



UNITED HEBREW CONGREGATION.

The annual report of the United Hebrew Congregation stresses the importance of the Federation of Synagogues of the Witwatersrand, now on the eve of accomplishment. The congregation will be permanently represented on the Federation by five delegates. The Beth Din as now constituted will be truly representative and will possess a greater authority. The findings of this Jewish Ecclesiastical Court will be respected throughout the Union. The report also states: "From the moment that the consummation of the Federation appeared probable, your Council refused to consider further any of the many applications for admission to the Jewish Faith it had received, and it informed all the applicants that their cases will be handed over to the Federation for submission to the new Beth Din, which now will have sole authority to deal with applications of this nature."

The renovations and repairs of Park Synagogue which were long overdue absorbed more than the £3,000 which remained from the proceeds of the sale of the old President Street Synagogue.

Now an experiment is being made to remedy the acoustic defects of the synagogue, by the installation of microphones and loud speakers. We hear that very good results followed a similar installation in the Gardens Synagogue of Cape Town. The Council has retained the foundation stones of the President Street Synagogue and the Jewish School which adjoined the old Park Station Synagogue. When these stones were laid few could have realised how soon the buildings would be demolished to make room for the new edifices required by the rapid growth of this amazing city. The documents deposited beneath the stones were reduced to pulp, but the sets of Kruger coins have been presented to the United Hebrew Congregation, and these will be placed in frames bearing the names of those who laid the stones, and the dates. The Railway Administration has promised to hand over the foundation stone of the old Park Synagogue when the building is pulled down.

PRESENTATIONS.

Some very handsome presentations were made to the Synagogues of the Congregation during the year. They included a reading desk and pulpit covers, given by Mrs. Dora Gould, who now resides in England, in memory of her parents, the late Mr. and Mrs. Gutmacher, who were old and respected members of the congregation.

Messrs. W. J. and L. D. Mitchell and their sisters, Mrs. S. Davids and Mrs. H. Fren, gave a fine organ to Yeoville Synagogue in memory of their mother, the late Mrs. M. Mitchell.

Messrs. Louis and Bernard Rothschild gave fifty prayer books to Yeoville Synagogue in memory of their late mother.

JOHANNESBURG DAY BY DAY

Mrs. Michael Davids, of London, has promised six mantles for Scrolls of the Law belonging to the congregation in memory of her father, the late Mr. L. Franks.

Mr. W. Hillman has given to the Yeoville Synagogue a very handsome book-case.

MEMBERSHIP AND OTHER THINGS.

Sixty-nine new members were enrolled during the year, and of these forty-three became seat-holders at Park Synagogue, and twenty-six belong to Yeoville Synagogue. Resignations number seventeen. The congregation now numbers 785 members, of whom 248 are seat-holders at Yeoville Synagogue.

The Council has opened fresh negotiations with the Director of Education for the resumption of Hebrew classes at the Jewish Government School in End Street. Once this right (which lapsed during recent years) is regained the control of the Hebrew classes will be handed over to the Board of the United Talmud Torahs.

Ninety-seven marriages were solemnized in the two synagogues during the year under review.

The revenue of the congregation for the year under review was £11,016 0s. 3d., being £1,076 10s. 9d. above the expenditure for the same period.

THE NEW COUNCIL.

At the annual meeting of the United Hebrew Congregation, which took place in the vestibule of Park Synagogue, on Sunday morning, there were a few changes in the Council. The new president is Mr. Isaac Broude, who has filled the office in former years, and Mr. Joseph Ratzker, who has done such excellent work during his term of office as president, is now vice-president. Mr. M. Reuvid, another greatly esteemed official, is treasurer. Messrs. I. H. Lewson, S. Herman, S. Ginsberg, Henry Teeger, C. W. Behrman and Gustav Frankel form the committee of Park Synagogue, and Mr. S. L. Sive (senior warden), Mr. M. Gittelson (junior warden), Messrs. B. P. Marks, P. Michael and R. Michaelson form the committee of Yeoville Synagogue. These two committees, together with the Executive form the Council of the United Hebrew Congregation, and Mr. Barney Guinsberg has been re-elected chairman.

RECEPTION FOR HERZ GROSSBART.

The Jewish Guild dining-hall was filled with a representative gathering, including nearly all the leaders of the Rand Jewish community, when the reception to welcome Herz Grossbart was held on Sunday evening. The function had been arranged by the Jewish Guild and the Yiddish Literary Society. Dr. Bernard Friedman, president of the Guild was in the chair, and with him on the dais was the

guest of the evening, Mr. Grossbart, the Chief Rabbi, Dr. J. L. Landau, and Messrs. Pincus and Sewitz, president and vice-president of the Yiddish Literary Society.

Dr. Friedman, in an interesting speech, traced the influence of Jewish Art on Jewish life, and said that a famous critic had compared Herz Grossbart's interpretation of Yiddish dramatic literature to a chazan's interpretation of the Hebrew spirit as revealed in the literature of the Bible.

Mr. Grossbart, who has a remarkable personality, kept the large audience very still and absorbed while he expounded in fluent Yiddish the relationship between Jewish life and art.

There was an excellent musical programme during the evening. Mrs. Karnovsky sang German lieder with her usual charm, and Miss Wulfhart contributed some violin solos, including a clever composition of her own. Mr. Lionel Lipkie sang some popular numbers with much success. There were some fine piano solos and instrumental trios were contributed by the talented players from the Ambassador's Cafe.

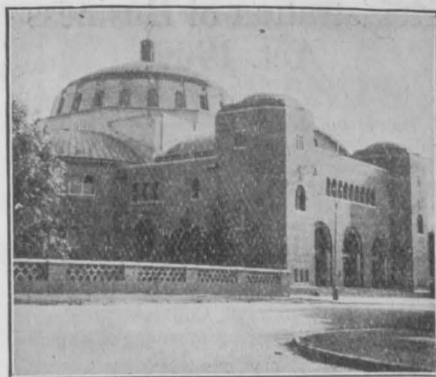
AN ACTOR OF GENIUS.

On Sunday evening there was not even standing room to be found in the Guild Assembly Hall when Mr. Grossbart gave his first recital. Against a background of dark curtains was a reading table with a green shaded lamp and a chair; these being the sole properties. Grossbart seated himself behind the table with the strong light revealing every change of the wonderfully mobile face and every movement of his expressive hands held the audience from the moment he began until he finished. Only once did he stand up and that was for the final recitation "The Shabbas - Goi," by Peretz. The programme consisted of extracts, grave and gay, from that store house of Yiddish literature which is only becoming known to the Western Jews through the medium of translation. Listening to the modulations of Grossbart's voice and watching the effect of his words upon an audience that laughed or saddened at his will, one realised that here was an actor of genius expounding with that rare histrionic art which closely simulates nature, the creative art of another order of genius. He gave examples of the work of Moishe Kulbak, Nadir, Joseph Tunkel, Sholom Aleichem, as well as Peretz, but Peretz was best represented for his name appeared again on the programme as the author of "The Golden Chain" and "Monish" which gave the actor opportunity for his greatest characterisations.

The large audience seemed enthralled, and there can be little doubt of Grossbart's success in Johannesburg. By the way, I notice that his name is now being spelt with a final "t," instead of "d."

HEREW ORDER OF DAVID.

At the time of writing, an important conference of delegates from the



numerous Lodges of the Hebrew Order of David is being held in Bloemfontein. Among the resolutions to be discussed were the Education Fund, the granting of bursaries and scholarships, and the extension of the activities of the order by means of propaganda and the issue of a magazine.

In view of this important gathering the Dr. Herz Lodge of Johannesburg decided to postpone the meeting which was to have taken place to-night (Monday).

Another Lodge of the Order will be consecrated on Thursday, May 26th, at Heilbron. This will be known as the "Achad Ha'am Lodge, No. 19, H.O.D."

The Grand Executive will proceed to Heilbron by road, and representatives from nearly all the minor lodges are expected to attend the celebration.

ZIONIST CAMPAIGN.

The South African Zionist Federation intends to make a strong appeal to Jewry during the month of June. A letter has been sent to all societies containing the reminder of Nahum Sakolow's dictum that every Jew should enrol as an organised member of a Zionist association. The letter concludes: "The success of our movement—both in the eyes of Jewry and in the eyes of the world at large—is judged by the extent to which we can prove that it embodies the united will of the Jewish people. The only, and at the same time obvious, way to prove this is by being able to demonstrate that an overwhelming proportion of our people is enrolled in the ranks of the Zionist movement."

The Federation urges the revival of dormant societies, and the formation of new in places where none at present exist.

NUTSHELL COMMENTS.

The Johannesburg General Hospital has conferred upon Dr. Bernard Friedman the honorary appointment to the staff as specialist for diseases of the ear, nose and throat.

The Bertrams Hebrew Society held a very successful ping-pong tournament at the Jewish Guild last week, there being over a hundred entries. Miss F. Paglin and Mr. Stoloff were the winners.

Advocate Herzl Schlosberg introduced the Flag Bill at the Guild Parliament on Sunday evening. There was a large attendance of spectators but the Government and Opposition front benches were nearly empty. There was very little controversy, and the Government carried the measure.

Mr. Borodovsky, who brought from Palestine the varied and beautiful goods which were exhibited and sold at the Jewish Guild recently, is returning to the Jewish Homeland. He is anxious to dispose of the balance of his stock and will sell this at the Guild by public auction on June 1st and 2nd.



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