

Johannesburg Day by Day.

By "BEN HAMAGID."

Invitations to meetings and functions should be addressed as early as possible to: Progress Buildings, corner Commissioner and Von Weilligh Streets, Johannesburg.

The Feast of Tabernacles.

This evening the Festival of Succoth or the Feast of Tabernacles will be celebrated in Johannesburg synagogues. The festival lasts regularly eight days. It was celebrated by the Jews when they lived in Palestine as an agricultural festival, and marked the close of the harvest and the beginning of the ploughing and rainy seasons. It was a festival of rejoicing and merrymaking, when the servant was equal to the master, and all united in praising and thanking God for His bountiful gifts. The Bible commanded that on this festival all the people should make pilgrimage to the Temple of Jerusalem, and there, after offering their sacrifices, should dwell in booths or tabernacles, hastily erected of wood and beautifully decorated with fruits and flowers to remind them both of the harvest season and how their ancestors had dwelt in booths in the wilderness. Many Jews still observe the latter custom to-day. In some synagogues, too, a modernised form of the harvest festival is celebrated.

Some also celebrate a supplementary festival on the ninth day, called Rejoicing of the Law, because on that day the sacred scrolls of the Law of Moses are rolled back to the beginning of Genesis and are begun to be read anew. In many synagogues the scrolls are taken from the holy ark in which they are kept and carried about in solemn procession.

The Succah.

It must be said with regret that the custom of building succahs in Johannesburg homes is gradually falling away. It is, of course, difficult for people living in modern flats to build succahs, but even in the many spacious homes of wealthy Johannesburg Jews where wonderful tennis courts and gardens are in full evidence, there seems to be no urge to build the pretty succah of old.

There will be, of course, this year the communal succahs set up by the larger congregations in which after the morning service the more orthodox of the congregation assemble and make *Kiddush* or *broche* and then disperse to the succahless homes.

What a pity that so beautiful a custom of Jewish life, is gradually losing its hold upon Jews in this country.

At the Johannesburg Cenotaph.

On Sunday morning the S.A. Jewish ex-Service Men's League

place a wreath at the Johannesburg Cenotaph. This expression of devotion to fallen brothers of every denomination marks the first official function of the League. The wreath was made in the form of a large *Mogen David* and was beautifully executed in blue and white colours illustrative of the Jewish national colours.

This action on the part of the Jewish ex-service men is very deeply appreciated by the large number of ex-soldiers of the war who are residing in Johannesburg and suburbs.

The Afrikaans Eisteddfod.

In the various instrumental sections an outstanding effort was that of Master I. Magid, to whom went the gold medal award in the open violin competition. This young violinist has a maturity of style and degree of technical surety that make his work distinctive, while his interpretation pointed to undoubted musical gifts. Mr. N. Koransky, who gained the second place, also claimed the closest attention by the technical control and genuine musical nature of his playing.

Cantor Rosenbloom.

Deep disappointment awaited the large number of worshippers who had assembled on Rosh Hashonah in the auditorium of the City Hall to listen to the famous Cantor Sirota conducting the services. It was noticeable that on Friday evening that Mr. Sirota was suffering from a severe cold and as a result he was forbidden by his doctors to perform the services during the two days of the festival. The consternation caused on the worshippers by the inability of Cantor Sirota to conduct the services was somewhat assuaged by the appearance of Cantor Rosenbloom, the head tenor, who was called upon to conduct the services at a moment's notice. This cantor acquitted himself well and made a deep impression upon the audience. He is undoubtedly a gifted tenor who should find a place as a permanent reader in a South African congregation.

The Jewish Guild.

On Tuesday, October 24th, at 8.15 p.m. an inter-debate will be held at the Jewish Guild between the Johannesburg Forum and the Debating Section of the Guild.

A Burlesque Electioneering evening has been arranged for Sunday, 20th October, at 8.30 p.m.

A Red-Lantern Night.

The S.A. Zeire Zion is giving a Red-Lantern Night on Wednesday, December 4th, in aid of the funds of the organisation. This society has made itself famous by holding previously two successful functions of this nature.

In view of the resuscitation of its work, it is to be hoped that the Red-Lantern Night will receive the full support of the Johannesburg Jewish community.

Palestinians in Johannesburg.

There are quite a number of ex-Palestinians residing in Johannesburg and these have formed themselves into a Palestinian Society. This organisation is one of mutual benefit for members. Lately there has been a meeting of ex-Palestinians who discussed a scheme whereby some of them can return to Eretz Israel.

The idea is to raise sufficient funds amongst members to enable a few of the ex-Palestinians to return to Eretz Israel and re-establish themselves in the country of their birth. All interested in the scheme are advised to communicate with Mr. L. Tager, P.O. Box 4935, Johannesburg.

The Late Mr. Gavronsky.

Zionists throughout South Africa will have been saddened upon the news received of the death of Mr. I. Gavronsky of Pretoria. He was a well-known and devoted Zionist worker and one of the pioneers of the Jewish National movement in the Capital.

Mr. Gavronsky was deeply stirred by the recent happenings in Eretz Israel and there can be no doubt that his death was considerably hastened by his worry and anxiety at the sad events in Palestine. His loss is a great one for the Jewish community in Pretoria, and especially for Zionism.

Mr. Isador Epstein.

Interest is being taken in musical circles here in the expected arrival of Mr. Isador Epstein, the well-known London and Continental pianist and teacher. Although his visit is primarily for health reasons, it is possible that Mr. Epstein will give a number of concerts during his stay in South Africa. This gifted player was recently recalled five times at the Queen's Hall after his rendering of Paderewski's extremely difficult "Polish Fantasia." He is recognised as one of the premier pianists of the emotional school. He possesses a masterly technique and his concerts here should be well patronised.

Amateur Players.

Recently the Amateur Play Society in Johannesburg instituted a competition for one act plays on the part of

South African writers. It is interesting to learn that the three plays chosen are all by Jewish writers. This is indicative of the literary urge on the spirit of the Young Jewish element in South Africa. It is also noticeable that most of the leading amateur dramatic societies have a considerable Jewish membership.

The Repertory Players announce that the next production will be that of "The Rumour," the famous play by C. K. Munro. This will be produced at the Jewish Guild War Memorial Hall on November 9th and three following nights. The proceeds will be in aid of the League of Nations Union.

Mr. Peretz Cornfeld.

The services of the official propagandist of the S.A. Zionist Federation—Mr. Peretz Cornfeld—have been retained by the Jewish National Fund for the purpose of organising the big drive to raise the first big instalment of the sum of £75,000 for the purchase of land in Eretz Israel in the name of South African Jewry.

This effort is the largest of its kind ever made in South Africa for the National Fund and, of course, the largest portion of the amount necessary is expected of Johannesburg Jewry. Already £7,000 has been forwarded to Jerusalem for this purpose. This money was raised at the recently held Land of Promise Fete. Johannesburg, however, will be expected to give a larger contribution in connection with the Dunam Drive and Mr. Cornfeld is busy making all the local arrangements as well as organising the campaign generally throughout South Africa.

Correspondence.

MR. E. ZEITLYN.

To the Editor, S.A. JEWISH CHRONICLE.

Sir,—I notice from a recent report of the proceedings of the Board of Deputies in London that amongst those present was Mr. E. Zeitlyn whose constituency is given as Cape Town. I take it that Mr. Zeitlyn is appointed by the Gardens Synagogue. It is somewhat strange that Cape Town should be the one of the few communities outside the British Isles to be a member of the English Board of Deputies.

I wonder how many members of the Gardens Synagogue are aware of the fact that they have a representative in London and why no reference to the appointment of a deputy is ever made at a meeting of the members of the synagogue.—I am, etc.,
A MEMBER.

Telephone 3911.

Tel. Address: "Smulianco."

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