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OUR TEACHERS SALARIES.

(Concluded from previous page.)

Whenever a question arose of difference between a parent and teacher, the latter always had precedence, being regarded as the one who subscribed to the spiritual life and well-being of the child, whereas the father merely provided for his physical welfare—the former provision being of an eternal nature, and the latter merely material.

In the modern world, however, the Hebrew teacher is looked upon as some sort of minion—a kind of pariah—to whom entrance into the better class of society is impossible. And this has come about because of the poor stipend he is offered.

In Germany, however, the social standing of the teacher is akin to that in ancient Israel. He moves amongst the best, and it is deemed an honour to be in his society. His word is authoritative. "Der Lehrer hat es gesagt," is generally said. Bismark paid the teaching profession a high compliment when he said: "It was the teacher who won the war of 1870."

The status enjoyed long ago by the teaching profession in Ancient Israel is very forcibly illustrated by the following story:

A certain rabbi, the Midrash Echah relates, once sent several learned men from Palestine to establish schools and promote learning wherever needful. They finally arrived at a town where they could discover no trace of tuition of any kind. With indignation they exclaimed to the citizens: "Bring before us the protectors of the town!" But only the magistrates and persons entrusted with the civil functions of the place made their appearances.

"But these are not the protectors of the town!" the wise men cried.

"Who, then, do you require?" asked the astounded citizens.

"The protectors of your town are your teachers," was the reply.

And truly our teachers are not only the protectors of our communities, but they are the only ones who make its continued existence and development possible.

From a Jewish standpoint, they are the most important members of our communities, and the soundness and true Jewishness of these communities can be gauged only by the status of the Hebrew teachers in their midst.

It must also be conceded that the question of tangible compensation of teachers is closely connected with their professional equipment. The economic law of prices holds true also in the Hebrew teacher; the more adequate the training, the higher is likely to be the salary required, and similarly, the higher the salary the better the standard of professional skill it can command. There are, no doubt, "Hebrew teachers," so called, in the country who are far from being bargainers. Such people, however, should never have been engaged.

But there is an ever-increasing number of teachers, amongst them some veterans who have grown old in the faithful service, capable and efficient, and any encouragement given to them must result in the attraction of similar highly idealistic and desirable "protectors" of our community.

A ZIONIST DISCUSSION.

Under the auspices of the Johannesburg Zionist Association, a meeting of the combined committees of local Zionist Societies was held at the H.O.D. Hall on Monday evening.

Dr. W. Sachs presided and outlined the purpose of the meeting, which was to arrange for a united front on the part of local Zionists in the present crisis in connection with Palestine. As all political parties waived their differences at the time of war, so Zionists of all political colour should come together and see how they could jointly work at the present juncture.

The remarks of the chairman elicited considerable discussion from a number present, the various speakers taking the opportunity of giving their opinions as to the cause of the trend of recent events in Zionism.

The Chairman appealed to the speakers not to make use of the meeting that evening for the purpose of advocating their own particular views. This remark on the part of Dr. W. Sachs elicited disapproval from some members of the audience, who felt that on an occasion like this it would serve a useful purpose to have a general debate. The Chairman pointed out, however, that the meeting was not organised for the purpose of debate, but in order to find ways and means whereby a united front could be arranged among Johannesburg Zionists.

Considerable debate then ensued, and the meeting resolved into a general discussion. Whilst no tangible results were achieved, there can be no doubt that the meeting served a most valuable purpose in the general airing of Zionist opinion.

JEWISH GUILD (Johannesburg).

The monthly play-reading of the Jewish Guild will be held on Thursday, 30th October, at 8.15 p.m. The producer is Miss Elsie Levitas.

Sunday, 2nd November, will see the first performance, in costume of a most unique show. It will take the form of a combination of verses from the three editions of Fitzgerald's translation of "The Rubaiyat of Omar Khayyam," and the complete song cycle of "In a Persian Garden," by Lisa Lehmann.

The cast is as follows: Mrs. Henry Gluckman, who makes a voluptuous Khaja; Mr. George Absalom, who propounds perfectly the pessimistic philosophy of Omar Khayyam; Mrs. H. L. Karnvosky (soprano), Miss Jean Gluckman (contralto), Rev. S. Backon (tenor), Mr. Sydney Schragger (baritone). The accompaniment will be supplied by a trio, which has been arranged by Mrs. Ernest Solomon. This is the first time that the orchestration of Lisa Lehmann's song cycle will be performed in this country. The producers are Messrs. Ernest Solomon and Mr. Sydney Schragger.

An inter-debate will be held with the Public Speaking Club at 8 Henwood's Arcade on Tuesday, 4th November, at 8.15 p.m. The subject will be "That Democracy is an Incurable Disease."



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