

The South African Jewish Orphanage.

Annual Report.

FUTURE PLANS.

The Annual Report of the South African Jewish Orphanage which will be submitted to members for approval on Sunday next at the annual meeting deals with the work accomplished during the twelve months ending March 31st, 1925.

Deep regret is expressed at the loss sustained in the period under review by the lamented deaths of Messrs. J. S. Levy and Samuel Krokin, both of these gentlemen were members of the committee and their loss is an irreparable one.

A MEMBERSHIP CAMPAIGN.

A membership campaign was embarked upon early in the year and, as a result, 285 new members were obtained in Johannesburg and 397 from outside districts. This large number of new country members is partly explained by the formation of new branches within the year, such as Benoni and Krugersdorp and in Johannesburg at La Rochelle. Since the close of the financial year 281 more members were made as a result of the Arcadian Fete.

At the beginning of the year there were 142 children under the care of the committee and during the year 33 were admitted and 21 left. The total number of children at the end of March 31st, 1925, being 154 of whom 148 are at "Arcadia" and 6 are being accommodated elsewhere. Nine of the inmates have been apprenticed to trades and two are being trained to become *Schochtim*. Those apprenticed are as follows: Two boys to Carpenters, one boy to Cycle trade, one boy to Electro-plating, one boy to Motor Engineering, one boy to Cabinet-making, three girls to Millinery and Dressmaking. Three girls attend a Business College where they are receiving training to qualify them for a business office.

EDUCATION.

Seventy-seven of the children of school-going age attend the Hebrew High School and 43 the Jewish Government School. The former receive their Hebrew and secular education at the school, while the latter are taught Hebrew by a special teacher engaged for that purpose. As the result of an examination of the latter children carried out

by Chief Rabbi, Dr. Landau and Mr. M. D. Hersch, certain alterations were made, and Dr. Landau, prior to his departure for Europe, was able to report that there was a decided improvement in the progress they were making in their Hebrew studies.

The school reports received regarding the secular education are, with few exceptions, records of excellent progress made by the children.

The question of the continuance of the teaching of Yiddish to the children from Russia has been discussed by the Committee and, at a meeting held in March, it was carried that Yiddish be taught to all the children. Mr. P. Lochoff is kindly making a monthly contribution of £5 towards defraying the expenses of such teaching, and the Yiddish Literary and Dramatic Society are kindly providing certain of the teachers free of charge. Thus the cost to the Institution is very little.

Free tuition is being given by the following in the subjects mentioned:—Piano, Misses H. & N. Stein, Mrs. Kirshner, Misses Jacobson, Landau, I. Coleman, Rabinowitz, S. and E. Woolfowitz, Zeffertt, Swartzki, and Meskin; Elocution, Miss Feitelberg; Dancing, Miss Adler, assisted by Miss Purchas and Miss Browse; Choir, Mr. Cantor; Woodwork, Mr. Schragger. Miss Jamie gives her services at the piano for dancing, and Miss Rubenstein in a similar capacity for drilling. The Committee place on record their grateful thanks to the above for their kind services, which are greatly appreciated.

FINANCE.

The financial position of the Institution as reflected in the Balance Sheet, shows a distinct improvement in every way on that of the preceding year. The revenue of £10,349 8s. 10d. is £1,865 13s. 1d. more than in the previous year. In addition to this revenue there is the sum of £1,550 of the Bed Endowment Fund shown in the Balance Sheet. In the revenue of £10,349 8s. 10d. is included the sum of £2,700 from the Arcadian Fete and £500 grant from the United Jewish Relief

Fund, whereas in the previous year the revenue included £1,930 14s. 7d. from the Relief Fund Drive. The expenditure of £10,645 4s. 9d. is £449 16s. 5d. less than in 1923/4. The excess of expenditure over revenue for the current year is £295 15s. 11d. which is very small compared with the deficiency of the previous year that amounted to £2,611 5s. 5d. The present deficiency of £295 15s. 11d., is arrived at after making an allowance of £346 5s. 8d. for depreciation as shown in the Revenue and Expenditure Account. In the previous year only £52 10s. 0d. was allowed for depreciation.

A notable item in the revenue side is £2,984 13s. 5d.; subscriptions, being an increase of £654 1s. 2d. over that of the previous year. In spite of this increase, however, and satisfactory as it is to know that subscriptions—which, after all, should be the basis of the revenue of an Institution like this—show a distinct improvement, no one realises more than the Committee that there is still room—and a great deal of it—for further enlargement of the subscription revenue, taking into consideration the size of the Jewish population in Johannesburg in particular and South Africa in general.

The only item on the revenue side showing a falling off as compared with the previous year is that of ordinary donations and synagogue offerings, which last year amounted to £2,974 6s. 1d., and this year stands at £2,244 5s. and this in spite of the fact that in the year under review the Committee conducted a special propaganda in the synagogues to the managements of the synagogues, as well as to their respective spiritual heads, begging them to draw the attention of the worshippers to the needs of, and the necessity for supporting, this Institution. From the financial results obtained, it is quite evident that these appeals did not receive the response anticipated and that they deserved, as otherwise the figures mentioned would not have shown such a great falling off. It is hoped that in the forthcoming year worshippers in the Synagogues and the public generally will not

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