

In and Around the Peninsula

Rabbi Prof. I. Abrahams Addresses Rotary.

Chief Rabbi Prof. I. Abrahams addressed the International Service Committee of Rotary in Cape Town on Wednesday of last week. His subject was "The State of Israel." Prof. Abrahams gave a brief outline of the history of Zionism and then described in greater detail the course of events since U.N.O.'s decision on partition. He analysed the factors in the present struggle and made a powerful plea for the *de jure* recognition of the Jewish State by the world and the acceptance of Israel as a member of U.N.O. "The powers that imposed the present truce," concluded the Rabbi, "could also establish peace. The Jewish people deserved its State. It was not only an historic necessity but an incontrovertible and indestructible reality. Let Israel be given a fair chance for the sake of the Jew and for the sake of the downtrodden Arab masses, for the sake of justice, for the sake of civilisation and progress."

The chair was taken by Mr. Stanton, the American Consul in Cape Town, and among those present was Mr. Moose, the U.S.A. Consul-General.

Ponevezer Society—Memorial Service.

There was a large attendance of landsleit and others at the Vredehoek Synagogue on Sunday, September 5, when a Memorial Service was held in memory of landsleit from Ponevez who were brutally murdered during the year 1941, the *yahrzeit* being arranged on the first day of Elul. Mincha service was conducted by Mr. Kopel Sacks, an old resident of Ponevez. Rabbi M. Morgenstern, who was a student in Ponevez for a number of years, very eloquently delivered a hesped. He spoke in detail of Ponevez as a great centre of Jewish learning for many centuries and also mentioned names of distinguished personalities and scholars. Cantor A. Rudy impressively intoned the *hazzarah*. Mr. I. Bitnun, chairman of the local society, displayed a plaque in memory of the fallen which will serve as a temporary monument until such time as a tombstone could be erected in Ponevez. This plaque will be placed in the Yeshivah at Bnei Brak in Israel, which is under the leadership of Rabbi Joseph Kahaneman of Ponevez.

Scopus Club.

On Sunday, September 12, the Cultural Section presented a programme of recorded music entitled "Melody and Charm."

The records were played and commented upon by Mr. Aubrey Sebba, and included excerpts from works by Bach, Tchaikovsky, Schubert, Shostakowitch and Mozart, among others.

The evening was thoroughly enjoyed by the fairly large crowd present, who afterwards all took part in a musical quiz. This consisted of a contest between the men and women members of the club, and the questions covered all phases of music, ranging from the heavy classics down to swing. The women won the contest by a substantial margin.

Long Service Award to Guide Commissioner.

Mrs. Joan Richfield (known to many Guides as Miss Joan Lewin) was presented recently with her Long-Service Award. This is an award given by the Girl Guide Chief Commissioner, on recommendation of the local Senior Commissioner, for long and meritorious service over a period of not less than 14 years as a Guide or Brownie captain. This is the first time in South Africa that a Jewess has been given this award.

In a covering note to the recipient the Chief Commissioner, Mrs. Strachan of Durban, states: "With this letter I am sending your Award for Long Service. I regret that the medal itself has not yet arrived from the Pretoria Mint.

"On behalf of the Girl Guides of South Africa I send warmest con-

gratulations to you, and to this I must add my personal good wishes for continued good Guiding and my sincere appreciation of your splendid record of service."

This year marks the silver jubilee of Mrs. Richfield's entry into the Guide movement. She is the only known Commissioner to have gone right through the ranks, having been a Brownie some 25 years ago, then a Guide, Ranger Guide, and now Commissioner.

Last week the 3rd Cape Town Jewish Brownie Pack won the District Brownie Competition against other Brownie Packs in Cape Town. The team gained 80 per cent. The youngsters in the team are to be congratulated on a fine job of teamwork. The Brownies competing were Pam Shenker, Innis Abrahamson, Miriam Kopelowitz, Avril Donneson, Marion Kasimov, Rosalind Simson and Shirley Braude.

Just prior to this competition the 3rd Cape Town Jewish Girl Guides gained second place in a similar competition against all Cape Town Guides. A diploma'd Guide captain ran this competition and congratulated the District Commissioner, Mrs. Richfield, on the amazingly high standard of work in this area.

Green and Sea Point Hebrew School Parent-Teacher Association.

The quarterly general meeting took place in the Synagogue Hall on Tuesday evening, 7th inst. Mr. Joseph Rotstein, chairman of the Parent-Teacher Association, presided.

After welcoming the exceptionally large gathering the chairman referred to the severe loss sustained by the Jewish community in South Africa in general and the Sea Point congregation in particular by the death of Dr. A. Birnbaum. He called upon the gathering to rise in memory of the deceased.

Mr. Rotstein apologised for the absence of Rabbi I. Abrahams, who was indisposed. They had been fortunate in having Miss Sally Burstein, one of the organisers of the Women's Zionist Council, to address them in his stead.

Miss Burstein delivered an address on "The education of the children and the cultural activities in D.P. camps of Austria." Stating that she had 400 children under her charge, the lecturer said that her two main aims were to obliterate the memories of the past 10 years and to prepare them for life in Israel. The condition of the people when they arrived was appalling and the camps were in a frightful state. There was a lack of basic equipment, and they had constantly to improvise. The packing-cases in which food and other articles arrived were utilised for the making of desks, benches, wall partitions, etc. They had no exercise books, text books, boards and chalk, and means had to be found to obtain substitutes. The school was as far as Standard VI, and the curriculum consisted of arithmetic, English, rudiments of science, Bible history, all in the medium of Hebrew. They also managed to include physical training. The older boys and girls had never been to school, and their desire to make up for the lost years was unbelievably strong.

Dealing with other camp activities, Miss Burstein pointed out that many were entirely unfamiliar with the Festivals, so she made a point of celebrating the *Yomim Tovim*, which in the early stages meant the enjoyment of additional food.

On the purely cultural side there was a wall newspaper written in Yiddish, Polish and Hebrew which appeared every two days. They also had a theatre where plays were staged and acting of a very high standard took place. Sometimes visiting artists from Israel performed for the D.P.'s, and this link with Palestine did much to raise the morale of the people.

She referred to the W.I.Z.O. group which she had formed and which

took the babies under its wing and also dealt with the vocational training that was later introduced.

Miss Burstein emphasised that the underlying motive of the activities was to prepare the D.P.'s for their new life in Israel.

Questions were then put to the lecturer, to which she suitably replied.

A vote of thanks was proposed by Mr. J. Blesovsky, headmaster of the school.

During the evening pianoforte solos were rendered by Miss Ella Kupfer, and a Hebrew sketch was presented by pupils of Standard III under the direction of Mrs. M. Druker.

Great Synagogue Ladies' Guild.

The monthly Bring-and-Buy Sale for Israeli funds was held on Tuesday, September 6, in the Old Shul. Members and friends brought a wide variety of delicious cakes and provisions. The amount realised was excellent, and will go towards the Yomtov Market Stall.

A meeting was held subsequent to the sale. Mrs. I. Abrahams was in the chair and warmly thanked all present for their devotion to the Guild and its activities. Mrs. H. Kuperholz reminded the gathering of the children's concert (for Israeli funds) to be held during the school holidays at the Zionist Hall on Tuesday, September 28. Tickets can be obtained from the conveners, Mrs. P. Dickman, Mrs. B. Kotzen and Mrs. H. Kuperholz, and at the door from 2 p.m.

A successful party was held recently at the residence of Mrs. A. Schiff. Mrs. D. Schapiro handed to Mrs. Abrahams a substantial amount for Israeli funds.

Haganah and W.I.Z.O. comforts.—Report given by Mrs. S. Blusger.

Clothing for Israel.—Report given by Mrs. Lichtenstein and Mrs. L. Roy.

The Youth Service Film Afternoon and Treat and Simchat Torah gift arrangements were discussed, and a band of helpers organised visits to local institutions which will be arranged during the *Yomtovim*.

A handsome gift of four Sifrei Torah mantles was donated to the Synagogue by Mr. and Mrs. Max Rabie.

Herzlia Kindergarten Parent-Teacher Association.

A meeting was held in the Talmud Torah Hall on Monday evening, September 13.

Miss C. Lampen spoke on "Nursery Schools in Israel." She mentioned that in Palestine the kindergartens were of a very high standard and that all teachers were highly trained and specialised. Although it was not compulsory for children to attend kindergarten, there was nearly 100 per cent. attendance.

After her lecture many questions were put to Miss Lampen, which she very ably answered.

The chairlady announced that £13 had been made recently at a Bring-and-Buy Sale, and it was decided to buy necessary toys and equipment for the kindergarten.

Massadah Association of Vredehoek.

A very unusual and successful meeting which was arranged by Miss Mary Rosen was held on Tuesday, September 7, at the home of Miss Freda Rabinowitz, Rugley Road, Cape Town.

Gramophone recordings of the United Nations Assembly meeting at Flushing Meadows were played, and members had an opportunity of hearing extracts from the speeches made by Jewish leaders on this historic occasion when the partition issue was voted on.

Thereafter Hebrew and humorous Yiddish records were played.

Mr. W. Sebba presented a tree certificate (five trees) to Mrs. Vera Sagel on the occasion of her marriage and also announced that the society would do likewise for Miss Freda Rabinowitz on the occasion of her marriage.

Cape Peninsula Women's Mizrahi (Omen) Organisation.

There was a large and well-attended members' meeting of the

(Continued in Fourth Column.)

Social & Personal

The engagement is announced of Ida, only daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Joe Kowen, of Uppington, to Monte, eldest son of Mr. and Mrs. Herman Rabie, of Muizenberg.

The marriage of Rosaline, young daughter of Mr. and Mrs. I. M. Gordon, of Wynberg, to Dr. Mike Korodetz, of Claremont, second eldest son of Mr. and Mrs. A. Korodetz, of Cape Town, took place at the Gardens Synagogue on Sunday, 12th September.

Sachar — Goldin.

The marriage of Sheila, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. I. Goldin, of Vredehoek, and Julius, son of Mr. and Mrs. D. Sachar of Oranjeried, took place at the Roeland Street Synagogue on Thursday, 9th September. Rabbi I. Abrahams and Cantor J. Passman officiated. The best man was Mr. Issy Sachar, and the holders were Messrs. Barry Kaplan, Basil Sandler, Astor Zieper and Bennie Geffin. The bridesmaid was Miss Nettie Schneider, and the flowergirls Myrna and Meni Shevrien and Rosie Geffin.

A Luncheon was held after the ceremony in the Zionist Hall. Mr. Melamed presided. The toasts were for Israel and the parents were proposed by the chairman. Mr. Z. Avin proposed the toast of the bride and bridegroom. Mr. S. M. Levin and Mr. Sachar, uncle of the bridegroom, associated themselves with the remarks made by Mr. Avin. Mr. B. Padover supported the toast of the parents. The bridegroom suitably responded. Mr. Goldin, the bride's father, responded to the toast of the parents. At Sheva-brochas the guests all joined in some lively old-fashioned dancing and horas.

BARMITZVAHS.

SANDAK-LEWIN.—The Barmitz of Harold, only son of Mr. and Mrs. S. Sandak-Lewin, will take place at the Vredehoek Synagogue on Saturday, 18th September. "Brocha" at 9, Exner Avenue, Vredehoek. An "At Home" at "Wexford House," cor. Wexford Road and Exner Avenue, Vredehoek, Sunday, 19th September, from 3.30 to 6.30 p.m. No cards.

SAEVITZON.—Albert Monty, younger son of Mr. and Mrs. S. Saevitson, of Claremont, will read Portion of the Law and Maftir at the Synagogue, Claremont, on Saturday, 18th inst.

(Continued from Third Column.)

Vredehoek branch at the residence of Mrs. G. Miller, Firmount Corner, Davenport Road, Vredehoek, on Tuesday afternoon, September 7.

Mrs. Broide, in her opening address said that, reviewing the position of the Jewish people for the past year there was much to be grateful for. First and foremost was the fact that a Jewish State had been proclaimed. The road ahead was not a smooth one but we dare not lose faith—the faith which has sustained us through the centuries of our travail.

The chairlady, welcoming Rabbi Weinberg, said that the Mizrahi awaited with great joy the arrival of each new minister to South Africa.

Rabbi Weinberg, speaking on "Mizrachi Aims," traced the wanderings of the Jews from Abraham up to recent times. He stressed the fact that it was only due to our ancestors adhering to our customs and traditions that we Jews exist as a nation to-day. Unless we base our claim on Palestine on religious grounds, we have no argument at all. The only thing that could save the world from another war was religion.

Mrs. Geft proposed a vote of thanks to Rabbi Weinberg.