

In and Around the Town.

100, St. George's Street,
Thursday.

FEDERATION OF SYNAGOGUES.

The federation of the various congregations in the Peninsula is an ideal that has appealed for years, but little progress has been made owing to personal prejudices and petty jealousies of individual members. The position has always bristled with difficulties, and the cause of unity among the different congregations has always been defeated by those who unreasonably oppose any scheme of federation. It is time, however, that these people should sink their prejudices and combine, not only for the benefit of local congregations, but for South African Jewry as a whole. These parochialists should realise the times in which they live, and immediately remove the obstacles they have erected through ignorance and misconception. Let there be a full and frank discussion and surely they will then realise the advantages of a United Hebrew Congregation. The tendency all over the world is towards amalgamation and federation, for unity is strength. Jewry, to-day, has many problems to face, not only locally, but in the wider fields of Judaism, and it is only with a solid front and a conservation of strength can these problems be dealt with successfully.

HINDERED BY PREJUDICE.

In Cape Town we have two large and influential congregations. I, of course, refer to the Gardens and Roeland Street. These congregations together can accomplish much that either alone, would find difficult to achieve. Why cannot a start be made by a federation of these two bodies? Leaders of both congregations, for many years intimately connected with them, have openly advocated federation, but theirs have been voices in the wilderness. Their laudable efforts to bring about a consummation of their ideal have been frustrated by individuals who cling to old fashioned ideas and prejudice and steadfastly refuse to recognise the existence of a more modern trend of thought. These people should not be allowed to stand in the way of the attainment of an ideal which will at once benefit, not only their own community, but South African Jewry as a whole. Johannesburg Jewry saw the advantages of federation many years ago and the United Hebrew Congregation in that City was formed in 1915. Surely what is good for Johannesburg is equally good for Cape Town?

A UNITED HEBREW CONGREGATION.

Fortunately there are signs that the old prejudices are dying out. Many of the old school at the head of affairs have been replaced by those who are prepared to explore all channels in a practical and unbiased manner. There is a feeling that the time is now ripe for a *rapprochement*. I understand from an authoritative source that all that is required is someone of sufficient influence to initiate the movement and there is every prospect that a federation between the Cape Town Hebrew Congregation and the New Hebrew Congregation will become *un fait accompli*. The community is steadily increasing in numbers and is spreading to outlying places in the Peninsula, where the benefits of religious services and educational facilities are difficult to obtain. It is here that the two senior congregations can be an immense power for good. It is their duty to ameliorate the present conditions. The responsibility of tending to the spiritual and educational needs of co-religionists in every part of the Penin-

sula is theirs, and this can be accomplished successfully only when a United Hebrew Congregation comes into being. Then will be one of our principal communal problems be solved.

THE GUILD.

The recent violent sou'-easters have played havoc with the new tennis courts, and the Committee have found it necessary to close one court during each week until the end of the month, in order to repair the damaged surface. Members will be able, however, to use all three courts on Sundays. The "ladder" system is being adopted and the responsible sub-committee are at present grading the players. This is a very sensible idea and one that will appeal to all members of the Tennis Section.

I am told that the Dramatic Section shortly hope to produce a one-act play in conjunction with the Guild Orchestra. This section has lain dormant for some time, but there is now a revival, and Mr. D. Levy, who has taken it in hand, may be relied upon to get a move on. Rehearsals are now in full swing, and interesting entertainments may be anticipated.

COMPLIMENTARY CONCERT.

The bookings for the Adelaide Newman complimentary concert are, I hear, very satisfactory, and I expect to see the City Hall well filled on the evening of the 15th. There are many distinguished patrons, and the interest shown by them should be a lead to music lovers to lend their support to make this farewell concert a great success. A perfect and varied programme has been prepared and in addition to Miss Newman herself the artists participating are Paganelli, Herbert Curling, Mildred Korelstein, Miriam Kirsch, Albert Voorsanger and Alban Hamar.

THE PONEVIZ YESHIVAH.

No time is being lost in launching the appeal for funds for the Poneviz Rabbinical College. A meeting of representatives of congregations and societies has been held, and Rabbi Kahanaman emphasised the need for supporting such an important institution. He appealed to South African Jewry for financial assistance. There were about thirty delegates present at the meeting, over which Rabbi Ch. M. Mirvish presided.

Although the Poneviz Rabbinical College is one of the best of its kind in Lithuania, it is hampered in its beneficent work by a deplorable lack of funds, and Rabbi Kahanaman looks to Jewry of this country to relieve them of their difficulties.

Verily, South Africa is a happy hunting ground for overseas institutions!

CAMPAIGN ARRANGED.

Judging by the enthusiasm displayed at the meeting there is every prospect of a satisfactory response to the appeal, and, in the meantime a strong committee has been formed to make arrangement for an intensive campaign. It is intended to comb the Peninsula systematically, and, after Rabbi Kahanaman has addressed the various congregations, canvassers and collectors will get busy. The Gardens and Roeland Street congregations kindly permitted the Rabbi to deliver addresses at the respective synagogues and the large numbers present at both places of worship were charmed with his wonderful oratory.

THE LATE MRS. KOSSUTH.

At the Gardens Synagogue last Saturday the Rev. A. P. Bender paid an eloquent tribute to the late Mrs. R. B. Kossuth, who passed away on January 29th. The deceased lady,

said Mr. Bender, was imbued with the true spirit of Judaism inherited from her father, the late Rev. A. F. Ornstein, who was, for many years, the respected minister of the Cape Town Hebrew Congregation, and this was exemplified in her home and in the training of her children. Mrs. Kossuth took a keen interest in local charitable institutions—Jewish and non-Jewish, and was an enthusiastic worker of the Fairhaven Work Party, her services being a great asset to that most deserving organisation. At the last meeting of the Board of Guardians the Chairman referred to the loss the community had sustained by the death of Mrs. Kossuth, and a silent tribute was paid to her memory.

FOR THE HOSPITALS.

As the street collections in aid of the Cape Peninsula Hospitals are held on Saturdays, a special mid-week collection is organised annually by Mrs. H. Stodel to enable Jewish ladies to participate. This year's collection has been arranged for Thursday, 24th inst., and it is hoped that last year's record will be eclipsed. Members of the Jewish community are asked to give freely and so enable Mrs. Stodel and her workers to hand over an amount far in excess to that of previous years. It is a worthy cause and one that merits the unstinted support of our community.

THE LATE MR. S. BEBRO.

By the death of Mr. S. Bebro, which sad event took place on Saturday, the community has been deprived of one who never failed to interest himself in anything that had for its object the welfare of local institutions. He never refused an appeal on behalf of those who needed help, and he will be missed by a wide circle of friends. Last year, Mr. Bebro, accompanied by his wife and two daughters, left for Europe, and in order to attend to some business matters returned to South Africa, leaving his wife and daughters in Vienna. Mr. Bebro was a celebrated collector of old furniture, and many of his valuable pieces are to be seen in the Koopmans de Wet Museum in Strand Street. The Cape Town Voorhuis at Wembley was almost entirely furnished by articles from his collection.

ONCE A HEADMASTER.

Mr. Bebro was Headmaster of the Johannesburg Hebrew Schools many years ago, prior to the appointment of Mr. B. P. Marks, B.A., and it is about thirty years ago that he left that scholastic post to enter into a commercial career. At the time of his death he was a partner in the well-known firm of Bebro & Copeland.

PRESENTED BY KRUGER.

Mention of the Johannesburg Hebrew School recalls the fact that at the time Mr. Bebro was connected with that institution it was an adjunct of the Park Hebrew Congregation. The schools were erected on ground given to the Johannesburg Hebrew Congregation by the late President Kruger, and, subsequently, through the instrumentality of Mr. J. H. Isaacs, who was then president of the Johannesburg Talmud Torah, they were sold to the Railway Department for a large sum of money, which was later used to purchase ground at Doornfontein. This ground was originally intended for the Witwatersrand Old Hebrew Congregation, to whom it was sold by Sir George Albu, the foundation stone of which was laid by Mr. Louis Reyersbach, who was the President of the Congregation.

A HOSTEL AT LAST.

Cape Town will shortly have a Hostel for Jewish young women. I am told that a private company has been formed and that shares will shortly be offered to the public. A fair amount of support has already

(Continued on Page 208.)

CITY HALL.

Adelaide Newman
COMPLIMENTARY
Farewell Concert.

TUESDAY,
February 15th, at 8.15 o'clock.

Under the patronage of
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IN AND AROUND THE TOWN.
(Continued from Page 207.)

been promised, and I have no doubt this laudable project will be heartily welcomed. Certain it is that a hostel is long overdue and much credit is due to those ladies and gentlemen who have undertaken to see the thing through. A house, in the course of construction, has been secured. It is situated in Oranjezicht and is admirably constructed for its purpose. On the slopes of Table Mountain, midst healthy and beautiful surroundings, overlooks the town and the harbour. It will be possible to house, comfortably, about twenty-two persons, and it is expected to be ready for occupation some time in April. Business girls and students from up-country will undoubtedly find the hostel "a home from home."

A CONTINUOUS LIGHT.

The opening verse of the Sedra for this week (Exodus 27, verse 20), reads: "And thou shalt command the children of Israel that they bring thee clear olive oil beaten for the light, to cause the lamp to burn continually" The question has often been asked why these minute instructions "clear," "beaten"? The answer lies in the last word of the verse. It was to supply the light continually. When you wish light to continue it must be the purest and the clearest. The Rabbis of the Talmud discussing the light to be used on Sabbath eve, give similar instructions and give the reason that if the oil was of an inferior quality it might cause the bending of the light which would be the breaking of Sabbath. The Torah has often been compared with light. The Jew has always taught the world to be pure without any adulteration and this is the secret why mightier and greater nations have disappeared while the Jewish race continues to live. Those of our brethren who are not so particular that their beliefs should consist of the purest idealism and do not follow the instructions given in the above verse, cannot exist continually. They invariably end in adulterated beliefs and are lost to us as Jews.

EN PASSANT.

Mr. Barney Friedman, of Sea Point, died suddenly at his residence on Monday. He leaves a widow and a son, to whom I extend my deep condolences. Mrs. Friedman is a sister of Councillor Sam Goldstein.

Mr. M. Mauerberger, of the Paarl Woollen Mills, together with Mrs. Mauerberger, arrived by Monday's mailboat, after an absence in Europe of six months.

Bro. Bloom, the President of the Otto Warburg Lodge, Pretoria, has been visiting Cape Town, and was welcomed at a recent meeting of the Hebrew Order of David, Liberman Lodge.

Hearty congratulations to Mr. John Alexander, of the Queen's Hotel, Sea Point, on the attainment of his 79th birthday.

The Colonial Orphan Chamber on behalf of the Liberman Trust has sent £50 to the Cape Town and Suburban Ladies' Benevolent Society.

Members of the Automobile Association have arranged to take the children of the Cape Jewish Orphanage for a day's outing on Sunday.

MR. GOSSIP.
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