowsky, "was also the only community that possessed 'balebatim' in the true sense of the word—not men who possessed a multitude of shares and blocks of flats, but men who were imbued with a love of learning and culture and were capable of organising the Jewish life of their town."

Quoting numerous anecdotes and tales, Major Weinstein gave a graphic description of the life led by the Jews of Oudtshoorn about two decades ago. He mentioned the contribution made by the local Jewish youth to the Zionist movement. Several had gone to Palestine as Chalutzim and had fitted in well with the life in the Jewish Homeland.

Major Weinstein also mentioned the contribution made by the Oudtshoorn Jewish community to the South African war effort. Over 200 joined the various branches of the U.D.F. Quite a number were decorated for meritorious services and two paid the supreme sacrifice.

During the evening Madame Ott-Penetto, who wore a beautiful ostrich feather coatee presented to her by Mr. Max Rose, of Oudtshoorn, delighted the gathering with a number of songs, the highlight of which was a magnificent rendering of "Eli Eli." Miss Miriam Lopert contributed several pleasing items on the piano-accordion. Mrs. Lovell was the accompanist.

Madame Ott-Penetto and Miss Sallie Kussel were the recipients of beautiful bouquets presented to them on behalf of the "Oudtshoornites." Miss Kussel suitably replied on behalf of Madame Ott-Penetto and herself.

CELEBRATING THE ZIONIST JUBILEE.

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old and young alike and brought a very enjoyable morning to a close.

MAITLAND.

The Talmud Torah Hall, Maitland, was packed on Sunday afternoon at a party organised by the school principal, Rev. Efron, and Mrs. Efron and her fellow-members of the Broth Zion Committee. After the proceedings had been opened by Rev. Efron, Mrs. Mary Segal gave an absorbing talk on the Zionist Congress and its achievements. Each of the 125 children present had an opportunity of lighting a candle on the birthday cake, some of the candles being lit no less than three times to allow for this. As they came up to the table they dropped a coin into a huge blue box. The rest of the programme included a sketch entitled "The Blue Box", by pupils of the Hebrew School, Hebrew songs by other pupils and a Palestine film shown by Mr. I. Sachar, with commentary by Mr. R. B. Egert. At the conclusion Mr. H. Immerman, Chairman of the Zionist Society, thanked the organisers and participants.

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Teachers' J.N.F. Conference.

A special Conference of teachers to welcome Mr. J. Dereczinski was convened by the Education Sub-Committee and was held at the Zionist Hall on Tuesday, 26th August. The large attendance was representative of schools throughout the Peninsula. Mr. I. Bitnun, convener of the Education Sub-Committee, was in the chair. In his opening remarks he reported on J.N.F. activity in schools during the past year. While schools could be pleased with the educational work done, it would be necessary to find ways and means of increasing J.N.F. revenue at schools, which was found to be unsatisfactory in most Talmud Torahs. Mr. Avin, as Principal of the largest Talmud Torah, reported on the J.N.F. activity in his own school.

Mr. Dereczinski outlined the various activities of the J.N.F. in schools of Eretz Israel. He made many suggestions, some of which were already in use in the Western Province and others which could be introduced with good effect.

J.N.F. activity in schools in Palestine was conducted by a Teachers' J.N.F. Council known as the Moatzat Morim Lemaan Keren Hakayemet Lisrael. There was a lively discussion, in which most of the teachers participated. As a result of the discussion and on the suggestions of Mr. Dereczinski, it was decided to call together a Teachers' J.N.F. Council consisting of representatives from all schools. At the conclusion of the meeting Mr. Potashnik proposed a vote of thanks to Mr. Dereczinski.

Prague.

A letter was received by the Agudist World Conference from the United Nations Secretariat informing them that, complying with their request, the proposal for a calendar reform has been removed from the agenda of the United Nations Social and Economic Council.

The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (Unesco) has requested a report on the cultural and educational decisions of the Conference and has expressed its preparedness to co-operate in carrying out the Agudist educational programme.

DEATH.

ROSENBERG.—Died suddenly in Durban, on 30th August, Milly, mother of Elsie Wolff, 24, Park Avenue, Camps Bay. Deeply mourned by her sorrowing daughter, son-in-law and grandchildren.

IN MEMORIAM.

SCHUR - BROWN. — In loving memory of my dear son, Alf, and our brother and uncle who passed away, 11th September, 1940. Always remembered by his mother, sister, brother-in-law and nephews.

האגודת נשים יהודיות

ק"מ"מ

Cape Town Jewish Ladies' Society
HOSPITAL KOSHER KITCHEN

THE 20th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

of the above Society
will take place at an
"AT HOME"

on

Thursday, 11th SEPTEMBER,
at 3 p.m.

in the

ZIONIST HALL,
Hope Street.

RABBI PROF. I. ABRAHAMS WILL
ADDRESS THE GATHERING.

Members and friends kindly attend.

פאנעוועז

PONEVEZ SOCIETY
(Cape Town)

THE

Annual General Meeting

will take place at the
ZIONIST HALL,
Cape Town.

on

TUESDAY, 9th SEPTEMBER,
at 8.15 p.m.

In addition to the Reports on the activities of the Society during the past year, and Election of a New Committee, a number of important matters will be discussed. All Landsleit are kindly requested to attend.

בכור הורים

JEWISH SICK RELIEF SOCIETY.

THE FORTY-FIFTH

Annual General Meeting

of the above Society will take place on
SUNDAY, 7th SEPTEMBER,

at 10 a.m. in the
ZIONIST HALL,

Hope Street.

Members and friends kindly attend.

MUIZENBERG.

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