

FROM TOWN AND COUNTRY.

From Our Own Correspondents

BLOEMFONTEIN.

On Wednesday evening, the 11th ult., Bloemfontein Jewry assembled to participate in the 21st anniversary of the Bloemfontein Hebrew Helping Hand Sick Benefit and Loan Society. The gathering took place at the Communal Hall, which was filled to its utmost capacity.

The Chairman, Mr. S. J. Rosenberg, opened the proceedings, after which Rev. Lawrence, Mr. I. Fogel and Mr. A. Bryer spoke on the development of the Society and the good work it accomplished. The speaker appealed for further support.

Dr. Otto Krause, the Society's Medical Officer, who gave his fine services during the terrible flu epidemic of 1918, was also present and briefly responded to the many words of praise accorded to him.

During the evening, Councillor Sol. Harris presented Mr. Philip Cohen, the retiring Secretary, with a gold watch, in recognition of his services for the last seven years. Musical items, songs and recitations were rendered, and refreshments were served by the Ladies Committee.

The Jewish Guild have just had its semi-Annual General Meeting. After the usual reading of the reports by the Secretary and Treasurer, the following committee was elected: Mr. Bradlow, Chairman; Mr. J. Hodes, Vice-Chairman; Mr. R. Drobis, Treasurer; Miss A. Abelson, Secretary; Miss D. Herberg, Assistant Secretary; Mr. Ph. Cohen, Hon. Organiser; and the following Committee members, Miss D. Delaw, Mrs. J. Cohen, Messrs. H. Philip, D. Kahn and A. Sacks; Auditors, Messrs. J. Cohen and J. Taylor.

The Young Israel Society is organising a reading circle to be held every Sunday evening, for its members. The Society deserves to be congratulated for this undertaking, such a circle being much needed here. It is a pity, though to restrict the circle to members only.

BULAWAYO.

On Sunday, 29th inst., the Bulawayo Junior Zionist Society held a general meeting in the local Jewish Memorial Hall. The attendance was excellent, there being over 150 members and friends present. The first item on the agenda was a paper by Mr. J. H. S. Whiteson, B.Sc., on "Some Jewish Heroes." This paper was somewhat restricted to one period—the Maccabean—the speaker later explaining that he considered this the most inspiring period of our history.

After thanking Mr. Whiteson for his interesting paper, the chairman urged on all present to do their little bits for Zion, and try to emulate, to whatever degree, the examples set them by those noble heroes of whom they had just heard.

The Rev. M. I. Cohen, B.A., then addressed the gathering on the subject of the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, emphasising the importance that this institution would play in the future, and foreshadowed a closer bond between the three great religions of the world, as a result of its activities.

At the conclusion of this address, the following ladies and gentlemen kindly contributed a musical programme: Misses T. Bernstein, H. Radowsky, J. Favish and L. Solomon, Messrs. A. Hepker and R. Fredman. The Misses L. Fredman, A. Baron and O. Fredman were the accompanists.

DURBANVILLE.

At the Bris Melah of the infant son of Mr. and Mrs. Harry Spiro, at which was present practically the whole of the Jewish community, including, too, a number of visitors from Capetown, Mr. Raphael (Capetown) made an able appeal on behalf of sundry charitable institutions. As the result, a collection took place, the proceeds of which was put up for American auction and realised £14, a quarter of which was allocated to the Jewish National Fund. The Rev. Kassel of Woodstock officiated.

ELISABETHVILLE.

Rev. Louis Wolk, the newly appointed minister duly arrived in Elisabethville, and was welcomed by the president of the congregation, Mr. R. Glasstone, the hon. secretary, Mr. D. J. Robinson, and all the members of the committee.

On Sunday, the 15th ultimo, an "At Home" was given by the president to the new minister and the members of the congregation. The great need for a Jewish minister in Elisabethville was demonstrated when Rev. Wolk found on his arrival that four children were waiting for the Act of Covenant to be performed upon them, the ages of the children ranging from three to twelve months. Mr. Wolk duly performed the necessary ceremonies.

The new minister was received by the Governor of the Province of Katanga. The first Barmitzvah which had taken place in the Congo was that of Master Gerald Kemp, only son of Mr. and Mrs. J. Kemp. The lad had gone with his mother to Johannesburg for the purpose of receiving the necessary Hebrew education. On this occasion, Mrs. Kemp made a donation of £50 towards the synagogue building fund. In the evening, the local Jewish community was entertained to a banquet at the Grand Hotel of which Mr. Kemp is the proprietor. This was the first Yiddische Simcha of its kind in the Belgian Congo.

KROONSTAD.

The Kroonstad Orphans and Relief Fund held a dance in the Central Hotel on the 11th of last month, which was well patronised, an amount of £15 having been handed over to the fund. Miss H. Refson, the energetic hon. secretary, spared no efforts to make the function a success, and thanks are due to her and also all the committee members who assisted in selling tickets and providing refreshments. The committee also desire to thank Mr. W. D. Woodberg, proprietor, for allowing the use of the dining room free and also Mrs. H. Goldstein for attending the guests.

LADYBRAND.

On Show Day, March 20th, the Ladybrand Jewish Women's Benevolent Society held a street collection in aid of the South African Jewish Orphanage, which realised the handsome sum of £22 10s. 7d. A cheque for same was sent to the treasurer of that institution. It is the intention of the ladies to meet once a week at each others houses to begin work for a bazaar to be held later on, thus serving the purpose of unity and sociability.

(Continued on page 37.)

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FROM TOWN AND COUNTRY (Concluded from previous page).

PRETORIA.

The Pretoria Jewish Guild has an extensive programme of activities ahead, while recent functions have been marked, as a rule, by a most gratifying means of support.

The proposal to establish a physical culture association is making progress, and there is every prospect that it will be realised in practice in the near future.

The ping-pong tournament, held on the 29th March, proved a popular attraction, and was also a financial success. The customary fortnightly dance was held on Saturday the 4th April.

On Sunday the 12th April, Rabbi Hirsch will lecture "The Training of Youth in Ancient Israel." On the Monday following, a Jewish Literary Evening will be held, the arrangements being in the hands of Miss F. Hurwitz.

These functions will be held as usual in the Memorial Hall at 8.15 p.m.

A general National Fund Box Collection will take place on Sunday, the 12th April, under the auspices of the Pretoria Zionist Society.

Incidentally, speaking of the Zionist Society, one may be permitted to offer the heartiest congratulations to the committee of that body on the success of the mass meeting organised for the 1st April in connection with the University celebrations. All the arrangements were carried through with admirable precision and efficiency.

At the wedding of Miss Helena Katzenellenbogen, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. H. Katzenellenbogen, and Maurice Bozam, a sum of over £16 was donated by the relatives of the bride and bridegroom in aid of the National Fund.

PORT ELIZABETH.

The "Author's Evening" held by the P.E. Literary Society on the 29th ult., was the occasion of a very large gathering, notwithstanding the purely literary character of the function.

To pay tribute to all that is best and most beautiful in literature was the primary object of the evening, and those who participated excelled in their efforts to appreciate and extol the Masters.

Mr. Adler's rendering of Gibbon's "The Veldt" and Wordsworth's "The world is too much with us" was as beautiful as his subsequent comments and explanations were illuminating.

Miss Luntz' paper on Browning's "Rabbi Ben Ezra" showed a thorough understanding of the subject and a deep sense of the poetic and philosophic.

In his comments on Mathew Arnold's "Isolation" Dr. Morrison displayed a wealth of knowledge of philology and the appreciation of the beautiful.

The discussion sustained by Mr. Herman, Mr. Belschitz and a few others, proved very interesting and was a fine addition to a most successful evening.

This little band of young energetic workers of the Jewish National Fund Council are as active now as they have ever been before. The fancy carnival held under their auspices, on the 25th February, was one of the most enjoyable functions of its kind.

The hall was very tastefully decorated and the numerous fancy costumes as well as the magnificent music supplied by Witle and Han's big four added to the splendour of the evening. The adjudicators, Rev. and Mrs. Levine and Mrs. Weinronk, were received by the Misses Eliason, Nieburg, and Solomon, and Messrs. Butlion and Simmons.

Last Sunday was Shkel Day, and in every part of the town one met with young couples, members of the daughters of the Zion Society and National Fund committee, canvassing for the Shkel. The results of their activities are unknown, but their work was a fine demonstration of Zionist sentiment.

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SMITHFIELD.

On the initiative of Mr. Shein on the occasion of his recent visit, a Zionist Society was formed, and the following officers were elected:—President, Mr. I. Bernitz; vice-president, Mr. S. Caplan; treasurer Mr. F. Babrow; hon. secretary, Mr. M. Saunders; committee: Mesdames I. Saunders, J. Rabinowitz, J. Segal, S. Caplan, W. Weiner, and H. Weiner.

The newly-elected president expressed his thanks to the gathering for his election as well as to Mr. Shein for his eloquent address. Messrs. Caplan, Babrow and Saunders also returned thanks. It may further be mentioned that the community is arranging to celebrate the opening of the Hebrew University, by a public dinner at which the heads of the gentile community will be invited.

ZASTRON.

On the occasion of Mr. Shein's visit to Zastron and on conclusion of the other business of his meeting, a Zionist Society was formed, the following office bearers being elected:—President, Mr. L. Gordon; vice-president, Mr. A. M. Judes; treasurer, Mrs. A. Symon; hon. secretary, Miss E. Pinshaw; committee: Mesdames L. Edelstein, A. M. Judes, L. Gordon, Messrs. J. Friedman, and M. Spitz.

At a meeting of the committee held subsequently, it was decided that the name of this Society should be the "Zastron Zionist Society," and this body is seeking affiliation with the S.A. Zionist Federation.

WITBANK.

On Sunday, the 23rd March last, Messrs. S. Hillman and J. Janower, of Johannesburg, paid a visit here in connection with the above. A special meeting convened by the Witbank Zionist Society resulted in a good attendance. Mr. J. E. Manasewitz, chairman of the Witbank Zionist Society introduced the visitors, and in extending to them a hearty welcome, expressed the hope that their visit would be productive of good results. Both Messrs. S. Hillman and J. Janower gave most stirring addresses which were much appreciated. The sale of shares was then proceeded with, and up to date already 140 shares have been disposed of, and it is expected that a further number of shares will yet be sold.

At the wedding of Miss Esther Smith, of Witbank, to Mr. Drobis, of Johannesburg, in response to the song "Sheinkt a Nedove" most beautifully rendered by Miss Taitz, of Johannesburg, a collection was made which realized £6. An appeal was then made by Mr. N. Brozin, of Middelburg, cousin of the bride, to those present to augment this sum. Mr. B. Holtz then ably auctioned this amount, which was bought for £15 by Mr. and Mrs. E. Lazarus, of Middelburg, in the name of the bride and bridegroom. This sum has been donated half to the Orphanage (Arcadia) and half to the Jewish National Fund.

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