

## HEBREW TEACHERS' ASSOCIATION.

### Reception in Honour of Rabbi and Mrs. J. L. Zlotnik.

A reception in honour of Rabbi and Mrs. J. L. Zlotnik, the Director of Hebrew Education, was given by the Hebrew Teachers' Association of South Africa at the Carlton Hotel, Johannesburg, on Wednesday, 20th January. There was a large gathering of teachers, cultural workers and prominent leaders.

**Mr. J. Rubik**, President of the Teachers' Association, who presided, welcomed the Rabbi and his wife on behalf of all present. He spoke about the Director's activities on behalf of education generally, as well as of his interest in the welfare of the teachers. If there was unity between the Board and the teachers, the Director was to be thanked for it. He also welcomed **Dr. A. Birnbaum**, Director of Hebrew Education in the Cape, and **Mrs. Amiel**, widow of the late Chief Rabbi Amiel, of Tel Aviv, who is on a visit to her son-in-law and daughter, Rabbi and Mrs. L. I. Rabinowitz. In conclusion he appealed for a unification of the Boards of Education in this country.

**Rabbi Prof. L. I. Rabinowitz** paid a tribute to Rabbi Zlotnik as a man of learning. "The Rabbi," he said, "is now fructifying Hebrew education." After stressing the practical and national importance of the Hebrew language, he said that Rabbi Zlotnik was helping to awaken the national consciousness in the growing generation. "Our guest," he concluded, "is not merely a distinguished scholar who is an educator, but a personality who unites commonsense and knowledge in himself."

**Dr. A. Birnbaum** warmly thanked the teachers for the opportunity afforded him of meeting them as well as for the honour of welcoming back his colleague to this country. He dealt specifically with Rabbi Zlotnik in the field of folklore and as a man of letters.

**Mr. Goss** pointed out that although Rabbi Zlotnik had been away in Australia, his influence was not absent in the Board's counsels, since whenever a problem faced the educational staff, they always tried to solve it in a manner of which Rabbi Zlotnik would have approved. Instead of decrying the position of education or praising achievements, Rabbi Zlotnik had concentrated on building, and therefore he believed the last four years inaugurated a new epoch in the history of

South African Jewish education which posterity would know how to value.

**Dr. Moar** said that, in honouring Rabbi Zlotnik, they honoured the ideal prototype of the Jewish people—the Talmud Chacham. Rabbi Zlotnik combined in his person not only a great scholar but a man with whom it was a pleasure to work, and from whom it was an honour to learn.

**Mr. J. S. Judelowitz**, Chairman of the Private Hebrew Teachers, spoke about Rabbi Zlotnik, the "Talmid Chacham"—the man who tremendously enriched the Hebrew literature.

**Rabbi Zlotnik** commenced by thanking the President and the Merkaz of the Hebrew Teachers' Association for the honour they had bestowed upon him and his wife in arranging such a function to welcome them back from Australia. His journey abroad had convinced him that, relative to the cultural position of Anglo-Jewries, South Africa had no reason to be ashamed. He found that in the last four years great progress had been made both by the initiations of the institutions under the auspices of the S.A. Board of Jewish Education and by raising the status as the quality of the work of the South African Hebrew teacher. He felt that even greater things could be achieved, although they should not despise what has already been achieved. Turning to the teacher, Rabbi Zlotnik said that he felt that if the teacher was to win the confidence of the community it was necessary that he should not only teach but should also be a constant learner. He hoped that in this venture of studying the Torah he would receive the co-operation of the Merkaz and the teachers. He thanked all the people who had greeted him on his return and hoped they would all work together for the welfare of Judaism and its culture. In conclusion Rabbi Zlotnik felt that there was still creative work for another 10 years in order to place Hebrew education on a proper foundation.

The following representatives welcomed the guests: Messrs. I. J. Hersch on behalf of the S.A. Board of Jewish Education, Mr. Z. Infeld on behalf of the S.A. Zionist Federation, Mr. A. Lewin on behalf of the S.A. Jewish Board of Deputies, Mr. Rutstein on behalf of the Histadrut Ivrit. Rev. O. Altshuler, Hon. Secretary of the Merkaz, thanked the speakers.

### P.M.L. Concert at Muizenberg.

The Palestine Maritime League in Cape Town held a successful Concert at Muizenberg Pavilion on Saturday evening, 31st January. The Concert was in aid of the Jewish Sailors' Club and of the Jewish Sailors' Widows and Orphans in Palestine.

The Jewish holiday-makers in Muizenberg responded well to the opportunity offered for their entertainment and thoroughly enjoyed the music, songs and dances performed on the stage. Their enjoyment was heightened by the awareness of the contribution they had at the same time made to the funds of two greatly deserving causes.

Popular arias contributed by Cantor Boris Rome and Cecilia Muller; He-

brew and Yiddish songs rendered by Boris Rome and Mr. H. Rivlin; Palestinian dances carried out by a Habonim group; recitations by Freda Rubinstein (Miss Astrinsky); pianoforte solos rendered by Rachel Rabinowitz; and contributions by the Zionist Socialist Choir directed by Mr. Sher—all these and other items rendered by attractive and popular performers were blended into a harmonious whole, to the greater effect of which an able contribution was made by the compere, Mr. Muir Lang.

An extremely pleasant surprise to the audience was the appearance on the stage of the famous Issy Bonn, who told the audience of his attachment to the Maritime cause and delighted and thrilled the gathering with outstanding samples of his unrivalled talent.

It was indeed a pleasant and happy occasion for all who participated.

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