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Jewish War Appeal

PARCELS CANNOT BE SENT TO LITHUANIA

FOLLOWING the announcement by the Post Office that packages weighing 4 lbs. 6 ozs. will in future be accepted in the Union for transmission to Lithuania, it is now announced that the despatch of goods by this means is not permitted. In other words, only letters, printed matter and similar non-commercial material may be despatched. Representations are being made by the S.A. Jewish War Appeal to procure a wider interpretation of this new regulation.

JWA National Council Meets this Week-end

Members of the National Council of the S.A. Jewish War Appeal are reminded that the National Conference will begin at 8 p.m. on Saturday, January 19, at the Coronation Hall and will be resumed on Sunday morning, January 20, at 9.30 p.m.

More Women Helpers Needed

Clothing has again begun to stream into the depots of the S.A. Jewish War Appeal for despatch overseas to Jewish war victims. Since the volunteer workers recommenced operations on January 3, the Jewish public is again rallying to the support of one of the most urgent of present day causes. At the same time the need for more helpers has grown and the Women's Section of the J.W.A. issues a fresh appeal to all women who can give a few hours every week.

"It should not be forgotten," said one member of the executive, "that by coming and doing a little work at our depot we are literally saving lives. The winter in Europe is now at its height and every week in the delay of sending garments means added misery and possible death to our brothers and sisters."

Not only in Johannesburg but at the coast the same position prevails and women in Durban, Cape Town, Port Elizabeth and East London are likewise urged to contact the local J.W.A. offices, not only to give clothes but to give their time.

PROGRAMME FOR NIGEL ZIONISTS

An elaborate programme has been drawn up by the new committee of the Nigel Zionist Society, which held its annual general meeting recently. The first function will take place on January 24 and will be held in order to raise funds.

The new committee has also decided to inscribe the names of all newly born babies in Nigel in the Sefer Hayaed. Certificates will be sent to the parents, with the compliments of the society.

Mr. M. J. Plen, who presided, gave a brief account of the activities of the society for the past few years.

Mr. D. Gamsu expressed the community's appreciation to Mr. Plen for his valuable work for Zionism and moved that the society, as a token of the high esteem and value of the work done by the chairman, should inscribe the names of Mr. and Mrs. M. J. Plen in the Golden Book. Mrs. Goodman seconded and the resolution was unanimously adopted.

The new committee consists of Mr. M. J. Plen (chairman), Mr. D. Gamsu (vice-chairman), Mr. N. Jodeiken (secretary), Mesdames Goodman, Bonner, Kirshon and Jodeiken and Messrs. H. Jodeiken, S. Bortz and S. Freedman.

Special mention must also be made of the children of the Jewish orphanage, who during the past week gave up portion of their precious holiday time in order to help their unhappy kinsmen overseas.

Third Edition of Postal Guide

The third edition of the now well-known "J.W.A. Postal Guide," issued by the S.A. Jewish War Appeal, has now been produced and is available for distribution from the headquarters of the organisation, 146 Shakespeare House, Johannesburg, as well as from the offices of the J.W.A. at Cape Town, Durban, Bloemfontein and Port Elizabeth.

No charge is made for the J.W.A. Postal Guide. Many changes have lately taken place in the facilities for the despatch of parcels, letters and moneys to countries such as Czechoslovakia, Holland, Italy, Hungary, Lithuania and Yugoslavia.

Standerton and Volksrust

A meeting in aid of the S.A. Jewish War Appeal will be held at Standerton on Sunday, January 20, at 8 p.m. at the Synagogue Hall. The chair will be taken by Mr. I. Michel, and the speakers are Messrs. L. Frank and L. Feldman.

On the following day, January 21, the same speakers will address a meeting at Volksrust at the Transvaal Hotel at 8 p.m. Here the chair will be taken by Mr. A. Sidelsky.

DISTINCTION OF EAST LONDON VIOLINIST

Miss Sibyl Caplan, who recently returned from the U.S.A., where she had studied music for the past 10 years, was the guest of honour at a combined meeting of the East London branch of the Union of Jewish Women and the local Women's Zionist League. Mrs. A. Schwartz, who presided, said that the large number of members and visitors present was a tribute to Miss Caplan. The good wishes of the women of East London was extended to the young violinist, who had secured a contract with African Theatres.

Mrs. I. Schiff, a young Palestinian who has made her home in East London and who had attended the recent S.A. Zionist Conference, reported on the conference and made a number of suggestions for the future development of Zionist work. The importance of the cultural aspect of Zionism was stressed and also the need for educational work, in addition to fund-raising activities.

Musical items were rendered by Miss M. Traub (pianist) and Miss Zelda Caplan (cellist), accompanied by her brother, Mr. G. Caplan.

Mrs. N. Lazarus proposed the vote of thanks.

SOCIOLOGY OF THE GHETTO

Dr. L. Freed Addresses Luncheon Club

Some interesting aspects of the ghetto—its early beginnings, development and sociological background—were described by Dr. L. F. Freed, well-known sociologist, when he addressed the Zionist Association Luncheon Club on the "Sociology of the Ghetto" on Friday last. Dr. T. Schneider presided.

The ghetto, said Dr. Freed, made its appearance as a social phenomenon shortly after the conquest of Palestine by the Romans. This heralded the beginning of the great Diaspora, when thousands of Jews migrated to the various cities of Europe.

"There are two types of ghettos known in history—the Voluntary and the Compulsory," said Dr. Freed. "In the Voluntary Ghetto, which has flourished for over 1,000 years, segregation was not obligated by Church or State, but was the result of political, psychological and sociological facts. The Jews as a minority group wanted to practise their religious doctrines free from derisive criticism and organised antagonism."

The Compulsory Ghetto was a product of the 15th century, the speaker continued. At this time the Church had become a great force, and the priests ruling it were anxious to maintain the security of their own positions. They isolated the Jews because they feared heretical movements in Christendom. They realised that Jews were cosmopolitan and widely travelled and read, and thus feared their influence among the Christians, who at the time were kept ignorant of all world affairs.

Conditions in the ghettos were appalling—high walls, barred gates, streets small and gloomy, fires and epidemics being common.

"But every condition in society has its compensations. In the case of the ghetto these were of a spiritual character. Life was rich and human and the synagogue became a focal point in Jewish life."

The ghetto Jew was a dreamer—dreaming always of the world on the "other side." Yet there existed an inner solidarity. There was no hostility between Jew and Jew. The criteria of respectability were based on piety, learning, purity of family life and service rendered to the community.

Referring to the effects of the ghetto on the Jew, Dr. Freed said that every Jew bore the traces of his historic past. The ghetto over-accentuated the group and self-consciousness of the Jew. It made him seclusive and exclusive, because he was exclusively excluded by Christendom. It made him hyper-sensitive and sociologically maladjusted. It made him a neurotic. Dr. Freed stressed, however, that the social behaviour of the Jew as a member of a minority group was in no way different from other minority groups like the Italians in America, the Greeks in South Africa and the Europeans in China.

ELISABETHVILLE WOMEN ZIONISTS

The recently elected committee of the Elisabethville Women's Zionist League is proving most active and has lost no time in getting into its stride. A varied and interesting programme has been drawn up and this includes the holding of a competition, a house to house sale of flowers in aid of funds and various other functions.

The very able committee consists of Mesdames F. Levy (honorary president), L. Selanikid (president), R. Soriano (vice-president), R. Glasstone (treasurer), V. Franko and K. Bernstein (secretaries), E. Benatar, R. Delporte, V. Siriano, Moreno, G. Hazan, K. Capelouto, L. Soriano, J. Alhadeff, C. Habib, S. Hasson and Mesdames E. Goldenberg, Abravanel and Bagnato, who are ex-officio members of the committee.