

Herzl Memorial Meetings

Reports of Functions Held Throughout the Country.

JOHANNESBURG.

Combined Zionist Societies.

Under the auspices of the Combined Zionist Societies of Johannesburg, a Herzl Memorial meeting was held at the H.O.D. Hall on Sunday evening.

Dr. W. Sachs presided and welcomed the gathering. Mr. A. M. Abrahams, President of the S.A. Zionist Federation, stated that they had met that evening to do honour to one of the greatest men in the modern history of the Jewish nation. It was beneficial to hold such meetings in order that we may gain some spark from the divine fire and enable us to carry on. Not only was Herzl a dreamer but also a statesman. It was to him that we owed the Congress, also the Jewish Colonial Trust. In Herzl was combined both the prophetic spirit and that of a practical statesman. Herzl was taken away before his work had been finished, but he had done enough for the work to be carried on by his disciples.

"It is difficult," said Mr. Abrahams, "to contemplate how Herzl would have reacted to modern conditions, but I am sure he would not have been despondent. A people like the Jewish nation cannot be destroyed. It had suffered the torments of man throughout the ages and was indestructible."

Mr. Abrahams appealed for the Herzlian spirit—the spirit of optimism. It was only in this manner we could properly honour the memory of Herzl.

Mr. J. Sandler, representing the Johannesburg Zionist-Revisionist Organisation, said that in the black shadows of recent events in Palestine, they were gathered that evening to pay tribute to Herzl's memory. There was an old custom on such occasions to go to the cemetery and visit the graves of the departed great ones. So to-night they were going—as it were—to the graveyard of our modern national heroes. They saw the victims of the pogroms, they saw a Trumpledor, and so on—and then they reached the grave of Herzl. On his tombstone was found the following inscription:—"National rehabilitation, a Jewish State in Palestine, and a Congress as the Jewish platform."

The speaker went on to give an account of the early days of the Zionist movement which galvanised all the latent forces in Jewry towards the National purpose. In the first six years of the movement, Herzl had called six Zionist Congresses. They were not afraid of frequent Congresses in those days.

Mr. Sandler went on to refer to the statement made by Dr. Shiels in Geneva recently, when he was interrupted by the chairman who pointed out that the speeches that evening would be devoted to the memory of Herzl, and that it was inadvisable for political addresses to be delivered.

On Mr. Sandler resuming his seat, Mr. Lipschitz, of the Brith Trumpledor Organisation, delivered an impassioned Yiddish address.

Mr. Friedlander, speaking in fluent Hebrew, said that one useful lesson of Herzl's work was the breaking down of the idea of assimilation amongst Jewish students. Unfortunately there was evidence of assimilation in South Africa and he appealed to the local Zionist Federation to use all its force against this tendency.

Mr. L. Tager, representing the S.A. Zeire Zion, said that Herzl's Zionism was not only a solution of the Jewish problem, but was needed for the benefit of humanity at large. An indication of the reverence with which he was held, and the recognition of the inspiration of his great idea, was indicated by a little incident which happened during the Zionist leader's visit to Vilna. When Herzl offered a silver coin to a poor Jew, the latter replied that he had come to see Herzl—the great redeemer—and not to receive a donation. At first Herzl had been misunderstood, but to-day his great rôle in Jewish life was appreciated in every warm Jewish heart.

Mr. Peretz Cornfeld said it was a remarkable thing that we can find inspiration and guidance from Herzl. He was, year in and year out every Jewish community throughout the world gathered to commemorate the memory of Herzl. For 2,000 years we had been studying the solution of the Jewish problem; how the Jew could live a respected people among the nations. They could not find a formula until Herzl came with his Utopia, which had gradually developed to an internationally recognised political movement.

"Zionism to-day," declared Mr. Cornfeld, "has entered the domain of a highly sophisticated problem. As a result we ourselves do not find it possible to see light in this intricate complexity. There are movements within movements and we are often drawn into the deepest complications."

"It is at this moment, when we are in the midst of a very confusing situation, that we have to simplify our aims to ourselves and to the nations of the world. It is in this connection

above everything, extremely simple, extremely honest, even ingenuous—almost a childish innocence possessed him, but it was that innocence which refused to recognise any obstacles. It was Herzl who taught us that we must forget our own *chochmas* if we are to succeed in putting the problem before our own eyes and the eyes of the world."

The speaker went on to indicate that Herzl wished to have a Jewish nation to fight against assimilation. He also declared that before a return to Zion, there should be a return to Judaism. He taught us that we must build Zion and go there, work there, and even die there. It was necessary for us to overcome all these complications and counter complications and go direct, simply and singly, to our task.

In closing the proceedings, Dr. Sachs referred to the growth of the Jewish National spirit amongst a large section of assimilated Jews throughout the world.

The meeting ended with the singing of *Hatikvah*.

Enthusiastic Hebrew Meeting.

The Jewish Guild Hall was packed on Wednesday night, 16th inst., when an evening in memory of Herzl was organised under the auspices of the Hebrew-Speaking Circle of Johannesburg. The platform was suitably decorated with a portrait of Herzl prominently displayed.

The evening opened with a rendering of "Al Naharot Bavel," which was sung by Rev. Rabec, accompanied by a choir.

The chairman, Mr. Kreitzman, said that that evening was a distinct land-mark in Jewish history in South Africa, as it was the first occasion on which Herzl's Yahrzeit was commemorated purely in Hebrew in this country. Herzl had been the pillar of faith and courage that were required for his immortal creation in divine inspiration. The picture of his life always seemed new to us—a well from which we could draw fresh waters for our present life. Before his image all Israel stood united in their will-to-live and in their desire for the redemption of Israel. That was a day on which we reviewed the path we had trodden and mapped out our future course. There could be no doubt that had Herzl not been cut off in the prime of his life he would have crowned his creative work with the Hebrew language. The finest memorial which Jews could give to Herzl is the revival of the Jewish National tongue. Herzl had restored to the Jews their faith in the power of Israel.

Rabbi I. M. Gervis, the next speaker, in an address that was rich in ideas and clothed in beautiful language, described the present situation of the Jews as a sort of "Third Churban." The sword of diplomacy again hung over the heads of the Jewish people. But the right of the Jewish people to its land, declared the speaker, did not depend on the decision of Parliaments or on the will of ministers. The fact that on that night and in that place they could assemble and speak in the language of prophets of old, supported their faith that the land which was the cradle of prophecy would one day belong to the people of the prophets. The only memorial which they could erect for a national hero like Herzl was to help to realise those ideals for which he had sacrificed his life on the altar of his people.

It was difficult to form a satisfactory estimate of the great achievements of Herzl. To-day we were living in a period of transition; golus and redemption were both struggling in the field. We were still awaiting the great artist who would adequately portray the giant stature and magnetic personality of Herzl—the man who had altered the whole course of his people's history. Herzl's appearance among the Jews had something of the miraculous in it. He could be compared to the first great national leader of the Jews, Moses. Like the ancient leader, Herzl came among the Jews from a foreign country and a foreign environment; and this might be the very secret of his success, for he was not affected by the bitterness and the despair of his fellow-Jews. He met many an opponent on his path, pair of his fellow-Jews. He met many an opponent on his path, for the Jewish people when its galuth spirit was not yet ready for its redemption. Herzl realised that if the monied magnates did not respond to his call, at least the Jews in Eastern Europe were ready to follow him. In proportion, as the image of the actual historical Herzl was sinking into oblivion, his immortal stature was growing; and the day would come when not only Israel but the whole world would regard him as one of the great emancipators of humanity.

Rabbi Gervis was followed by Miss J. Kiel, who very tastefully recited Bialik's "Birchatam" and Elisheva's Galuth.

The next speaker was Mr. P. Cornfeld. He reviewed the personality of Herzl as revealed in the "Diaries," the intense, direct and unsophisticated nature of the leader. The descendants of those far-sighted statesmen of Britain who negotiated with Herzl and who had seen in the return of Israel to their homeland a step in the redemption of mankind at large, were

HERZL MEMORIAL MEETINGS.

(Concluded from previous page.)

to-day repudiating the exalted conceptions of their ancestors. But the Jews were themselves perhaps to blame as they had not followed in the footsteps of Herzl. In Palestine, where the actual work of rebuilding was in progress, a spirit of courage and optimism prevailed which was not abashed by the present difficulties and external factors. The spirit of Palestine must permeate Jewry throughout the world so that these latter will then be able to strengthen the hands of the builders of the land itself.

After the "Haskarah" had been recited, a brief address was given by Mr. I. Levitan who called upon the younger generation to continue the work of the dead leader.

The evening closed with a vote of thanks by the chairman to all those who had participated and helped in the arrangements for the evening. The chairman also welcomed in their midst Mr. Giorini, the Palestine opera singer, who was there with greetings from the homeland.

CAPETOWN.

The twenty-sixth anniversary of Dr. Herzl's death was commemorated in Capetown last Sunday night by the holding of a meeting in the Zionist Hall. Dr. S. E. Kark presided over a very large gathering, and with him on the platform were Mr. D. Mierowsky and Mr. B. L. Rubik, LL.B.

Dr. Kark stated that we set aside this day not really as a Yahrzeit, because it was not Herzl's death we wanted to commemorate on it, but rather his life and works. We would do better to call it Herzl's day. We wanted to remember his spirit and all those ideals for which he had given his life. It was especially necessary for us to-day, when we were burdened with doubts, to remember Herzl's great faith in himself and in us and the world generally.

Herzl had been the crowning glory of the last decade of Jewry. Zangwill had said of him: "He was a prince in Israel," but the speaker would say not only was he a prince in Israel, but rather what had been said of another prince: "He was a prince towering in his greatness above everyone for the last several centuries."

At the conclusion of his address, Dr. Kark introduced to the gathering Mr. Mierowsky, after which he called on him to speak.

Mr. Mierowsky, at the outset, referred to the facts that he had recently heard that in Vienna it had been decided not to commemorate Herzl's Yahrzeit this year. He did not know what the underlying motives of this decision were, but if it was to substitute the commemoration by a celebration of his birthday, then he had nothing but praise for those responsible. If, on the other hand, the event was to be entirely omitted with no such substitution, one of the greatest historical blunders was being committed.

If it had been merely a question of commemorating only a great man, a great statesman, philosopher, etc., the Viennese would have been quite correct—it would have been time to discontinue these functions. But Herzl to us meant much more than a great man, or a great philosopher. Herzl to us was symbolic of the most beautiful chapter of a romance the world had ever known. It was a beautiful chapter in the romance of Zionism and the first chapter in the rejuvenation of the Jewish people.

In view of the large number of young people in the hall, said Mr. Mierowsky, he wished to dwell on the romantic aspect of Zionism. The world of romance knew of no greater, truer, more pathetic love-story than the love of the Jewish soul for Palestine. The speaker described the tie between the Jewish people and Eretz Israel as "an elastic cord" which the harder one pulled, the wider and stronger it grew. Persecution, torture, degradation during the centuries of dispersion had only increased this love.

Palestine had permeated the lives and conceptions of the Jewish people. It had given them, because of its very nature, because of its very variety, a conception of life which was remarkable for its harmonious blending of the spiritual and material.

Why did this devotion to Palestine exist? asked the speaker. The answer to him was plain. The Jew and the soil of Palestine were insolubly combined. As long as a Jew retained his characteristics he was a Palestinian. The attitude of a Jew to Palestine could always act as a gauge to his Jewishness.

The life of Herzl was the most wonderful legend woven in the romance of Zionism. It was the finest chapter we had written in the whole romance for the last thirty years. Thirty years ago it seemed as if Jewish nationalism was dying. There was mass conversion on one side and no unity in the smaller parts throughout the world. Jewish life seemed to be developing without any aims, life or hope. And then came the clarion call of Herzl, and it was as though the dismembered bones of the Jewish body had once again come together.

"I often wonder," said Mr. Mierowsky, "what life at present would have been like without the influence of Zionism." There was not a land or community in which the Jews had not benefited by it. South Africa, however, had gained less than

any other country. We here were really spiritual philantropists. We sent our money to universities, schools, etc. in Palestine, but we sent our children to Catholic schools. We were drifting. We gave, but we made no attempt to receive.

The speaker concluded by addressing himself particularly to the youth of the meeting and deploring the lack of interest it took in matters Jewish or Hebrew, its attitude towards the large number of East European Jews now in the country. Out of youth, he felt, was ill-qualified for leadership.

Mr. Rubik was next called upon to speak. Herzl, said Mr. Rubik, brought us to a consideration of the position in Palestine to-day. He wanted to speak the truth, and in doing so he could only say, the position was bad. This fact might be used by some as an excuse for not giving, but it was a fact nevertheless.

Mr. Mierowsky had said during the course of his speech that we were older than Ramsay Macdonald's Government. That was true. We were older, and he would add, we would also live longer. There might be some who might want to desert us now in our time of stress. But it was only rats who left a sinking ship.

He was going to talk very little about Herzl. Zionism was wider and more beautiful than Herzl. Zionism was not all Herzl, but Herzl was all Zionism. There was a movement to-day which sought a return to Herzl. But we could not go back because we had never really departed from him.

We had learnt many things from Herzl, but there was one thing we had not learnt. Herzl had the strength and the courage to speak out and not to relax in the face of difficulties. Our cautions of "dignity" and "restraint" to-day were words for old women to use. They were not words to be heard on the lips of a people. We had to go back to Herzl to learn to speak as a people should speak.

Meantime we had to give our leaders every encouragement. Only with our support could they succeed and not lose their courage in the great task before them.

During the evening appropriate songs and readings were rendered by Mr. Trupin, Miss Rabinowitz and Mr. M. Natas. The meeting closed with a hearty rendering of the *Hatikvah*.

DURBAN.

It may be remembered that when the Durban Zionist Society arranged a beautiful commemoration service a year ago on the occasion of the twenty-fifth anniversary of the death of Theodor Herzl—an event which was reverently observed all over the world by Zionists and others—the response from the Jewish community was pathetically disappointing. In view of the remarkable success of the Keren Hayesod campaign recently and the National Home Fete, one is left sorely puzzled to fathom out why the same Zionists and sympathisers who could achieve so much when the occasion called for it, were utterly unable to find one spare hour to honour the memory of the man who made modern Zionism possible. This year, despite strenuous but unavailing efforts, the Zionist Society was reluctantly obliged to abandon the attempt to observe Herzl's Yahrzeit and the privilege of commemorating the occasion was happily undertaken by the Agudath Sefateinu.

The function took place on Sunday evening, 20th, at the residence of Mr. and Mrs. M. Stone, before a full gathering of members of the Hebrew Speaking Circle and a number of friends. The nature of the function was probably unique as far as Durban is concerned, Hebrew songs and speeches predominating, while a group of young cholutzim rendered Hebrew and Arabic choruses.

The meeting opened after a few introductory remarks by the chairman, Mr. D. Harris, with "Hatikvah" sung by Chazan Ziev (with violin accompaniment by Miss Leah Magnus). Rev. M. Jackson intoned "El Mole Rachmim," and Rev. N. Menachemson sang "Elleha Neshama" with violin accompaniment by Miss Magnus.

An address was then delivered by Mr. J. Blumenthal on "Herzl and our need of his political wisdom." The speaker stressed the importance of viewing the work of Zionism from a statesmanlike, Herzlian point of view. In his opinion Zionism had deviated from Herzl's psychology during the last twelve years, and this was one of the strongest factors responsible for the deplorable state of affairs in Palestine last August.

The address was followed by a recitation by Miss Esther Lutrin which was extremely well received. Mrs. Freedman, Jun., sang delightfully and later Mrs. E. M. Levy delighted the audience with a number of attractive folksongs in Yiddish. Arab melodies, with Hebrew words, were sung by Mr. Adani.

Rabbi E. M. Levy then addressed the gathering on the value of Herzl's influence on Jewish thought and particularly the tremendous power of his which drew back to Judaism the European Jewish youth which was then drifting towards assimilation. Rabbi Levy believed that the problem of Palestine would be settled when the affairs in Erez Israel would be handled by persons deeply rooted in Jewish religion and tradition.

Mr. I. Friedman then moved a vote of thanks to the artists who had contributed to the entertainment, and the function concluded with a hearty vote of thanks to the host and hostess, Mr. and Mrs. M. Stone.

HERZL MEMORIAL MEETINGS.

(Concluded from previous page.)

PRETORIA.

In commemoration of the Yahrzeit of Dr. Theodor Herzl, the Pretoria Zionist Society arranged a meeting in the Memorial Hall on the 16th inst. Advocate G. Saron, of Johannesburg, addressed an audience of over fifty, and gave a masterly analysis of the character and work of Herzl. Mr. A. Cooper presided.

Herzl, commenced Mr. Saron, has become the symbol of the Jewish National Movement. In his memory have become crystallised all the aspirations of the Jewish people. As a result a legendary halo now surrounded Herzl, and it is difficult, therefore to form a picture of the man's actual personality. It is difficult to recreate the real Herzl, and this is exemplified by the various portraits of the man. One well-known picture reveals the man of sorrow, while another shows the cares thrown off. A third artist paints him emphasising the enterprising side of his character.

Mr. Saron then proceeded to review Herzl's writings. In his early years Dr. Herzl was a flashy writer, but later he confined himself to works more in the nature of essays. But the dominant note which ran through all his works was a feeling of pity, the pathos which lies in all things. He felt deeply, what to him appeared the unnecessary sorrow in human beings. Yet in spite of all this he had faith in human society, and we afterwards find both these qualities in Herzl, the Zionist leader.

Theodor Herzl, stated the lecturer, felt that it was impossible for the Jew to be assimilated, and one of the reasons he gave for the need of a National State was that of anti-Semitism. Mr. Saron then traced the controversy between Achad Ha'am and Herzl and gave several illustrations where the two viewpoints resulted in acute difference of opinion. The greatness of Herzl lay not so much in his practical results, but because he brought about once again Jewish unity and raised the status of his people.

Mr. P. Machanic proposed a vote of thanks to the speaker.

A meeting to commemorate the Twenty-sixth Yahrzeit of Dr. Theodor Herzl was held under the auspices of the Agudat Sefateinu at the Memorial Hall on Tuesday, the 15th inst., in the presence of a large and appreciative audience.

The president, Mr. B. Goldberg, paid a tribute to the everlasting memory of the great leader, after which Cantor I. Kaminer intoned the *Haskarah*. Rabbi I. M. Gervis, Mr. Kreitzman and Mr. A. Levin, of the Johannesburg Hebrew Circle—the speakers of the evening—were then introduced.

Mr. Kreitzman spoke powerfully on the influence which Dr. Herzl had on the Jewish nation.

Rabbi Gervis said that, although we find ourselves to-day in tragic circumstances—reminiscent of the period of the destruction of the third temple—with the promises for help in building our homeland far from realisation and the gates of our land closed, yet the fact that we in South Africa to-day appreciate the unquenchable spirit which enabled Herzl to overcome the numerous obstacles which confronted him, should kindle anew the spark of Zionist hope and aspiration. Herzl realised that the salvation of the Jews must be gradual and that our land will be built not by other nations but through our own determined efforts.

Mr. Levin remarked that we have had many great men in the Zionist movement, but Herzl was outstanding because of his indomitable courage and strong determination to carry out his ideals. He stood as a symbol of youth.

The Chairman thanked the visitors and expressed the hope that this meeting with the members of the Johannesburg Hebrew Circle would be the forerunner of many future inter-functions.

Mr. M. Silber, seconded by Mr. J. Isaacs, proposed a hearty vote of thanks to the speakers.

A CANTOR FROM NEW YORK.

Arrival of Cantor Samuels.

There arrived a few days ago in Johannesburg, Cantor Morris Samuels, a well-known Cantor from New York.

Cantor Samuels has come to South Africa on a health trip. He expresses a willingness, however, to conduct services during the forthcoming High Festivals, should he receive an invitation from a prominent congregation. The Cantor, who possesses a powerfully rich tenor voice, is also well-known in England, where he conducted synagogue services during various vacation periods.

The arrival of Cantor Samuels will be undoubtedly welcomed by musical and congregational circles in South Africa.

ONE MILLION STERLING

Your Eyes Are Worth More To
You Than Millions of Money.

DON'T NEGLECT THEM

Our many Jewish Patrons are advised that an Optical Department has now been opened in Johannesburg for their convenience.

COOKE, TROUGHTON & SIMMS, LTD.,

GENEVA HOUSE,

LOVEDAY STREET - - - - JOHANNESBURG.

Phone 7030.

Box 7131.

RECEPTION TO MR. GIORINI.

In an interview which was given to a representative of this journal several weeks ago by Mr. G. Giorini, the leading tenor of the Palestine Hebrew Opera, the gifted singer gave an outline of his mission in this country and described the spirit of the new Palestine music.

The first concert of Mr. Giorini in Johannesburg will take place on Saturday evening, August 16 at the Selborne Hall. It is understood that the programme of the evening will be highly attractive. A number of famous arias from operas, Italian, Hebrew and Yiddish folk-songs will be rendered by Mr. Giorini.

At the reception given on Wednesday evening by Mrs. I. Heymann at Levson's Studio in honour of Mr. G. Giorini, the latter delighted the guests with several musical items. Musical critics who were present were unanimous in their praise of Mr. Giorini's rich and resonant voice and of the fine artistry shown in the rendering of his pieces. The audience was specially delighted with the Hebrew songs "The Shepherd" and "My Camel."

The accompaniments of Mrs. Z. Braun were of a particularly praiseworthy character, and undoubtedly helped towards the success of Mr. Giorini's recital.

During the evening the company was given the pleasure of listening to two very fine local pianistes. Mrs. Levenstein gave a display of fine technique in her renditions of Brahms and Chopin compositions, and the work of Mrs. S. Brown stamped her as a piano soloist of note.

There was a distinguished company present, which included Dr. J. L. Landau (Chief Rabbi) and Mrs. Landau, also Mr. and Mrs. Alex Cherniavsky and Mr. Leo Cherniavsky.

AN EDUCATIONAL CONFERENCE.

The Executive Committee of the United Hebrew Schools of Johannesburg has decided, that in view of certain clashing in dates, to postpone their conference from Sunday, July 27 to Sunday, August 10. From the resolutions which have now been received from local governing bodies, it is apparent that the forthcoming conference will largely interest itself with matters affecting the welfare of Jewish children.

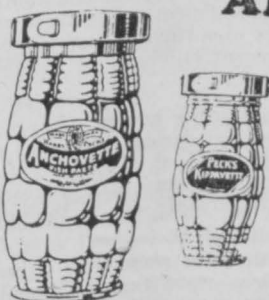
For hungry youngsters
there is nothing like
HARRY PECK'S

ANCHOVETTE

THE ORIGINAL FISH
PASTE.

Free from all
preservatives.

For a change try KIPPA-
VETTE. Anchovettes little
brother.



"Try a Sandwich."