

JOHANNESBURG YOUNG ISRAEL SOCIETY MAGAZINE

SUPPLEMENT TO THE "ZIONIST RECORD."

JOHANNESBURG YOUNG ISRAEL SOCIETY

FORTHCOMING FUNCTIONS (arranged by the Executive).

March 21st.—**Dance** in aid of the Arcadian Fête, at the Freemason's Hall at 8.15 p.m. Single tickets 2s. 6d.

Functions arranged by District Committees are given under the separate reports of the districts.

The new session of the Society resembles several of its predecessors in one regrettable respect. Its introduction has to be accompanied by a host of

apologies. However, in order to handicap the newborn infant no further, and to give it a reasonable chance of reaching a healthy maturity, in spite of its auspicious advent, the kindest thing will be to free it immediately of its initial handicaps and send it with all good wishes further along its career. So now for the apologies.

The new executive was elected when our members had just emerged exhausted from the examinations, and had naturally to take at least a month to recuperate.

Young Israel activity was in consequence temporarily suspended. The Executive, consisting of Mr. N. Kretzmer (chairman), Mr. G. Saron (vice-secretaries), Miss R. Gingold and Mr. W. Witkin (treasurer), had perforce also to take a rest. Several districts have not even now sufficiently recovered.

Further, our monthly columns in the *Record* have not yet appeared this session, owing to certain regrettable misunderstandings, which, we are glad to

say, have been satisfactorily adjusted. In future, therefore, we hope regularly to publish our supplement, and thus to supply that means of linking-up the Society's work, which is so indispensable in an organization as large as ours. We should like to see this supplement playing a more intimate part in our work.

to the advertisement of functions in these columns, as it is our intention to make this the sole means of advertisement. We would like, moreover, to make the supplement a forum for the free discussion of Young Israel problems, and a medium of expression for those of our members whose literary talent is at present being lost to the world. Letters and general contributions will, therefore, be heartily welcomed.

The session's activities have also been unavoidably suspended owing to the uncertainty which has for so long prevailed as to whether the great drive for the Hebrew University which

we were contemplating, would actually take place. Such a campaign, we felt, was urgently required by our Society, for it would act as a lubricant to the whole complicated machine and ensure its smooth working for some time to come, and would also put a stop to the criticisms which charged us with no concrete achievement. We, therefore, decided to embark on something big. At the moment, however, when all the preliminary plans were ready, the Central Executive for the Transvaal, which was to control the campaign (as it was to embrace all the societies of the Transvaal) found that obstacles of so formidable a nature had arisen as to make the successful issue of such a campaign most doubtful. In these circumstances the

campaign for the University had inevitably to be dropped—for the time being, at least. But the idea of holding this drive has not been dropped. As soon as conditions are more favourable—which, it is hoped, will be the case in June or July—the campaign will again be undertaken.

The consideration which weighed most with the Executive when coming to its decision was the fact that Johannesburg could not be expected to yield the results which would at better times have been relied upon. For Johannesburg had at the moment become the scene of strenuous activity in aid of the Arcadian Fête, which has been organised to place the South African Orphanage upon a more stable basis. In the face of such a campaign, it was felt, a further campaign must prove unsuccessful.

Moreover, the Johannesburg Young Israel Society had been requested to take up a stall at the fête, and had consented. This decision has provoked some surprise; and well it may do so, for our Society has hitherto adhered faithfully to the principle that its province is cultural and Zionist work, and that the collection of funds (even for Zionist purposes) is a subordinate item in its programme. At the present juncture, however, when critics were loud in their clamours for concrete achievement (which presumably meant such as could be counted in L.S.D.), we thought that our opportune moment had arrived for putting an end to this criticism once and for all. Further, it can be argued quite plausibly that our participation in the fête is not only not opposed to our ideals, but actually may follow from them. For in the main, our work aims at fostering a sense of solidarity and unity in the Jewish youth, and at awakening its interest in all activities relating to the Jewish people, and among these (as even Zionists are coming to see) communal work forms an integral part.

The fact then is that all Young Israelites in Johannesburg must plunge with zest and zeal into the work of the fête. The prestige of the Society is at stake. Non-success, or even an indifferent success, cannot be contemplated. "Time is short; the work is plentiful." We have just a month left, for the fête takes place on March 31st, April 1st and 2nd. During the interval we have two distinct tasks: (1) to raise by every possible means the sum of £150 in cash, in this way ensuring the success of your stall even before the actual fête itself; (2) to collect books, stationery, music books, gramophones, etc. The stall entrusted to the Society is the book and music stall, and we must see that it is well and properly stocked. Every Young Israelite must contribute his share. The district committees are getting the work well in hand. Get in touch with them. Offer your services. Offer your books. Do not wait till you are personally approached. Come voluntarily forward. **We will not be satisfied until each and every Young Israelite has done his or her share.**

There are countless ways in which members can help. They can join the special Young Israel sub-committees in the districts working for the fête. They can contribute books, etc. They can get their friends to contribute. They can raffle various things. They can arrange little affairs, ping-pong tournaments, little bazaars, small concerts, small parties. Whenever a few friends meet together they can incidentally help on the work. This must be a month of restless and feverish activity. Just for this

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month gaiety and hilarity are not only to be countenanced in Young Israel work, but are to be encouraged.

The Executive is arranging a number of large functions. On the 21st March a big dance will take place at the Freemason's Hall. This dance must be a record success. During the month, too, a play will be staged in aid of the Arcadian Fête.

But again we must emphasise that only the work of members individually will ensure a really striking success.

In our next month's supplement we hope to be able to record that Young Israel has responded splendidly, and that our stall will be the most successful at the fête.

REPORTS OF THE DISTRICT COMMITTEES.

The Districts naturally suffered from the adverse conditions recounted above, and were somewhat slow in starting work. A little more earnestness, a little more energy, would go a long way. We hope that the forthcoming campaign will afford the occasion and the impetus for the display of more "go." We cannot reiterate too frequently that it is from the district committees that the driving force must issue for the whole Society.

Doornfontein—Bertrams.

This district has not yet come up to its old form. It is the largest district in the Society, and has hitherto been the most flourishing; but it appears at present to be suffering from a disease which unfortunately attacks Zionists societies at all too frequent intervals, and paralyses progress—acute apathy. The general meeting was poorly attended, the first function had to be abandoned, and at present the committee lacks three members (owing to resignations) to make up the full complement. We feel sure that the district will not permit this state of affairs to continue, and that it will immediately set out to recover its former reputation.

The committee as at present constituted consists of Mr. S. Tanne (acting chairman, *vice* Mr. Rajak, who is on leave), Miss Rose Cohen (secretary), Mr. A. Witkin (asst. secretary), Misses F. Metz, N. Isserow, M. Lang, Messrs. H. Cohen, S. Lintoph, Shippel, D. Lubowitz, P. Marks, Flyman.

There are three vacancies. Volunteers and nominations are invited from members for the committee meeting to be held at the Communal Hall, on Tuesday, 3rd March, at 8 p.m.

Forthcoming Affairs.

1. Sunday, 1st March.—Mixed doubles tennis tournament, commencing at 9 a.m.; 2s. 6d. per couple. Entries to be handed in immediately to the Committee.
2. Sunday, 15th March.—Hat debate, followed by a dance, to which will be admitted only those who attend the debate. Communal Hall, Beit Street, at 3 p.m. Doors close at 3.30 p.m.
3. Mock trial, details to be announced later.

(A Purim concert in aid of the Doornfontein Talmud Torah is being held at the Communal Hall on Wednesday, 11th March, at 8 p.m. Tickets 2s. 6d. (single), 4s. (double), obtainable from the district committee.)

Yeoville District.

Chairman, Mr. J. Schwartz; secretary, Miss L. Schwartz; committee, Misses Beiles, Orkin, Hepker, Marks, Goldberg and Abramson, Messrs. Landau, Abramson, Sieff, Soller, Friedman, Lipschitz.

The district has had a number of successful functions, but admits of more energetic activity. A children's evening on January 18th proved very enjoyable. Many entries were received for the tennis tournament held on February 1st, the winners of which will represent the district at the inter-district tennis championship. At a fairly successful interdebate with Doornfontein on February 22nd, the subject discussed was "That the Jew is largely responsible for anti-Semitism." Mr. Tanne and Mr. A. Witkin spoke for Doornfontein; Mr. D. Landau and Mr. J. Chanock for Yeoville.

No definite programme has been fixed for March. A dance will probably be held in aid of the Arcadian Fête. A little "gingering-up" in the district could do no harm.

Eastern Districts.

After an inauspicious beginning the district promises to make good. Several attempts to form a representative committee having proved abortive, no other means remained for the executive but the high-handed one of appointing a chairman and secretary, and leaving it to them to form a committee. The committee thus constituted, consisting of Mr. M. Schrier (chairman), Miss Isaac (secretary), Misses R. Wainer, J. Wainer, Messrs. W. Cooper, R. Jacobson, M. Klass, J. Bloch, T. Sacks, Schrier, D. Levin, M. Amols, bids fair to work harmoniously and soon to retrieve the district's position. It is busy on achieving unity and *bonhomie*, in the district, and in recovering the district's reputation for the highest contributions.

The first function was a happy omen for the future. Some 250 members attended a social and concert at the Talmud Torah Hall on the 22nd; items and refreshments left nothing to be desired.—Other districts please copy.

Forthcoming Affairs.

Wednesday, March 11th.—Dance in aid of Arcadian fête at the Talmud Torah Hall at 8 p.m. Tickets 1s. single, 1s. 6d. double.

Sunday, 22nd.—Reading afternoon. Talmud Torah, 3 p.m.

Southern Suburbs District.

The district has been working quietly but steadily, started with the word "Go," and has gone steadily on. At a progressive afternoon on December 21st, at which about 20 questions on Zionism were asked, Mr. Heyman was awarded the prize. In the comical debate which followed, Messrs. Sopher and Polsky struck a happy humorous vein. A ping-pong tournament, held at the residence of Mr. and Mrs. Bloom, proved an unqualified success. Members who did not participate in the tournament played draughts on the lawns, and listened to the music. Stollof was the successful competitor, and Miss Myerson the runner up. The tennis tournament held on the 8th March was interrupted by the rain, and has been postponed indefinitely.

Forthcoming Functions.

March 28th.—Dance at Kenilworth Hall, corner of Friesburg and Van Hulsteyn Streets, Kenilworth. Tickets 2s. 6d. single.

Parktown District.

Chairman, Mr. M. Gordon; secretary, Mr. A. Sumner; committee, Misses R. Kowarsky, I. Kowarsky, R. Heyman, T. Cohen, Sass, M. Goldberg, Messrs. J. Maisels, J. Lechner, H. Heydenrich, and S. C. Heyman.

Owing to the absence of most of the members on Monday, this section is just beginning to resume operations. We hope that it will set seriously to work for the fête, and we expect from it handsome results.

Forthcoming Functions.

March 8th.—Tennis tournament (mixed doubles). Entries to be handed in to members of the committee, or to the secretary (Telephone 1733), as early as possible. Seniors 3s. per couple; juniors 2s. per couple. Cap.

Central District.

Central has also been a late starter. Under the guidance, however, of Mr. A. Broomberg as chairman, and Miss Abrahamson as secretary, it promises to progress favourably. A grand concert is being held on February 25th at the Norwegian Hall, the proceeds of which are in aid of the fête.

Central has set a good precedent in forming a sub-committee; and we hope the other districts will follow suit.

Fordsburg-Mayfair District.

Berea-Braamfontein District.

These two districts have been the chief thorns in the side of the Executive. Several attempts to form a representative committee in each of the districts have failed. A last attempt is being made, and we are sure that the members will free themselves from their present apathy, and remove the stain that besmirches their name as Young Israelites. General meetings will again be called in these districts, and we hope that on this occasion those members who do feel their responsibilities as Young Israelites will take matters firmly in hand.