



## YOUNG ISRAEL COLUMNS.

### "THE JUDEAN."

The second quarterly issue of the above is just to hand, and is even better than No. 1. Published in a neat form, carefully edited, full of bright and well-written articles, stories and poems, it is a credit to the Judaen Central Executive of the Cape Province, and should be in the hands of every young Israelite in South Africa, and, for that matter, every grown-up Jew and Jewess as well. We note with particular pleasure that the contents include several able contributions by young Jews and Jewesses who have graduated from the training-ground of the Young Israel Societies of this country, and whose writing is infused by that spirit of true Jewish idealism for which the Young Israel movement stands.

It is most regrettable that the editor finds it necessary to complain of the almost complete lack of support extended to this splendid little magazine (and forty pages of reading matter is not so "little" either) by the Young Israel Societies outside the Cape Province. It appears that they made no serious effort to get it into the hands of their members, and this lack of interest is borne out by the fact that—with one honourable exception—no reports from Young Israel Societies outside the Cape Province were received for publication. This is too bad! The Cape Young Israelites have rendered a signal service by publishing the magazine: but they did so on the strength of assurances of such material and moral support throughout South Africa as would make it, not only a financial success, but a live organ for the whole of South African Young Israel. We appeal to all Young Israel Societies to throw their weight into this exceptionally promising enterprise, and we would seriously recommend to the rank and file of the members of these societies, if they find their committees neglectful in this matter, to haul them over the coals in no uncertain fashion.

### Benoni.

For some years Benoni has been without a Junior Zionist Organisation. We are very pleased to report, therefore, that there has now been formed a Young Israel Society in that town. At the inaugural meeting the following officers and committee were appointed: Chairman, Mr. L. Reichlin; vice-chairman, Miss P. Miller; treasurer, Miss F. Kahanowitz; honorary secretary, Mr. S. Legator; assistant honorary secretary, Mr. B. Gross; committee, Misses K. Segall, R. Miller and H. Segall, Messrs. S. Ostrofsky, C. Sacks and I. Selikman. Mr. A. Katz, of the Benoni Dorshei Zion Association, was elected commissioner of the society.

The first general meeting of the society was held on April 15th for the purpose of drafting a constitution. At this meeting the following additional members of the committee were elected:—Misses J. Finkelstein and L. Horowitz, Messrs. A. Shalekoff, W. Oshry and A. Oshry. A carefully drafted constitution was submitted and passed at this meeting, and we are glad to learn from various quarters that there is every sign of the society acquiring a large membership and pursuing an active career. We wish it all success.

The society has applied for affiliation to the South African Zionist Federation.

### Brakpan.

The Executive and Committee of the Young Israel Society entertained its members to a party at the residence of Mr. and Mrs. S. Levitas on Wednesday afternoon, the 4th inst., practically every member being present. It being Passover, the Rev. Mr. Silverman, in a very brief but interesting speech, explained why the children should enjoy themselves. All refreshments available during Passover were then distributed to the merry crowd on the lawn. Games, music, dances and recitations passed the afternoon rapidly away, and the function terminated at dusk with the singing of "Hatikvah." It was a very successful and delightful party, which was enjoyed by all, and which it is hoped will be followed by a series of similar affairs.

### Capetown.

#### JUDEAN CENTRAL EXECUTIVE OF THE CAPE PROVINCE.

(Report of the Hon. Secretary.)

By the time this appears in print the second number of the *Judean* will have been published. The first issue has, from all points of view, been a great success. It was very favourably received, and we are happy to be able to state that, as far as the financial side is concerned, we can face the printers with equanimity. The business secretary, in delivering his financial statement at the final meeting for its year of office of the outgoing executive, had a happy tale to tell—his was certainly a much brighter budget statement than that of the Minister of Finance of the Union. Thus, the printer's bill having been met on the first issue, the second number of the *Judean* sees the light of day in a placid atmosphere. Supplies, as well as single copies, can be obtained from the Central Executive of the Cape Province, Box 1588, Capetown.

The Executive is entering upon the second year of its existence, and all societies who have not yet elected their new delegates for the ensuing year are

asked to do so without delay. Further, all Cape Province societies who have not yet joined the Executive are once more exhorted to affiliate at once. Affiliation fees are now due, and societies are earnestly requested to remit these as soon as possible.

It is with pained regret that we have to report the death, from enteric fever, on the 29th March, of our treasurer, Mr. Julius Friedman, who represented the Malmesbury Junior Maccabean Society on the Executive, which he was greatly instrumental in forming. By his death Young Israel has sustained an irreparable loss, for a more enthusiastic worker for the cause was hard to find. It was in the Malmesbury Junior Maccabean Society that he first made his influence felt as a keen young Zionist imbued with a high sense of duty to his people, occupying successively the posts of secretary, vice-chairman and chairman. When he left Malmesbury two years ago to study Law at the Capetown University his departure was a severe blow to the society which he loved so much. In Capetown he continued to associate himself with the Young Israel movement, and at one time held a post on the committee of the Capetown Young Israel Society. On the Executive he was one of the most active and painstaking members, and was greatly respected for the sincerity and enthusiasm with which he viewed matters; as a member of the Magazine Committee he rendered magnificent service.

It seems a great pity that such a promising lad (he was 22 years old), a boy who, had he been spared, could have been of so much use to his people, should have been taken away practically before he began to live. But we cannot, nor should we, cavil at God's decision. It must be for the best. We extend our most heartfelt sympathy to his aged mother and her bereaved family in their great and irreparable loss.

### Germiston Young Israel Society.

#### RECENT ACTIVITIES.

A Cinderella dance was held at the David's Hall on Thursday, March 29th, in aid of the society's funds. Dancing was kept up until midnight to the strains of Joffe's orchestra. The function was a great success, both socially and financially.

A lecture was delivered by Rev. Wyszceik on "The Significance of Passover" in the Synagogue on Sunday, 1st April, at 3 p.m. The chairman of the society, Mr. S. Joffe, presided over a very large audience. The lecture proved exceedingly interesting, and was well received. Other speakers included Mr. A. Melman and Mr. Goodman. A hearty vote of thanks was passed to the lecturer.

A hat debate was held at the club rooms on Wednesday, 18th April, at 8 p.m. The attendance did not come up to expectations. The subjects were varied and interesting, including many on Zionism and Judaism, and the members passed an enjoyable evening.

### Johannesburg Young Israel Society.

The twelfth semi-annual general meeting was held in the Berkeley Rooms, Jeppe Street, on Sunday, the 22nd April, 1923. Messrs. M. S. Aaron, M. de Saxe and S. Abrahams, of the S.A. Zionist Federation, were present, and also addressed the meeting. Their words

of advice and promises of help were greatly appreciated by all present. The president, Mr. N. Kretzmer, and the hon. treasurer, Mr. B. Levin, read their respective reports, which were adopted. These two gentlemen, after having worked very long in the interests of the society, have now, owing to pressure of work, been compelled to retire from the committee for the time being, and the good wishes of all the members go with them. The election of office-bearers next took place, resulting in the election of the following members to constitute the committee for the thirteenth session:— President, Mr. S. Sapire; vice-president, Mr. W. Witkin; hon. advisors, Mesdames Belcher and Pincus; hon. treasurer, Mr. H. Rajak; hon. secretaries, Miss R. Cohen and Mr. S. Kuper; committee, Misses A. Melzer, M. Baskind and H. Amoils, and Messrs. L. Kessler, D. Aronowitz, L. Fried, A. Friedman, T. Fineberg, P. Sapire, H. Cohen, M. Smith, A. Kuselik, L. Kuper, M. Selesnick, G. Wainstein and M. Smith.

At the outset of his report for the session October 29th, 1922, to April 22nd, 1923, the president said that the society had existed for seven years, and in spite of having had to struggle very hard for existence on many occasions, was still alive. He asked, however, whether it would continue to exist much longer. He personally had been a member of the society from the day of its birth. It was very dear to him, and to many other long-standing members. He felt confident the society would continue to flourish. The society's aims and ideals were noble ones; as long as the society had a true Zionist programme and had its intellectual as well as its social side, the society would live, but should it become entirely a social club, of which he had noticed some little signs during past sessions, it would not live for long.

During the session under review they had only two purely social affairs. This might be insufficient, but he strongly urged the policy of not having too many such functions. An attendance of fifty at a lecture was more gratifying than an attendance of 300 at a dance, for at the former, unlike the latter, they had 100 per cent. members and 100 per cent. Zionists.

At the beginning of the session activities were hampered by the approaching examinations and the holidays which followed them, whilst in the last month of the session, owing to Pesach followed by the Sefira, no functions could be held.

During the session fourteen committee meetings were held. The attendance of members was quite good. He regretted, however, that many members of the committee did not pull their full weight in the boat, and the work was left in the hands of a few who had to run the society on their own. This could not be done by three or four people, however enthusiastic.

The functions arranged were on the whole successful, being as follows:—(1) Lecture by Dr. Edelstein on "Nationalism," at which there was an excellent attendance, and for which the society was very grateful to the lecturer. (2) December 14th, Oriental evening, followed by a dance; this was a great success, despite bad weather. (3) January 7th, debate, "That it is within the power of the Jewish people to stamp out anti-Semitic feeling." (4 and 5) Inter-debates with Boksburg Young Israel Society. These were perhaps the two most successful affairs of the session. The first was held on January 14th, when twelve members of the society visited Boksburg and were

heartily welcomed. The motion was: "That anti-Semitism has stimulated the progress of the Zionist cause." This was moved by Boksburg and opposed by Johannesburg, and was carried. The return debate was held in Johannesburg on March 25th, the motion being: "That Judaism can exist without the Jewish religion," which was moved by Johannesburg, and lost. Thanks were due to Messrs. Gering and Dicent for their assistance on these occasions. The proceedings took place in the hall of the Zeire Zion, to whom the heartiest thanks were tendered for their kindness. On each occasion the discussion was lively, and the Boksburg Society was to be congratulated on producing such able speakers. On each occasion the visiting society suitably entertained. The incoming committee was urged to arrange many more such debates with Rand societies. (6) January 21st, gramophone recital. (7) February 14th, reading afternoon; this was poorly attended, but was very successful nevertheless. (8) afternoon dance in Berkeley Rooms; this was, as usual with such functions, very largely attended.

Arrangements were made to hold a social in a private house in connection with the society's promised contribution to the Keren Hayesod, and Mrs. Couzin kindly offered her residence, whilst most of the other requirements for the affair were obtained free. Owing to unforeseen circumstances, however, Mrs. Couzin's house proved not to be available, and the social had to be postponed. Thanks were tendered to Mrs. Couzin for her kindness in offering her residence. The incoming committee was strongly urged to carry out this project.

The membership of the Society had diminished in the past two years, many old members having dropped out, and no extensive campaign having been organised for new members, of whom another few hundreds could easily be secured with hard work by the committee.

Although Berkeley Rooms was a very convenient place for the society's purpose, so much of its slender funds went away for rent that unless there was a considerable increase in revenue it would be better to give them up. The society had been throughout the session continually hampered and worried by the question of finance. The committee, on taking office, was faced with a very serious position in this connection, but by careful administration had brought the society out of danger. Nevertheless, some debts still remained unpaid, and the incoming committee was earnestly adjured to pay off all that remained owing.

Owing to various causes, the publication of the reports of the society's activities in the *Zionist Record* was irregular.

*The Judean*.—The Cape Young Israel Societies deserved every congratulation on their magazine, which was of great interest to all Young Israelites. The committee sold some forty copies of No. 1, and every member should assist the Cape executive by ordering a copy.

In concluding his report, the chairman tendered the society's thanks to all who had helped at their affairs to make them a success. He also thanked Mrs. Pepys, who always lent them her house whenever they required it; Mr. J. Alexander, editor of the *Zionist Record*, for the interest he had taken in their society, and the advice he had always willingly given; also Miss A. Melzer, who had always come forward to the assistance of the committee whenever they asked

her. In conclusion, he wished the incoming committee the best of luck, and hoped they would do their best for the welfare of the society. He would like to see the society an active institution, with every Jewish boy and girl in Johannesburg a member.

After reading his report, the president, in accordance with a resolution of the previous general meeting, gave an account of the work done by each member of the committee, and it is gratifying to note that not many were put on the "black list."

During the proceedings the society's delegates on the Transvaal Central Executive gave their report on its doings, from which it appeared that it had done practically nothing since its foundation. There was also a discussion on the proposed formation of a council of Johannesburg Zionist Societies, and the opinion was voiced that it should be one of the first undertakings of this council, when formed, to build or hire a suitable Zionist Hall, which would act as a focus for the movement in Johannesburg, and would obviate the necessity to which individual societies are at present put in renting club rooms.

#### Koffyfontein.

The annual meeting of the Young Israel Society was held in the Synagogue on March 10th. Mr. H. Schneider was re-elected chairman. Messrs. A. Rubin and J. Karpas, who were elected secretary and treasurer respectively, have since resigned, owing to unforeseen circumstances, and have been replaced by Misses S. Schneider and J. Reznik respectively. The following were elected on the committee:—Miss R. Rubin, Miss E. Weinberg, Mr. L. Kaplan and Mr. M. Reznik.

#### Malmesbury.

On Sunday, March 11th, the Junior Maccabean Society held its semi-annual election, when the following committee was returned:—President, Mr. A. Kretzmar; vice-president, Miss M. Wilensky; treasurer, Mr. M. Meyers; secretary, Mr. J. Kretzmar; executive committee, Miss Sarah Meyers, Miss Lily Kahanowitz, Mr. M. Frank, Mr. H. Beinart, Mr. Ch. Beinart.

The society has lost the services of two valuable workers in Messrs. Ph. Beinart and R. Goldman, who have left to continue their studies at the University of Capetown.

A bioscope entertainment held recently realised £15, which has been devoted to the "Save the Jewish Children's Fund."

A clearance of National Fund boxes is shortly being held. After a thorough "overhauling" of this branch of the Society's activities it is hoped to obtain good results again from the scheme of a regular quarterly clearance of boxes.

The membership now stands at 112.

#### Pietermaritzburg.

A very successful concert was held by the Young Zionist Society on Sunday night, March 18th, 1923, in aid of various Jewish institutions. The society owes its thanks to the following Young Zionists who assisted in making the concert a success:—Miss Myra Goldman (recitation), Miss Irene Benjamin (dance), Miss Phoebe Gough (recitation), Mr. A. Goldberg (song), Miss J. Kinkel (song); also Messrs. B. Benjamin, A. Shrock, N. Greenberg, and A. Blumenfeld for their

amusing songs and dances. During the interval an American auction was held by Mr. B. Benjamin of a box of chocolates. The lucky purchaser was Mr. Saldsman. The most important item on the programme was a play entitled "The Bathroom Door." The following were the Young Zionists who took part: Mr. A. Shroek, Miss E. Cohen, Miss C. Cohen, Mr. B. Benjamin, Miss D. Blumenfeld and Mr. A. Blumenfeld. The play was enjoyed by a large audience. The evening concluded with the singing of "Hatikvah" and "God Save the King." The proceeds, which amounted to £8 6s., have been evenly divided among the different institutions. The Young Zionist Society wishes to thank Mr. G. Benjamin for the very valuable assistance which he rendered in making the concert such a success.

#### Potchefstroom.

The second annual general meeting of the Young Israel Society was held on Sunday, 11th March, 1923. To about a gathering of sixty members and visitors Mr. M. de Saxe, B.A., at the commencement, delivered a very interesting and instructive lecture on "Jewish work." Thereafter the annual report, which can only briefly be dealt with here, was duly adopted, on the motion of Mr. W. Levy.

*Finances.*—Although the society has in hand only half the amount with which it began the year, yet it has paid its way, since it has made a contribution of £6 6s. to the Keren Hayesod and donated to the Y.I.S. Executive at Johannesburg.

*Library.*—A very useful step has been taken by the committee in voting 5s. every month for books.

*Entertainments and Socials.*—Several successful social functions took place, including a social gathering at the commencement of the year, and a Purim social on Saturday, the 4th March, both held at Mrs. B. Levy's residence, to whom the thanks of the society are due. A ping-pong tournament, as also a tennis tournament, were held, achieving a fair measure of success. However, by far the biggest effort was a soiree held in the Scout Hall during November, 1922, which realised £10 8s. 7d., and which was reported in a previous issue of the *Zionist Record*.

*Sports.*—A cricket club was formed, and, under the captaincy of Mr. J. Singer, achieved a good measure of success, several games being played against the local Boy Scouts and town teams.

The following office-bearers were elected for the ensuing year:—President, Mr. H. Broudo; vice-president, Miss E. Ruben; secretary, Mr. M. Hyman; treasurer, Mr. M. Singer; committee, Misses J. Cohen, G. Hare, B. Rosmarin, M. Sherr, S. Tapauch, and Messrs. J. Cohen, G. Hirschmann and H. Serman; supervisors, Miss F. Sack and Mr. W. Levy.

Thanks were extended to Mr. De Saxe for his visit and lecture, and to Miss F. Sack for her assistance in preparing the annual report and balance sheet.

#### ENQUIRIES FOR RELATIVES.

ALTER SHAFFER, a man about 48 years of age, last heard of in Johannesburg, sought by Mr. J. Kletz, of Manchester. Please write to the Secretary, S.A. Zionist Federation, who possesses photograph and all particulars.



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