

October 21st, 1927.

## United Hebrew Schools

### PRIZE DISTRIBUTION.

#### BURSARIES AND CERTIFICATES.

"Do you look after the welfare of your children like you do your priceless jewellery? You polish it and you furbish it so that it always will shine and its future assured. But what care do you give your children? They are your priceless jewellery. The younger generation are more valuable than the most precious jewellery and their future welfare must be seen to."

These words were used by Mr. I. Mauerberger, the Chairman of the United Hebrew Schools, in his opening address at the annual prize distribution held at the New Zionist Hall on Sunday afternoon.

There was an exceptionally large gathering of parents and pupils, committee members and those interested in the work of the Talmud Torah and on the platform, supporting the chairman were Rabbi M. Ch. Mirvish, Mrs. and Mr. I. Mauerberger, Mrs. A. Silbert, Mr. Woolf Harris, Dr. Hart, Mr. M. Papert, Mr. I. Friedland and Mr. J. Homa.

The Chairman read an apology from the Rev. A. P. Bender, who was unable to be present owing to indisposition, and went on to thank those present for their attendance and their interest in the proceedings. It was said the Chairman, the first time in the history of the school that there had been such a large and representative gathering at a prize distribution or any other function. It showed that there were many who took an interest in their work. That afternoon they would find a new innovation introduced. It was the presentation of bursaries and certificates to pupils. The certificates were given to pupils who were leaving the school and would enable them to go in for the Junior Certificate Examinations. The introduction of bursaries was due to the initiative of Mr. J. Gesundheit, who, before his departure for Palestine, had left a sum of money, the interest on which was to be given as a bursary. In addition three other such bursaries were given by other supporters and he, the Chairman, hoped that next year these four would be greatly increased. They would act as an incentive to the pupils to take a keener interest in their work and in the Talmud Torah and encourage them in their attendances.

Mr. Mauerberger then referred to the general apathy of the community in the activities of the Talmud Torah. Seldom if ever had he seen such a large gathering as was the case that afternoon, but at their general meetings when intimate reports of the work of the school were submitted, there was another tale to be told. The attendances were decidedly poor. When they gave a concert or a play, they were well supported, but when they met together to discuss the welfare of their children, very few turned up.

"It is a disgrace," said Mr. Mauerberger, "that out of a Jewish population of twelve or thirteen thousand, we have only about four hundred members."

The community left too much to the Committee and he did not think that right, and the time had arrived when they should make up their minds to support the institution. Those who were not members should immediately enroll themselves and those who were should see that new members were secured. The lack of interest in the Talmud Torah was much to be deplored. They had had an opportunity of seeing, by way of the Hebrew play, which had been presented that afternoon, what they were capable of doing for their boys and girls while they were young.

"Give them your assistance," con-

cluded the Chairman, "support an institution that is doing important and sacred work. Help us to attain the desired success in training the younger generation to become self-relying members of the Jewish community and the future upholders of the best traditions of Judaism."

Rabbi Mirvish who was unable, through being unwell, to deliver a lengthy address, then distributed the certificates to the successful scholars, and in a few brief remarks to them in Yiddish, he said it was a great pleasure to hand them those documents, and he exhorted the recipients to prize them and to look upon them with pride. They could, he said, always say that they were the first to receive these certificates in Cape Town. They were given to them to remind them of the teaching they had received in the schools and they could then proceed to excel further in knowledge in the great Talmudical world.

Referring to the Hebrew play, Rabbi Mirvish, said it was a great pity that few of those present understood the words used and therefore did not realise the actual significance of the play. They could not therefore, through lack of the Hebrew language, follow what was to him a deeply significant presentation. He drew a moral from the play. If they did not look after their children, they would grow up not as "Davids" but as "Goliaths." If their children were not taught the ancient traditions of Israel and the beauties of Judaism and their ancient language, they would be even worse than "Goliaths," they would be modern "Tirshas"—Jews who were not Jews. In conclusion, Rabbi Mirvish appealed for greater support for the schools. They should attend their annual deliberations. They should acquaint themselves with the activities of the Talmud Torah and give it their assistance.

The bursaries were then handed over by Mrs. Mauerberger, following which Mrs. A. Silbert distributed the many prizes to the successful pupils.

Mr. Woolf Harris moved a vote of thanks to Mrs. Mauerberger and Mrs. Silbert for their services that afternoon. Their duties, he said, did not begin and end with the distribution of prizes. They had other and more important duties than the pleasant ones that afternoon. They stimulated interest and obtained financial support for the institution. The late Rev. Rabinowitz used to take pride in the title "King of the Schnorrers," and he (the speaker) would suggest that these ladies be called "Captains of the Schnorrers," with prospects of later being designated "Queens." They certainly did a lot to help the finances of the school and for this they were all very thankful.

Dr. Hart then proposed a vote of thanks to the Principal, Mr. Homa, Mrs. Homa, and to the teaching staff particularly Mr. Hirshon. The highest tribute that could have been paid to anybody was paid that afternoon to Mr. Homa and his assistants by seeing the children speak and act their parts in the play they had produced. They had brought forward Hebrew as a living language with a facility that was remarkable. They did not require thanks, for their hearts and their souls were in their work, and as a result of their tremendous energy they had seen a wonderful interpretation of an ancient biblical episode. Mr. Hart then drew an analogy between Mr. Homa and the title of the play. When Mr. Homa came to Cape Town the school had scanty means. The Committee were always crippled by poor finances and the community gave meagre support. They had to deal with a "Goliath of ignorance" in the town, but many of his difficulties he had overcome with conspicuous ability. It was very pleasing to see that in this remote part of the

world away from the so-called centre of modern civilization, in an age of gross materialism; it was good to see such men and women devoting their lives and their energies in order to keep alive the spirit of Judaism and their ancient language. Mr. Homa and his co-workers did not require lip service. They required help and assistance so that the language of the Book could be made into a living one.

Mr. I. Friedland moved a vote of thanks to the Chairman to which the latter briefly responded and the proceedings terminated with the singing of "Hatikvah" and the National Anthem.

## Kinemas, Ltd.

Kinemas, Ltd., are making a welcome re-appearance at the Railway Institute on Saturday night with that fascinating picture "Bohemian Love." This will be run for three nights only, with an afternoon matinee on each day. The play is a passionate love tale of the Montmartre in which both Nita Naldi and Louise La Grange star. There will be an interesting feature in the "Wonderful London" item and also the Empire News Bulletin. The booking is at Darter's and patrons are advised to book early.

Under the auspices of the Doornfontein branch of the Jewish Colonisation Fund, the Dramatic Section of the Yiddish Literary Society will stage the Jewish play, "Under the Cross," by J. D. Berkowitz, at the Standard Theatre on November 7th. The proceeds will go to the Colonization Fund, the object of which is to enable the Jews of Russia to settle on the land and become self-supporting.

## Cape Jewish Guild

The Guild concert held at the New Zionist Hall on Wednesday night was a complete success. There was a marked improvement in the Guild Orchestra, especially in the strings, and this was no doubt due to the untiring efforts of their musical director, Mr. Geo. Tobias, A.R.A.M. The Orchestra played several popular items which were very well received. A special item on the programme was a song given by the ever-popular Mr. Boris Rome, the leader of the Gardens Synagogue Choir. He sang remarkably well and met with a most enthusiastic reception. Then there was a piano concerto with the orchestra played by Miss Minna Kahn that gifted little pianist, and this was played in her usual brilliant style. Miss Bessie Stein contributed several songs and was repeatedly encored. There were two one act plays staged by the Dramatic Section of the Cape Jewish Guild, and it is really noticeable the advancement this portion of the Guild has made. The first play was entitled "Fancy Free," and in this play Miss Jeanette Centner, who took the part of "Fancy" displayed a remarkable knowledge of the dramatic art. The second play which was given in the second half of the programme was called the "Playgoers" and dealt with the efforts of a youthful mistress to provide pleasure for her staff of servants and the extremely funny results thereof. The casts in both plays were carried out very well and the "Playgoers" especially called forth peals of laughter from the comfortably filled house. The accompaniments during the evening were played by Miss Minna Kahn and Mr. Phineas Lewis. There is no doubt that the Guild is progressing and each concert given is better than the previous one.



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