

In and Around the Town.

58, Burg Street,
Wednesday.

ANOTHER ASPECT OF FEDERATION.

At a recent meeting held at the Old Synagogue to discuss Mr. H. J. Stodel's scheme of federation of Cape Town's Jewish Institutions, at least three persons at the meeting spoke against the proposal, and as one of the main points of their objections they used the argument that there was no overlapping so far as Cape Jewish institutions were concerned. How, then, does it come about that of the six chief Jewish Institutions in Cape Town two of them saw fit to hold their annual general meeting on the same day and at the same time in two different places and situated some distance from each other? Scanning through the lists of subscribers, even the casual observer can see that a large proportion of the members of the community subscribe to both bodies. With co-ordination and co-operation in a manner suggested in Mr. Stodel's scheme, such an unfortunate occurrence would have been rendered impossible. This somewhat confirms Mr. Stodel's oft-repeated statement that our communal institutions are administered from "water-tight compartments." This point need not be laboured. It is apparent to even the meanest intellect that the opinion of at least two institutions who look with disfavour upon federation actually supply a convincing argument in favour of Mr. Stodel's scheme.

DR. HILDESHEIMER.

My colleague, "Rozilda," has much to say in another part of this issue with regard to our distinguished visitor, but I must refer to the address he delivered at the Roeland Street Synagogue last Saturday afternoon. In the morning he addressed the congregants at the Mother Congregation. At the Roeland Street Synagogue, speaking in German, he said that he was a guest who "came for a while and saw for a mile." He expressed admiration of all he had heard and seen during the few days since his arrival in South Africa. Although, he said, the Jewish community of this country was a comparatively new one, it had all the traditions which were largely based on the bible, which had made them perfect and complete, unlike natural, ethical and social traditions which were entirely the product of environment and time. Dr. Hildesheimer went on to tell his hearers how two persons, namely, the late Rabbi Samuel Raphael Hirsch and his father were largely instrumental in bringing about a revival of orthodox observance of Judaism in Germany, after much laxity and disintegration had set in, in the wake of the Mendelssohnian epoch. It was quite common, he said, at the present time among the professional class who rigorously observed the Sabbath and dietary laws. There were many

boys and girls who could read the bible in Hebrew and were even able to follow the commentaries of Rashi.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION OF GIRLS.

Referring to his own particular Seminary, Dr. Hildesheimer said that the study of the Talmud there had not perhaps come up to the high mark of similar institutions elsewhere, which was due to its being combined with secular education which had to be introduced to meet the exigencies of the times. But they were, nevertheless, trying to raise their own standard, and they always admired the profound Talmudic erudition of the Polish and Lithuanian Rabbis, who very frequently, on their visits to Berlin, delivered Talmudic lectures at his Seminary. Dr. Hildesheimer devoted much of his address to the question of the religious education of girls, which he maintained had been neglected, and he emphasised the importance of woman's influence as the greatest factor in the creation of a religious atmosphere in the home.

FEDERATION OF JEWISH INSTITUTIONS.

The meeting called by Mr. H. J. Stodel for Sunday, 9th June, at the Old Synagogue, Gardens, for the purpose of continuing the discussion of "Federation," has been unavoidably postponed to meet the wishes and convenience of a large number of members of the community, who are busily engaged in connection with the forthcoming elections. The meeting, therefore, will be held on Sunday, 16th inst., at 10.30 a.m. prompt, when the convener hopes there will be a very large attendance.

MR. ISAAC OCHBERG.

Mr. Ochberg, accompanied by Mrs. Ochberg, leaves for England by the "Windsor Castle" to-morrow, 7th inst. Mr. Ochberg intends to be present at the Zionist Congress which will be held at Zurich on the 28th prox.

THE AGED HOME.

It is not often that a charitable institution is able to show a surplus. This happy circumstance, however, can be recorded by that very deserving Institution, the Cape Jewish Aged Home. I notice from the very interesting report issued by that Institution that during the year the amount of £1,121 was received as revenue. It is not a very great figure, and it speaks volumes for the manner in which the Institution is economically administered that even on this small turnover there is a surplus of £145. In regard to the revenue, it is very noticeable what little support is accorded the Home so far as subscribers are concerned. The small figure of £253 represents the amount received as subscriptions. This at once indicates how few subscribers there are to this Home, and the fact of there being a surplus on the year's working should not deter those of the com-

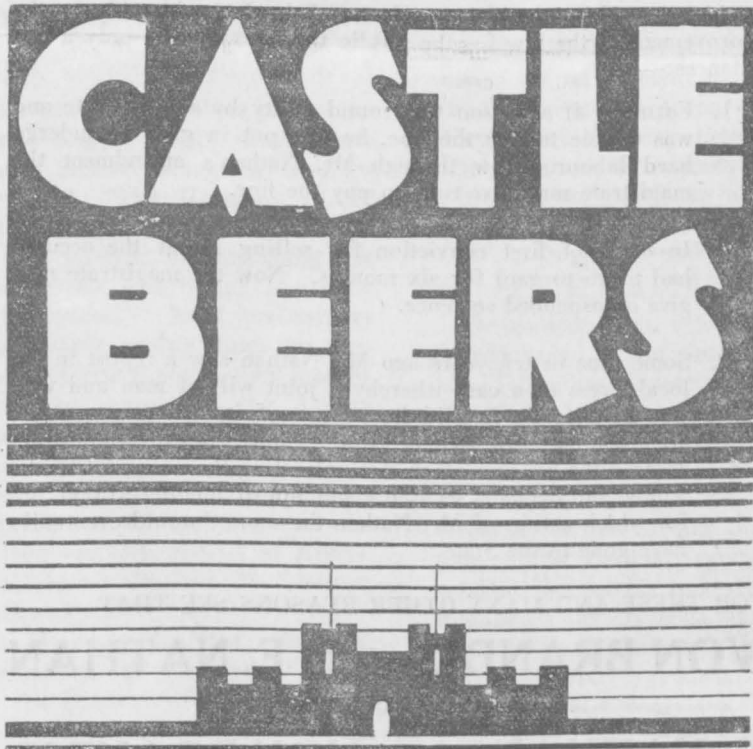
munity who have withheld their support from becoming annual regular subscribers.

THE SICK RELIEF SOCIETY.

The report issued by the Sick Relief Society shows a record of excellent work for the indigent sick of the community. The Bickur Cholim plays an important part in the charitable life of the local Jewish community. There are some critics who maintain that its functions are such that the Society could be with advantage incorporated with the Board of Guardians.

The fact of the matter is that through a happy arrangement made some considerable time ago the Bickur Cholim and the Board of Guardians work in cordial co-operation, and a representative of the former Society is always present at the meeting of the Board in order that any cases that might be found to come in the scope of the Sick Relief Society's activities may be immediately dealt with. If, however, amalgamation comes about between these two Societies, the present

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South African Jewish Board of Deputies.

A well-attended meeting of the S.A. Jewish Board of Deputies was held on Sunday morning at the Jewish Guild building, Johannesburg, presided over by Mr. S. Raphaely, the President.

Mr. Harry Carter, M.P.C., hon. treasurer, reported having in the Transvaal Provincial Council raised the matter of the admissions of Jewish children to certain of the Government schools, regarding which difficulties had been experienced, and that he had obtained the returns of the applications and admissions with regard to the Barnato Girls, King Edward and Jeppes Schools, from which it appeared that there had been some improvement in the position compared with previous years. With reference to two further cases brought forward at the meeting, it was left to Mr. Harry Carter to interview the Administrator and the Director of Education with regard to the question of having access to the names and addresses of applicants for admission and those admitted.

The President was unanimously elected to represent South African Jewry on the Council of the extended Jewish Agency for Palestine, being formed of representatives of world Jewry, to work in conjunction with the World Zionist Organisation for the carrying out of the terms of the British Mandate for Palestine.

Dr. Charles Spiro, Messrs. M. Geffen and A. Livingstone (the two latter in place of the Chairman and Mr. Harry Carter, who had been provisionally acting in that capacity) were elected to represent Johannesburg Jewry on the Appeal Committee of the Johannesburg Hospital in response to an invitation received from that body.

It was decided to send a protest to the Joint Matriculation Board against the use of a certain Dutch text book in the Matriculation standards of certain schools, as it contained propaganda for the conversion of Jews to Christianity.

Mr. S. B. Friede, the Chairman of the Jewish Employment Bureau of the Board, submitted the monthly report of the Bureau's activities, showing that 40 applicants had been found employment during the month, making a total of 438 billets found since the inception of this important branch of the Board.

With regard to the scheme for settling Jews on the land in this country, Mr. Friede reported that 12 young men had so far been placed on farms, and that the Bureau was receiving expert advice from the Government Land Department regarding land that had been offered upon which to work the land settlement scheme.

The Chairman reported having, with Mr. Harry Carter, assisted in obtaining funds with which selected Jewish Boy Scouts were being sent to England to take part in the forthcoming World Scout Jamboree. It was decided that at the next meeting the definite date be fixed for the South African Congress of the Board

to be held in Cape Town during the year-end holidays, and, in this connection, the Chairman emphasised the necessity of as many Deputies as possible attending this Conference in view of its exceptional importance.

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method of working will have had a great deal to do with that consummation. Meanwhile, the Committee of that excellent Society has much on which to congratulate itself. One of the outstanding features of its activities is the Kosher Kitchen, which has been a boon to Jews and Jewesses who have had the misfortune to be patients of the New Somerset Hospital. The kitchen is spoken of in complimentary terms by the hospital authorities and reflects great credit upon the parent body, namely, the Sick Relief Society. The Chairman, Mr. F. Suritz, may well be proud of the great part which the Society of which he is President plays in the communal life of this town, and no one reading the comprehensive report which was circulated can help but admire the self-sacrificing spirit which is displayed by him and his colleagues.

JEWISH PEDIGREE.

In this week's Sedra, Numbers, chap. 1, verse 18, we read: "And they assembled all the congregation together on the first day of the second month, and they declared their pedigrees after their families, by the house of their fathers, according to the number of the names, from twenty years old and upward, by their polls."

Targum Unkooloos, commenting on the word "Vaijisyaldoo," "and they declared their pedigree," remarks "Ve-isyachsoo," "and they prided themselves of their pedigree." Any Jew reading these first chapters of Numbers cannot but feel proud of the fact that while a great number of our neighbours now boast of civilisation and pedigree, the Jew certainly possessed these thousands of years before them.

One is reminded of the event when Lord Beaconsfield (Disraeli) delivered his first speech in the British House of Parliament and was laughed at. His retort was: "Gentlemen, do not forget that my ancestors were priests in the Temple of God while your ancestors were still running about as savages on the banks of the Thames."

Would that our young would realise the fact that the Jews as a nation can claim all the qualities which go towards creating the pride of a nation; for if martyrdom creates a nation, who had more martyrs than the Jews? If civilisation creates a nation, who can boast of an older civilisation than the Jews? There is a great need to inculcate the spirit of declaring one's pedigree after their families.

Let the Jew declare himself first and foremost a Jew, and he will gain the respect due to him from every point of view, viz., antiquity, martyrdom and civilisation.

THE EISTEDDFOD—JEWISH FINALISTS.

The City Hall presented a busy scene on the opening evening of the Eisteddfod last Monday. On Wednesday evening the two halls proved barely large enough for the large audiences. In the preliminary elocution test for girls of 12 to 13 about twenty of the entrants were Jewish. One Jewish girl, Sylvia Vilensky, was selected for the finals. In class 87, bass solo, a very interesting competition, Mr. Harry Garfinkel, who has a very fine voice, was awarded the bronze medal. In class 66, preliminary elocution test for girls between 10 and 11, there were 53 entrants. Of the 15 Jewish children three got into the finals. Number 19, Lily Sharenowitz, gave a most charming and excellent interpretation of "A Lullaby for a Naughty Girl," and was placed an easy first. Natalie Marcus and Rita Maman also came into the finals. Miss Peffers, who offers very constructive criticism, remarked that she was pleased to find that since last year the children had lost a good deal of affected mannerisms, but unfortunately affected speech was still far too prevalent.

JOHANNESBURG.

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Hirsch, Miss E. Treisman, and Messrs. E. L. Fisher, R. Kahn and P. Heiman. The Jazz Maniacs Orchestra played for dancing.

REUBEN BRAININ CAMPAIGN.

The campaign inaugurated by Reuben Brainin to assist Jewish Land Settlement proceeds apace and canvassing has already commenced in Johannesburg. The Campaign Committee have inaugurated the practice of forwarding monthly bulletins acquainting all and sundry with the progress of their campaign and in their last issue great stress was laid on the fact that the Grand Lodge of South Africa, H.O.D., had officially announced their sympathy with and support for the campaign. It was also understood that Capt. Israel Levinson, of Hillel College, Muizenberg, has joined the Organisation and will shortly proceed on a tour of the country districts.

On Monday last, 27th May, Mr. Reuben Brainin lectured to the Hebrew Circle in Johannesburg on "Modern Style in Hebrew Literature," whilst on Sunday last a public reception was tendered to him by the Jewish community of Bethal and in the evening he addressed a packed meeting in the Bioscope Hall, being supported by the Mayor, Mr. J. T. S. Louw, Mr. Bernard Alexander, and Dr. J. M. Cohen.

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