

Advertisements and Family Announcements will be received in the Cape Town Office of the ZIONIST RECORD, 147, PLEIN STREET.

IN CAPE TOWN

Reports of Jewish Activities in the Mother City

All communications relating to these pages should be addressed to "HASOFER," P.O. Box 2373, CAPE TOWN.

CHANUKAH SERVICES.

We are in the midst of the Festival of Chanukah and, publicly, the event has been appropriately honoured. A large number, too, I have no doubt, still carry out the picturesque ceremony of the Chanukah lights, and chant the lively tune of the "Mooz Tzur," to the especial delight of the children of the household. A great number, I am afraid, however, let this Yomtov go by as many other things have been allowed to, without any concern. The approaching Christian majority holidays call more loudly to them than this mellowed commemoration of the victory of their ancestors over the might of the Greeks, before Christianity saw the day. But the tide is turning, and there are signs perceptible that we are refinding our Yomtovim and softening to their eloquent appeal. Indeed the waxing number of lights from the first to the eighth day is almost symbolic now-a-days of the growing consciousness and dignity of the Jewish people, so that our future seems similarly to be growing brighter and brighter.

An impressive Chanukah service was held at the great synagogue in the Gardens, on Sunday, December 21st. The Rev. A. P. Bender delivered an eloquent and moving sermon calling attention to the significance of the celebration. There was a large congregation present. The choir rendered musical items, which were deeply appreciated by the large number of worshippers.

A special Chanukah service was held at the Roeland Street Synagogue, on Sunday, December 21st. A very fine musical programme was rendered. The Cantor, Rev. Steinberg, rendered melodiously a number of Hebrew songs, especially interesting being his rendition of the prayer *Rezeh*, the music of which was composed by himself. Rev. Steinberg, accompanied by the organ, also sang *Deget Jehudah*, the words of which are by the Chief Rabbi, Dr. Landau. The organist was Mr. Isidor Fisher, and the choir was under the direction of Mr. J. Lurie. The service, which was well attended, was conducted in the true joyous spirit of Chanukah.

At the end of the service a plate collection was made in aid of the New Somerset Hospital, which resulted in an amount of £10 5s. being secured.

SHEKEL DAY.

During the day, collectors, following on circulars issued earlier in the week, made a house-to-house collection for Shekolim, as the festival is made the occasion in Capetown of discharging this national duty. To judge from the crowds who took advantage of the beautiful day at Muizenburg, something like a haul must have taken place there.

SHEKEL MEETING AND CHANUKAH CONCERT.

The same evening the combined Zionist societies marked the close of the collection by a meeting at the Alhambra, while an appropriate holiday touch was introduced by combining it with a musical programme which occupied the second half.

Mr. I. Schwartz, who occupied the chair, dwelt on the fact that a national festival was the time for national effort. They could best enter into the spirit of their ancient heroes by lending their aid to the fight which was being waged in their own day. That was why they seized the occasion for the Shekel collection whereby morally and financially they strengthened the hands of their leaders.

Rabbi Ch. Mirvish said that it was a matter for shame that their children knew so little of their own traditions. Every department of knowledge was opened to them, but Jewish learning was neglected. Instead of Chanukah presents, Christmas presents were given, and they took part in festivities with which in reality they could have no sympathy. Only if they drew inspiration from the sources which had sustained them in the past, would the future be assured. He was glad to see that their day was witnessing the revival of the festival pilgrimages to Jerusalem, by reason of which the Holy City had received 10,000 visitors during the previous Pesach.

Mr. J. B. Shacksnovis, who followed, said they were a people who had nothing to hide. Wherever they went they had brought light, and in this the ritual of this festival was a symbol. The Maccabees had not fought for territory but for their ideals. By their victories Hebraic culture had been prevented from falling under the overmastering power of the Greeks.

The Jewish ethics of life were practical ones, and therefore their sympathy had to be expressed in a practical way. The support of the institution of the Shekel was one means, for by it they showed their support of the movement to the world.

When the Israelites had fought the Amalakites, the battle went with them, while Moses' hands were held up.

In the same way they had to-day to hold up the hands of their present leaders. But particularly to the youth did Chanukah carry a message, and he appealed to them to become acquainted with their people's history and their heroes.

Mr. B. Rubik, in a stirring address, emphasised that their ancestors had been successful because they did not rely on force of arms, but on the righteousness of the Lord. After the victory, they had introduced a beautiful ceremonial to commemorate it, symbolic of the light and purity for which they had fought. But in the centuries of Goluth their songs of joy had been turned to groans and cries of woe. They lost the power of rejoicing. Until the national movement arose with its promise of a future of even greater glory than the past, and the power of song was returning.

In the Greek legend, the giant Antaeus who guarded the golden apples, resisted Hercules, so long as he remained in contact with his mother, Earth. In the same way the loss of their land had almost overwhelmed them, but the present return was re-infusing their national life-blood.

In the second half the musical programme, which was enthusiastically received, consisted of violin solos by Mr. Ralph Koorland, Yiddish songs by Miss Bloch and Messrs. Joel Myerson, and Harry Bloom.

PERFORMANCE BY ORPHANS.

The Children of the Cape Jewish Orphanage demonstrated considerable talent in the performances given during the previous Saturday and last Monday at the institution. They were able to entertain audiences throughout the two whole evenings, and it is interesting to learn that the sketches which they performed were practically self-taught. Great assistance was, of course, given to the children by the principal, Mr. H. Maman.

One of the sketches performed by the boys was of unique interest. The scene was laid in a boy's club in Russia and the action had reference to the projected departure to South Africa of the president of the club. The boys acted with considerable vigour throughout. The girls showed real talent in the sketch entitled "Solomon's Dream," the stage being transformed in the first scene into a typical Jewish home in Russia. The dream of the boy Solomon in Fairyland was well staged on the limited platform in the orphanage. The children are to be heartily congratulated upon their effort.

A NEW RABBI.

An announcement has recently been made by the Ponovez Beth Hamedrash, of Van De Leur Street, that at a general meeting, Isaac P. Cramer was appointed Rabbi for their Synagogue. On Thursday, the 25th inst., a reception was held at the Synagogue in honour of the new Rabbi, who delivered a sermon on the "History of Chanukah."

(Continued on page 16).

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