

In and Around the Town.

58 Burg Street,
Thursday.

JEWISH RECONSTRUCTION.

At the beginning of the year, the Central Committee of the Ort-Oze-Emigdirekt issued an appeal to the Jewish public, in which it surveys the work accomplished during the year 1928. The achievements are certainly very creditable, and show a continuation and even intensification of their previous activities along their whole wide front. It mentions the campaigns which were carried out on behalf of Jewish reconstruction in most European countries, and in such far-off places as India, Egypt, Australia. The appeal concludes on a note of confidence in the generosity and sympathy of world Jewry, which will enable the Organisations to continue their great task of restoring Jewish life in Eastern Europe. The plenary sitting of the O.R.T. Organisation took place in December last in Berlin. It was fully representative, and it dealt with every aspect of Jewish economic reconstruction. Among its resolutions were those for a greater activity to get employment for Jews in the larger industries, and for a general extension of work in every direction.

THE OLD ZIONIST HALL.

During the week a visitor called on me and asked, as a Jew, whether it would not be possible to remove from the ice-cream factory in Hope Street the words Dorshei Zion Association.

It is a great pity that the old home and birthplace of Zionism in this country should stand in the middle of the town, desecrated and dishonoured.

At the time of the building of the New Zionist Hall an appeal was made to preserve the old building as a sentimental relic. It could have proved of use as the headquarters of one of the numerous Jewish activities in town.

However that may be, the owners thought fit to sell the hall. Surely they did not also sell their name. A very small effort would result in removing from the old building what is not only a stupid incongruity, but a source of daily heartbreak and eyesore to those who constantly pass the old hall and remember it in the days when it was the stronghold not only of Zionism, but of Jewish culture in South Africa.

A GOOD BAZAAR STORY.

A zealous stall-holder at a large Jewish communal bazaar was Mrs. Rebecca Cohen. She allowed no customer to pass her without making a purchase. Catching sight of an old friend, she appealed him him.

"Ikey, come and buy something from me."

Ikey looked disdainfully round the fancy goods stall and shook his head.

"But for charity you must," she wheedled.

"I'll tell you what," smirked Ikey, "I'll give you a pound for a kiss."

Mrs. Rebecca drew herself up and reminded him that she was a respectable married woman now.

Finally, for charity's sake, she beat him up to five pounds, and agreed to barter the kiss at her house the following morning.

True to the bargain, Ikey came at 10 a.m. Rebecca gave him the kiss and received the five pound note.

At 1 o'clock her husband arrived home for lunch.

"Becky," he asked, "did Ikey come here this morning?"

Thinking the cat was out of the bag she said "Yes."

"And did he leave a fiver?"

Poor Rebecca's heart was in her mouth as she admitted that he had.

"That's good," said Hubby, in a relieved voice. "He borrowed a five pound note from me early this morning and said that he would bring it to you before lunch!"

A CHORAL SOCIETY.

I hear that there is a movement afoot to form a Jewish Choral Society in Cape Town. Should this materialise it will be the first time that Cape Town will have had such a society conducted on the right lines. The object in view of those contemplating this step will be to foster the appreciation of Jewish music, encouraging local talent and giving an opportunity to a music-loving community to hear and learn something about their own melodies. We understand that if this society comes into being the Rev. S. Kibel will give special music lessons and lectures, paying particular attention to theoretical matters. Jewish compositions will be rehearsed and eventually the society will be able to appear in public. Concerts will be organised and there may be a possibility, at some future date, of holding a Jewish Eisteddfod. Such a society can do a lot in the cause of charity for concerts, musical festivals, etc., could be arranged to raise funds for charitable objects. Undoubtedly there is plenty of scope for such a society and it will prove an enormous attraction.

YOUNG JUDEANS.

The Young Judean Society opened their "season" at the Old Synagogue on Saturday with a "Social Who's Who." There was a large attendance and a very successful evening was spent. The Rev. S. Kibel, who takes a keen interest in the society, was present and appealed to members to attend the services at the Great Synagogue more regularly. As a result of his address it was arranged to have a "Synagogue Parade" on Saturday next for the purpose of attending the afternoon service.

HOUSE TO HOUSE COLLECTION.

The annual House to House Collection on behalf of the United Hebrew Schools will commence on Sunday the 3rd March and the campaign will be continued from that date until the 10th March.

CONSECRATION.

On Sunday morning at 11 a.m. the Rev. A. P. Bender, assisted by Cantor L. Kirschner and the choir of the Great Synagogue, will consecrate the extension of the cemetery of the congregation (Woltemade No. 3).

AN ANNUAL OUTING.

Last Thursday about twenty-five old people of the Chevra Kadisha and Aged Home were taken for their annual outing by those indefatigable social workers, Mr. and Mrs. H. J. Stodel, assisted by several friends. Motor cars were kindly lent by Mrs. Pevsner, Mrs. Fillis, Mr. Ettman and Mrs. Kruyer, and, accompanied by the organisers and Mrs. J. Brodie and Mr. Fillis (Durban), the old folk proceeded to Muizenberg where, with her customary hospitality, Mrs. Cramer provided morning tea. Then the party proceeded to Groot Constantia, where they were the guests of Mr. E. Stern. After an inspection of Mr. Stern's extensive fruit farm, lunch was provided, and suitable entertainment indulged in. The return journey was made via Hout Bay, and it was a tired but happy band that reached home at about 7 p.m.

LAYMEN AND JUDAISM.

In this week's Sedra, Exodus, Chap. 28, verses 1, 2, 3, we read: "And take thou unto thee Aaron thy brother and his sons with him from among the children of Israel that he may minister unto me. . . . And thou shalt make holy garments for Aaron thy brother, for glory and for beauty. And thou shalt speak

unto all that are wise hearted whom I have filled with the spirit of Wisdom that they may make Aaron's garments to consecrate him that he may minister unto me in the priest's office."

Since the earliest days of the formation of the children of Israel into a religious community, it was always the great Jewish principle that the service for the community was not only to rest on the shoulders of the priest or minister, but the co-operation of all the wise hearted men was always required. Hence the instructions given to Moses: ". . . And thou shalt speak unto all that are wise hearted. . . ."

Within the last century the principle of requiring the assistance of various laymen in communal work has been recognised, but unfortunately the qualifications stated in this week's reading which were to be possessed by the layman to qualify him for assisting in communal work, are in a great number of cases entirely absent. In a great number of communities the chief qualification is not the wise heart, but the comfortable pocket. This is very noticeable at any of the elections in connection with communal institutions, yet we continue to ask the question: Why such lack of interest in Jewish matters? We live in a community to-day where we have among us a great number of intelligent young men and women, and it is almost certain that if their services were asked for there are very few among them who would refuse to give of their best for the welfare of their

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