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In Durban

(From our Own Correspondent.)

DURBAN ZIONIST ASSOCIATION AND BNOOTH ZION.

Rehearsals for the children's play, to be produced under the auspices of the Durban Zionist Association and the Bnooth Zion, are proceeding apace. Miss Cecelia Essers, who is coaching the children, is most painstaking in her desire to make the children not only thoroughly familiar with the nature of the play, but word-perfect as well. Only those who are acquainted with the nature of rehearsals can realise the harassing nature of the work. The play will be produced in July, the proceeds of which will be equally divided between the J.N.F. and a school fund—the latter to be administered by the Revs. Rubin and Levy.

A special committee of the Bnooth Zion has been formed to deal with the annual ball, which will be held by the Society on June 23rd. This function has been a most popular one, and the Bnooth Zion by this means have raised considerable amounts for the J.N.F.

Messrs. A. M. Abrahams and L. Braudo, both of the Federation Executive, are in Durban on business in connection with the Binyan campaign.

The amount of £25, collected at the Bris Melah of the infant son of Mr. and Mrs. O. Hackner of Rorvick Avenue, constitutes quite a record. Rev. Menachemson made a stirring appeal for the J.N.F., and in the course of his speech, touched upon the significant fact that the initiation of the child into Jewry coincided with the most remarkable event in the history of Judaism within the past 2,000 years. The reverend gentleman appealed for £20 for inscribing the infant's name in the Golden Book, and donated 2s. 6d., to be sold by American auction. Mr. I. Gevisser acted as the auctioneer. The coin was finally bought by Mr. and Mrs. S. Hackner, the amount realised being £26. Considering that the whole assembly totalled only 14, the result is truly magnificent.

CIRCLE NOTES.

The recent culture evening of the Circle was held on the 6th, Mr. H. L. Magid acting as chairman. The lecturers were Messrs. A. Rubens, B. A. Levitas and E. Saks, who lectured on "John Galsworthy, the Dramatist," "Earl Balfour, the Statesman," and "Mozart, the Musician," respectively. A very interesting evening was provided.

Further functions include the monthly dance on the 20th, and a moonlight cruise on the 27th. The latter attractions are exceedingly popular.

The *Hasholen* has been completely reorganised and a new editor has been installed, and members are eagerly anticipating the current issue, which gives high hopes of being uncommonly interesting.

H.O.D.

An exodus of brethren took place on Sunday, the 19th, when the Sir Matthew Nathen Lodge No. 12 was consecrated in Maritzburg. The ceremony witnessed remarkable enthusiasm.

GENERAL.

A very successful children's meeting was held in the Park Gate Hall on Sunday, the 5th, for which grateful thanks are due to Miss Gregson, the lessee, for allowing the use of the premises gratis. A large muster of children was present, and an interesting musical programme, drawn up and rendered entirely by the youngsters, was given. Rev. E. M. Levy made several interesting remarks upon the reason for the gathering, and exhorted the children to study of the Hebrew language—history and traditions—to strive to be conscious of the great happenings in Jewry to-day. The proceedings terminated with great enthusiasm by the singing of "Hatikvah" and the National Anthem.

A project has been mooted for the establishment of a Communal Hall in Durban. The need of a Jewish assembly Hall is keenly felt, and the acquisition of such an institution will provide a long-felt want. Mr. H. Hillman is the promoter of a project whereby all who are interested will be able to co-operate. More publicity will be given to this matter when the scheme has advanced a further step.

YOUNG ISRAEL SOCIETY.

I have much satisfaction in stating that all the activities of this body of young Jews will in future be reported in these columns. A regrettable feature has been the lack of publicity in connection with this society—in fact a great number of our townspeople are ignorant of its existence. Considerable activity has taken place lately; amongst the functions of the society being a lecture on various professions by well-known members of the said professions—a lecture on "Zionism" by Mr. M. Stone, games evenings and book reading evenings. A popular function held not long ago was a "banquet"—the society had no pretensions of calling it a "banquet," but I do, it sounds nicer—given in honour of those of its members who were successful in the recent examinations.

IN ZANZIBAR.

In a letter received from Mrs. M. L. Genussow, who passed Zanzibar during her recent journey to Palestine, the following occurs:—"At Zanzibar, I could only detect a few names of Sephardic Jewish origin. On enquiries could find no trace of Israelites, so there is no wonder the place seems so neglected. We could not go down until Port Sudan. There I met, happily, one of us—a Mr. L. J. S.—a Jew at heart and soul, and proud to be of Italian Jewish parents. He dwells in Kartoum, and on making enquiries, I discovered that there were 45 Hebrew families in Kartoum, all believing and religious Jews. It also possessed a temple, shochet, *Rav* and *Gabbi*. About forty-five years ago there was a fair congregation, but the then rulers forced the congregants to become Moslems and the bachelors to marry natives. Most of them, therefore, left their abode, and those that remained were forced to marry."

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