

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 Holiday Season.

There has been little activity that can properly be called "communal" in Johannesburg during the last week, and there is not likely to be much for perhaps another month to come. This is always a slack period in Jewish public life on the Reef, the younger section of the community having just completed its annual tussle with the bogey of examinations, and parents and children alike preparing to enter the more care-free period of holiday-making.

The exodus from town has already begun and next week the railways will be working at full pressure conveying Johannesburgers (with a goodly sprinkling of our co-religionists) for their annual "breather" at the coast. However, if strictly communal activity is somewhat quiescent, our social life is at its height. This seems to be a season particularly attractive for engagements and marriages, and hymenaeal festivities are in full swing.

Jewish Girls' Residential Club.

The Jewish Girls' Residential Club, which has been founded by the Jewish Ladies' Communal League, is now ready to receive applications for admission. Fifteen girls, eleven of whom are orphans from "Arcadia," who are working for themselves, have already been admitted into the new institution, and applications are invited from others desiring admission.

The need for such an institution has long been felt in a city like Johannesburg, where there are many Jewish girls, who through various circumstances are deprived of the amenities of home life. Thanks to the generosity of the Johannesburg public, the club will contain every comfort and the committee in charge will do everything in its power to make the girls happy.

The one-time home of Sir William van Hulstein has been converted into a commodious residence for girls; there is a lounge and library, and a tennis court will shortly be provided. The scheme owes its inception to the Jewish Ladies' Communal League, and its successful completion is due largely to the energy and enthusiasm of Mrs. I. Heymann, the chairlady, and to the material contributions made by Lady Oppenheimer. The official opening will not take place until the return of the latter from England.

Talmud Torah Celebrations.

The annual prize-giving took place during the week at both the Hebrew High School and the Jeppe Talmud

Torah. It was pleasing to note that parents mustered in full force at both gatherings and evinced a real interest in the Jewish achievements of their children during the past year. This is all the more encouraging because it has been a regular—and frequently all too true—charge against Jewish parents that they are completely indifferent to the Jewish education of their children. And, of course, where the existing conditions at their best are not conducive to a really successful education, such indifference must inevitably make educational efforts futile.

The Jeppe Talmud Torah has this year to its credit the erection of a commodious new building. As regards the Hebrew High School—the only school of its kind where Hebrew is an integral part of the daily curriculum—appeals were again issued to the Jewish community for more liberal support. One can only hope that the public will come to realise the immense value of schools of this kind, and will make it possible for a bigger institution with better facilities to be erected.

The War Memorial Tablet.

A certain amount of disappointment has been felt in various quarters at the date which has been chosen for the unveiling of the War Memorial Tablet at the Jewish Guild by His Excellency the Governor-General.

It so happens that on January 5th, 1930—the date fixed—many local notabilities will be down at the Cape to attend the Conference of the Board of Deputies, and generally many Johannesburgers will be away on holiday. Most probably, however, there must have been some cogent reason which dictated the decision to hold this event on that day.

The Young Israel Conference.

The Conference of the Transvaal Young Israel Societies, which has just opened its deliberations in Germiston, has again helped to remind one of the growing importance of the Jewish youth movement in this country. The significance of this organisation is by now being realised and duly appreciated. The Jewish youth here has in a certain measure led the way in the organisation of youth movements and one wonders whether the youth of the country generally will follow suit.

At the opening session an official welcome was extended to the delegates by the Mayor of Germiston and addresses were delivered by Prof. Dr. J. L. Landau, Hon. President of the Transvaal Young Israel Executive, and Messrs. B. Gering, a member of the Executive Council of the S.A. Zionist Federation, and Mr. Peretz Cornfeld, the official propagandist of that body. Delegates from all parts of the Transvaal are attending the Conference.

The Jewish Guild.

Another interesting contribution to the dramatic fare of the city has just been provided by the Dramatic Section of the Jewish Guild, by the performance of three one-act plays. These were "Overruled" by George Bernard Shaw, "Progress" by St. John Ervine, and "The Warrior's Husband" by Julian F. Thompson.

There is ample scope for amateur theatricals here—the more so when the vogue of "talkies" seems to be endangering the very existence of the more serious drama—and the regular and enterprising work of the Guild amateurs is all the more to be appreciated.

What should prove a very instructive evening on Zionism is due to take place on Sunday the 22nd inst., when a symposium on the different phases of Zionism will be held. Four speeches will deal respectively with general Zionism, Zionist Revisionism, Zeire Zion and Mizrahi. This symposium is probably an indication that local Jewry, now fully acquainted with the general principles of Zionism, is becoming interested in the more special tendencies of the movement.

Local Artists Overseas.

Considering the small population here, South Africa has to its credit a fair number of artists, who have left this country and made good overseas. Among others, news has recently been received that Mr. Gerald Kazinoff, the well-known Johannesburg bass, who trained under Cantor Steinberg, is now settled in Berlin, where he is working up a German operatic repertoire. He has already given two recitals in Riga, where he was very well received, and shortly expects to give a recital in Berlin.

In the sphere of Drama Miss Grace Mitchell, a Johannesburg girl, who was latterly residing in Durban, has just been engaged to play the leading role in "The Damask Rose," which opens shortly at the Prince of Wales' Theatre, Birmingham.

Will South Africa one day be able to make it sufficiently attractive for persons of talent to give of their art here?

Judean Societies of Johannesburg.

SUCCESSFUL DANCE.

The combined Judean dance held at the Selborne Hall on Saturday, 7th December, in aid of the Young Israel Effort and Hebrew Bursary Fund proved very successful both socially and financially. There was present a very jolly and merry crowd, which, in addition to those from Johannesburg, was drawn from Pretoria, Benoni, Boksburg, Krugersdorp, Germiston and many other centres along the East and West Rand.

The Dance Committee responsible for this very successful and enjoyable function consisted of Mr. A. Kam, who made a very capable and energetic D.C., the Misses L. Bolel, A. Saron and G. Sack and Messrs. H. Shear, J. Chitiz, S. E. Levine and S. S. Israelstam, who acted as M.C.'s, to whom much praise is due for their indefatigable services, which contributed very much to the outstanding success achieved.

There were many distinguished visitors amongst those present, the chief of whom were the Mayor and Mayoress (Mr. and Mrs. D. Anderson), the Deputy-Mayor and Deputy-Mayoress (Mr. and Mrs. G. W. Nelson), and the Chief Rabbi Dr. J. L. Landau.

Altogether some four hundred people were present and Gaby Peimer and his personal orchestra played a very bright and merry programme.

A novelty spot dance was held and Miss Law and Mr. Lang proved the winning couple. Mrs. Anderson presented the prizes to the winners.

The function was enjoyed very much by all and surpassed all previous Young Israel successes and reflects much credit on the Committee responsible for the organisation, the chief being Mr. A. Kam (chairman), Misses A. Saron, M. Zidel and L. Bolel (hon. secretaries), S. S. Israelstam (treasurer) and J. Chitiz (publicity officer).

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