

Palestine Maritime League.

Dinner in Honour of Editorial Board of "Ha-Yam".

The Palestine Maritime League, Cape Town, held a dinner at the Zionist Hall on Wednesday, December 8, in honour of the editorial board of "Ha-Yam." A presentation was made to Mrs. Fanny Gross, editor of "Ha-Yam," prior to her and Mr. Gross's departure on a visit overseas, which will include Israel.

The P.M.L. chairman, Adv. D. Cohen, proposed the toast of "Medinah Israel," and Chief Rabbi I. Abrahams that of the "Ha-Yam" editorial board.

Adv. Cohen, opening the proceedings, tendered apologies on behalf of Mr. J. Gitlin, who could not be present on account of indisposition. He cordially welcomed Chief Rabbi I. Abrahams, hon. president of the league, and Mrs. Abrahams, the editorial board and the other guests. He then briefly reviewed the position of the P.M.L.

The miracle of the creation of the State of Israel, he said, confronted Jewry with tasks of such urgency and scope as to overshadow all other tasks of lesser urgency, though very important otherwise. The P.M.L. effort was affected by it in more than one way. Recognising the priority of the more urgent tasks, it reduced the effort in its own sphere to a minimum. On the other hand, developments in Israel required a readjustment of the P.M.L. effort to conform to the new conditions, needs and opportunities.

ISRAEL MARITIME LEAGUE CHAIRMAN TO VISIT UNION.

The doldrums in which the P.M.L. here found itself, continued Advocate Cohen, could not be allowed to continue. The decision had therefore been taken to invite the Israeli Maritime League chairman, Mr. S. Tolokowsky, to visit the Union and to assist in clarifying the issues confronting the P.M.L. and to put it on a stronger footing. He was glad to announce that Mr. Tolokowsky had accepted the invitation and was expected to arrive in January, in time to open a P.M.L. conference here, which would launch the maritime effort on a scale fully in accordance with the great importance of the task involved. He was also glad to add that after some hesitation our Zionist leadership here had shown full understanding of the steps being taken by the P.M.L. towards its greater organisational strength.

Rabbi Abrahams delighted the audience with the charm and elegance of his good-humoured wit inspired by the unusual association of ideas involved in holding a function in honour of an editorial board.

Striking a more serious note, the Rabbi was very emphatic about the importance of the "Ha-Yam" publication and the many matters of interest it offered to readers. He commented favourably on the wide range of topics within the one main theme, dealt with in the "Ha-Yam," and the large proportion of original articles being published in the "Ha-Yam." He paid tribute to the editorial board and particularly to the editor, Mrs. Fanny Gross.

The speaker quoted passages from the Biblical and more recent literature, the theme of which was the sea as a source of Jewish salvation. He

also attached great significance to the fact that, unlike our grandfathers, who entered the Holy Land first from the south and then from the east, and never in fact completely dominated it, the Philistines settled in the coastal area. Our third return to the Land of Israel had been from the west, and the concentration of our settlements has begun in the coastal area. It would be a fatal mistake, said the Rabbi, if there were to be Zionists who adopted a discouraging attitude towards the expansion and growth of the League, as what had in the past been a mere adjunct to the Zionist effort might well turn out to be the most vital aspect.

The Rabbi welcomed the effort to bring over Mr. Tolokowsky, a man of deep wisdom and eminent scholarship. He concluded: "We have launched the ship of the State of Israel, and we must now launch the ship of Israel's sea power."

Mr. J. M. Weinreich, in making a presentation on behalf of the league to Mrs. Fanny Gross, referred also to the services rendered by Mrs. Gross as one-time P.M.L. hon. secretary. Mr. Weinreich added his warm tribute to that already paid by the previous speakers.

Mrs. Gross, in her reply, offered ample and picturesque comment on the problems and experiences involving an editor. She harmoniously blended and delightfully presented the viewpoint of the editor, supported by her own experience and that of the contributors, backed up by apt and copious quotations from the confessions of poets and authors, to the obvious appreciation and hearty amusement of the audience.

Mrs. Gross, in her own name and on behalf of the Editorial Board members, heartily thanked the speakers for the tributes voiced and would devote herself to the fostering of the "Ha-Yam" with renewed and greater vigour.

Mr. Sam Gross joined Mrs. Gross in expressing appreciation of the honour done them. He thought that particular credit was due to Mr. Ralph Lessem, who originated the idea of the function now held.

Even if there was no precedent for a function of this kind, commented Mr. Gross, this should by no means serve as an argument against it. The contrary, rather, was true. The "Drom-Afrika" had no precedent either, but it represented a great achievement, in spite of the opinion of the uninformed.

The proceedings concluded with a message by the chairman to the Israeli Maritime League to be conveyed by Mr. and Mrs. Gross. He said: "Please convey on our behalf cordial greetings to the Israeli Maritime League. We are resolved to stand by their demands and requirements, and are in fact extremely anxious to do our share to the limit of our possibilities."

HEBREW TEACHERS.

Men or women to teach Hebrew on Saturday mornings. Salary according to qualifications. For interview, phone the Cape Town Jewish Reform Congregation, 4-3097.

From my Desk

By . . .
HASOFER



A Dreidel.

For many years Jewish children throughout the world have played with special spinning tops on Chanukah. Whether it is because there has been too diverse a number of more elaborate and expensive toys available for South African children, or whether it is because the game necessitates a knowledge of Yiddish, I have rarely seen local youngsters playing with Chanukah dreidels. This year quite a few youngsters will have these knick-knacks to amuse themselves with. Mr. I. Hickman asked the Ex-Servicemen's Sheltered Employment Organisation to make a quantity of Chanukah tops. These were made out of wood and are perfectly balanced. The Hebrew letters *Nun, Gimmel, Hay* and *Sheen*, representing the initials of the phrase *Nays Gadol Hayah Sham* (a great miracle occurred there), were stamped on the four sides in ink. A group of Rondebosch ladies will have more elaborate metal ones for sale. The husband of one of the organisers is going to cast some in lead, and the proceeds will go to the Israeli Appeal funds. I was asked what the rules of playing with the dreidel were. As far as I can recall, stakes are decided upon and the players take turns in spinning the top. Their next move is governed by which of the letters on the dreidel lies uppermost. Should the *Nun* be on top the indication is *Nehm*—take all; *Gimmel* means *Gor*—nothing. *Hay* means *Halb*—half the kitty, and *Sheen* means *Shtehl*—add another stake to the kitty. Perhaps if there are any "games evenings" during the Chanukah period we may even see adults amusing themselves with their one-time toys.

National Games.

Thinking about the traditional amusements of our people gives rise to the thought that some form of sport generally becomes accepted as the natural and national form of exercise and amusement of every country. Whether it be football and cricket in England, golf or tossing the caber in Scotland or rugby and jukeski in this country, there is always some game which is the most popular. At the moment soccer is extensively played. Doubtless the influx of South African and American *chalutzim* might create a certain bias for rugby and baseball. Traditionally, of course, it should be wrestling or perhaps boxing. I think it was Resh Lokesh who in Talmudic days was famed for his prowess as a wrestler and strong man. Perhaps some of the older South African settlers in Israel might try to introduce bowls, a game which seems to have displaced even rummy as a form of amusement.

Hatikvah.

"The United Nations officers saluted as the Jewish national anthem was played . . ." This is an extract from a report from Israel of a military display. The reason that I quote this is to draw attention to the fact that *Hatikvah* is the national anthem of Israel and not merely another song. It should call forth the same respect that is given to the national anthems of other nations. Only too often when the *Hatikvah* is played does one see people conversing and walking about. Pianists are guilty of occasionally "jazzing" it just a little bit. *Hatikvah* no longer represents a dream—it is the expression of the fulfilment of a nation's aspirations. Let it receive the respect which is due to it. Mr.

Solly Kessler has written me to point out that there is a slight difference between the music of the *Hatikvah* as rendered in Israel and in this country. Unfortunately, he states, he cannot write music and is thus unable to enlighten me further on the subject. Perhaps some other reader could give me a little more information on this matter.

U.N. News.

Mr. Kessler in the same letter wrote to say that last Thursday night at about 9.20 he was able to "pick up" a radio news broadcast from the United Nations station at the Palais de Chaillot. He heard Mr. Medzini giving a Hebrew commentary on the news. Mr. Kessler presumed the broadcast, which closed at 9.30 p.m., to have been of half an hour's duration. It appears that this news broadcast which the Hebrew announcer said was directed to Kol Israel and which the English announcer said was beamed to the Middle East had been a nightly feature until the 11th of December. It could be found on the 25-metre band. Incidentally, Mr. Kessler claims to have been one of the first listeners in Cape Town to have heard Kol Israel. He states he first "picked up" this station on May 22.

Miss Rosalie Sive.

Back after an absence of nearly two years is Miss Rosalie Sive, who has spent that time working in the D.P. camps. Miss Sive, who was on the spot when the first group of Israeli-*visaed* refugees left Munich in August and in Salzburg when another group left from Salzburg was struck by the ray of hope which was infused into the bleak lives of D.P.'s by the proclamation of the State of Israel. There was hardly a D.P. but wanted to go to Israel. Even many of those few who had made half-hearted attempts at re-establishing urban communities wanted to go to Israel, where they felt that for once they would be secure. Whilst the D.P.'s all received sufficient upon which to subsist, they all wanted to "get out," as they feel they have no future except in Israel. Miss Sive was present in March when a children's transport, which included 200 children from the Exodus, left for Israel. Each child had his own possessions in one trunk and in another trunk which he undertook not to open until he arrived in Israel clothing which was a gift from the J.D.C. Miss Sive emphasised that much effort and a great deal of money would be needed for the important work of arranging for the absorption of the refugees into the ordinary population of Israel and for their rehabilitation as normal and productive citizens.

As It Is Writ.

Cohen was annoyed with his friend Levy. Six months previously Levy had borrowed £100 from him and promised to repay it in a fortnight's time. Levy had not only omitted to meet his obligation but had studiously avoided his creditor. Cohen in a fit of anger decided to write to his debtor in strong terms, and sent the following note: Dear Levy, Who knew where to come and borrow money? Who promised to pay it back in a fortnight? Who did not keep his promise? Who is a crook?—Abraham Cohen.

Frootall

Fruit juices are made from fresh delicious fruits...

Always Insist on "Frootall"