

In and Around the Town.

100, St. George's Street,
Thursday.

HARDLY A QUORUM.

There was hardly a quorum at the annual meeting of the Cape Hebrew Helping Hand Society, and thus, once again, have we a demonstration of the existing apathy and a lack of interest which the members of the local Jewish community take in the activities of those organisations which, day in and day out grapple with the problem of alleviating local distress. And one sees at these annual meetings the same faces. No matter whether it be an Orphanage, Aged Home, Philanthropic or any other society's meeting, the same people are there. Seldom are there any newcomers to assist in the burden cheerfully taken up by the self-sacrificing few. These never fail in their duty. Take up the annual reports of every charitable institution in Cape Town and you will see that these workers are not content to give their services to one particular organisation; they give their time and energy to every agency that has for its object the alleviation of the distress and poverty in the community. Most of them serve on every committee, and thus set an example to those who are content to let others do the work for them.

PUBLIC SATISFIED?

The Chairman at the Helping Hand meeting chose to see in the small attendance a sign that the public were satisfied with the manner in which the institution was administered. That is certainly one way of looking at it. I prefer to regard it in a different light. Many think their duty begins and ends with their small contribution to the funds. "Here's my guinea, but don't otherwise bother me." That is as far as their interest goes. They do not want to know anything about the lot of their distressed brothers. Everyone, of course, cannot take an active part in the administration of a charitable body, but a far larger number of members of the community can take an interest in the various institutions. It should be poor satisfaction to the various hard working committees to have to account for their activities to an empty hall. Far from it being a satisfactory sign, it is a very disquieting fact. To cope with the growing distress it is necessary that this apathy, this disinterestedness, should give place to healthy and progressive co-operation. Jewish charitable institutions belong to the Jewish public, the members of which should make it their business to keep in touch and to make themselves acquainted with the manner in which charitable endeavour is administered.

CO-OPERATION WANTED.

Surely an hour or two at an annual meeting of a charitable institution is not too much to expect? It should be sufficiently attractive to listen to an account of stewardship at first hand, and to learn of the many difficulties with which the committee have to contend. But above all it is the duty of the members of the community to attend these gatherings in order to offer advice and constructive criticism, to help the administrators of public funds in their self-appointed task. There can be no satisfaction in the fact that only a handful of people present themselves at these annual meetings. There can only be discouragement to those social workers whose only payment is the knowledge that they are carrying out indispensable duties; are

engaged in heaven-sent work on behalf of the aged, the poor, the sick and the orphan. It would be to them a sign of appreciation at least if, when they issue notices of their annual deliberations, the response is a large attendance at their meetings.

A POPULAR WEDDING.

The wedding of Mr. Isaac Abrahamson, eldest son of Mr. I. Abrahamson, of local Nash Motor fame, and Miss Rose Soloman, took place at the Gardens Synagogue last Sunday. The Rev. A. P. Bender, M.A., performed the ceremony, which event was largely attended by friends of both families. The popularity of the young couple in Cape Town was endorsed by the large numbers who crowded the synagogue, many being forced to stand during the ceremony. The bride, who was given away by her father, was charming in a frock of white satin in the period style with an insertion of Brussels lace down the centre. The border of the frock was embroidered in white and silver and she wore a hand-made Brussels lace veil which was held in place by a head-dress of orange blossoms. Two of the four bridesmaids carried the veil. The bridesmaids were the Misses Fanny and Janey Abrahamson, May Solomon and Hazah Burnstein. The bride's sister wore white georgette and the others white taffeta with silver tissue. All wore white crinoline hats with long streamers. The bride's mother wore a rose frock of georgette and lace with a lace coat attached, her hat being of crinoline of vieux rose shade. Mrs. Abrahamson, the bridegroom's mother wore a lace frock of pastel shades, with a georgette coat of pink beige and hat to match. The canopy bearers were Messrs. Issy Abrahamson, Joe Isaacs, Joe Solomon and Issy Solomon. The duties of best-man were ably carried out by Mr. Frank Weinberg. The subsequent reception, held at the Zionist Hall, was attended by over eight hundred guests, the health of the happy couple being given by Mr. A. Friedlander, and that of the parents by Mr. H. J. Stodel, they being responded to respectively by the bridegroom and his father Mr. I. Abrahamson. The newly-married pair left by the mail train to Johannesburg for their honeymoon, and intend returning in a couple of week's time via the Coast route. They will then reside at Muizenberg. Over one hundred and fifty presents were received. Special mention should be made of the cut glass liqueur set on a silver stand presented by the staff of Nash's Cape Motor Co. Dancing was kept up to an early hour to the strains of Messrs. Zabow and Moller's orchestra.

A "SOUL SAVER."

The Rev. E. H. Ettman needs no introduction to Cape Town Jewry. His activities as a *Meshummed* are pretty well known. Mr. Ettman will tell you that he was baptised at the age of thirteen when he had no idea what the ceremony was all about. He will also tell you that he is still a Jew and proud of it! But Jewry is not proud of him. I see he has now been airing his views through the medium of "De Kerkbode," and in a recent issue of that official organ of the Dutch Reformed Church, he has given an account of his labours—"precious soul-saving labours" he calls it. "De Kerkbode" gives him plenty of space and therein he advises his "Jesus-Intoxicated" masters to help him to find labourers to move

among the Jews personally, in their homes, businesses, and in their assemblies; for the distribution of the New Testament; for work among women, children, welfare visitors and young converts; and all those included in the various congregations of the church. It is really the old, old story of missionary effort among Jews, and it is not necessary for one to write at great length on the subject. For what good Mr. Ettman's missionary activities does, it would be advisable to utilise his salary and expenses on very necessary work within the church, say in connection with the present sufferers of the drought, than spending it upon that gentleman's insignificant and irresponsible "soul-saving" business.

JEWES AND CHRISTIANITY.

Apropos of the above subject, I have been reading a book by a well-known Gentile clergyman entitled, "The Jew and Christianity; Some Phases. Ancient and Modern of the Jewish Attitude Towards Christianity." The author of the book is Canon Danby, D.D., who translated from Hebrew into English, Dr. Klausner's "Jesus of Nazareth." More especially for this particular reason did I read Canon Danby's apologetic book. To share with my readers his views on Jewish Christian relations, I give herewith his concluding paragraphs:—

"Nineteen hundred years of Christian dealings with Jews have brought it to pass that Christians, the sworn soldiers and servants of Jesus, despite centuries of real Christian endeavour, in spite of the saintly lives lived by countless hosts of holy and humble men of heart, apostles, saints and martyrs—despite all these, Christians as such have not been, and still are not, in Jewish eyes, the true torch-bearers of Jesus of Nazareth. 'Ye are the light of the world'; that is our Lord's commission to us. His disciples. Have we failed? Not entirely. The light of Christianity has shone in the darkest places of the earth, and still is shining throughout the greater part of the civilized world. It is the Jews alone who, all through our history, have stood aloof, watched that light and rejected that light—or, it would perhaps be more true to say, have rejected those who were the bearers of that light."

CANON DANBY'S REASON.

This is Canon Danby's reason: "The reason is plain: the Christian, wherever he was confronted by the Jew, has straightway cast away his Christian torch, rejected his Lord's commission, arrogated to himself the

right of vengeance where our Lord Himself forgave. The Christian Church, wherever and whenever the power lay in its hands, has shown to the Jewish race only the darkened, blackened wall of vengeance, of hatred, malice and all uncharitableness—acts unblessed by our Lord; it has not shown them the bright light of Christian charity.

"Are we to blame the Jews if they have failed to see Christ in His Church, and now, at last, go groping to find Him in their own way, using for their guide any will-o'-the-wisp of a passing fashion of thought? Are we to blame the Jews if they turn with horror from the one possible guide, when all that they know of that guide, which is the Christian Church—when all they know of it is that for them it has spelled oppression, persecution and murder throughout the weary passage of centuries?"

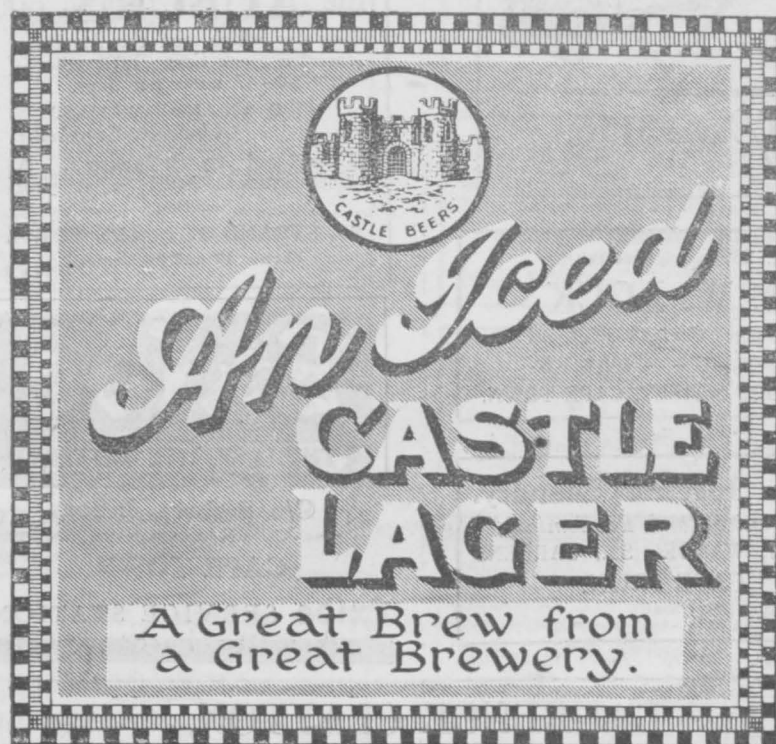
A CHARMED LIFE.

Lord Allenby leaves England for South Africa to-morrow (Friday). I am sure he will receive a very cordial reception here. His victories in Palestine during the World War are matters of history now. Books and books have been written about his Palestinian campaign. I have heard many stories from friends who served under Allenby, of this genial Gentile and his army, I was told this one. It is about Captain Alex. Aaronsohn, D.S.C., who was born in Turkey. This Turkish Jew escaped, I am informed, from the Turkish army, in an American steamer from Beirut in 1916. He thereupon joined the British Intelligence Service, and was popularly known as "the man with the charmed life" because of his many miraculous escapes from capture

(Continued on Page 1020.)

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IN AND AROUND THE TOWN.

(Continued from Page 1009.)

during his service as an intelligent officer. Of this class of men did Lord Allenby make possible his victories and it is of interest to chronicle the fact that this Captain Aaronsohn is now the only survivor of the group which organised "Nili," the military intelligent service always to be associated with Allenby's name.

A SCHOOL MAGAZINE.

The 1927 "Junior Magazine," the magazine of the South African Junior School, a copy of which I have just received, is as attractive as any of its predecessors, and in the competitions one finds evidence of much literary ability among those whose efforts merited reproduction. There is much quality in every department, drawing, verse, prose, stories, etc. The youthful literateurs in their contributions have displayed surprisingly excellent vocabulary, and many have the dramatic sense and the art of description developed in a high degree. The published verses and stories show a fine imagination and the all-round excellence of the wonderful contributions redounds to the credit of Mr. G. P. Kipps, the Principal of the Junior School and the Editor of the Magazine. In the drawing section there is much originality displayed, and with perseverance and thorough application there are bright prospects for the youthful artists on leaving school.

JEWISH BOYS.

I was pleased to note that the number of Jewish lads gifted with the literary sense and without distracting from the excellence of other efforts, I must mention particularly those of the boys, H. Cohen, S. L. Schach, D. Meyerowitz, who have written very descriptive stories. "The Killing of Marat," by Meyerowitz, is a really splendid effort and he fully deserved the prize that was awarded to him. There is a very well written rondel by J. Rollnick, whilst other verse writers are S. H. Rechtman, P. Lewis, C. Solomon, H. Cohen, A. Gelb, A. Rogalsky, B. Berman, D. Ginsberg and J. Friedman (in Afrikaans), N. Fernandez and J. Shagam. If it is at all possible I will reproduce one or two of the verses either this week or in next week's issue, for I feel sure that they will make interesting reading. In last year's magazine there were several Jewish boys who figured prominently in the drawing section. This year, however, the only drawing by a Jewish lad is that by B. Lurie, which is an original illustration.

A WONDERFUL RECORD.

The results of the last Trinity College Elocution Examination have now been issued, and I see from these that Miss Irene Grey has once again achieved a hundred per cent. of passes. This lady sent in eleven pupils and all passed. The lowest gained marks to the extent of seventy per cent. of the possible total. I have taken the trouble to turn up Miss Grey's record for the past five years, and find that, in four out of the last five years, this lady has gained a hundred per cent. of passes; whilst in the lean year it was one pupil only who failed. It is no wonder that Mr. Chamberlain—the overseas examiner, commented so favourably on the thorough preparation of the examinees who came before him. I think this is indeed a record to be proud of and we as a Jewish paper are glad to note the appreciable percentage of Jewish children who attend Miss Grey's classes.

MR. GOSSIP

No More Aching Backs.

HOW JOHANNESBURG PEOPLE
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Does your back feel weak and painful? Does it ache continually? Do you suffer headaches, languor and depression? Is the urine discoloured or urination irregular?

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There is proof of real merit in this Malvern man's experience.

On 6th June, 1914, Mr. T. J. Reid, 3, Twenty-fourth Street, Malvern, Johannesburg, Transvaal, said: "Kidney weakness caused me to have severe, aching pains in the small of my back and also weak eyesight. The pain was often crippling, and many times kept me from stooping or doing my work."

"I suffered for years; the medicine I used only relieved me temporarily. Eighteen months ago I tried Doan's Backache Pills, which were splendid. I used half a dozen boxes, and got a complete cure."

On 24th May, 1927, Mr. Reid said: "I am keeping quite well with my back. I always give praise to Doan's Pills.—(Signed) T. J. Reid."

Ask distinctly for Doan's Backache Kidney Pills, the same as Mr. Reid had. Sold by all dealers, 3/3 a box. Sole Proprietors, Foster-McClellan, P.O. Box 1297, Cape Town.

Zionist Leader Attacked

News from Warsaw states that Deputy Isaac Gruenbaum, while returning to his home from a meeting of the Zionist Organisation, was attacked in the street by three hooligans who beat him savagely. Deputy Gruenbaum's cries for help brought up a policeman, at whose appearance the hooligans disappeared. Deputy Gruenbaum noticed that his attackers were not Jews. He has not suffered any serious injury and his condition is satisfactory.

It is assumed that the attack was organised by circles who are opposed to Deputy Gruenbaum's efforts to bring about the creation of a bloc of minority nationalities to contest the forthcoming general election.

Imprisoned Jews
Released.

Fourteen Jews of the town of Varklyane, Latvia, were tried before the law court at Dwinsk in May, 1926, on a charge of having attacked a number of Latvian students who had insulted the Jewish population. Five of them were sentenced to various terms of imprisonment.

On the occasion of the celebration of Latvian independence, the President has amnestied a hundred prisoners, these five Jews being included among them.

The silk factory of Mr. Max Del-finer at Tel-Aviv, which suspended operations last year, is now being dismantled and the machinery and fixtures will be sent to Europe.

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