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In Cape Town

REPORTS OF JEWISH ACTIVITIES IN THE MOTHER CITY

From Our Own Correspondent.

All Communications relating to these pages should be addressed to "HASOFER," P.O. Box 3084, CAPE TOWN.

A COUNCIL OF CONGREGATIONS.

One cannot welcome warmly enough the decision arrived at at the meeting held last Sunday (a report of which appears elsewhere in this issue) to form a Council of Congregations in the Western Province. Such a decision is by now long overdue, for the need for the numerous congregations in the Western Province to speak with one voice on many matters has for a long time made itself felt. There are questions which come within the scope of the congregation to-day which face every congregation, big or small, throughout the country, in turn. Each congregation answers them in its own particular way, some naturally with better results than others. It cannot be doubted that were these questions answered once and for all by a strong and influential body representative of all the congregations concerned and vested with certain powers, a great deal of trouble would be saved and far better results would be achieved. When one says this, one has in mind particularly such vexed questions as those of Meshullachim and proselytism.

There are, of course, other reasons why one welcomes the new Council of Congregations. One cannot, after all, underestimate the importance of unity of whatever nature it may be, nor fail to realise it is essential to the success of any community and that division cannot but mean weakness and ultimate failure. The Union formed last Sunday will, one believes and hopes, mean the sinking of all petty and personal differences and the birth of a new strength and dignity as far as the Jewish community of the whole Cape Province is concerned. The very best wishes are held out to it for a happy and successful fulfilment of the aims with which it sets out.

THE ZIONIST CONVERSAZIONE.

Dr. S. E. Kark acted as host at the last conversazione held at the Zionist Hall last Friday night.

The two main items of the evening were a paper on "The Gesticulating Jews," read by Dr. J. Sachs, M.A. Ph.D., and a short lecture on the "Competence of the Permanent Court of International Justice to interpret the Mandate," by Mr. A. Shacksnovis. No discussion arose out of the former, but Mr. Shacksnovis's treatise called forth expression of opinions from a fair number of those present.

Mr. Shacksnovis contended that the only body competent to deal with the White Paper on Palestine recently issued by the British Government and to determine its rights and wrongs was the Permanent Court of International Justice. But the matter could not be brought before this Court by the body which represented the Jewish people—i.e., the Jewish Agency—since the latter had been established to deal solely with the British Government and thus had no international status. The Jewish Agency would have either to obtain the services of some state that was a signatory to the League Covenant or a member of the League of Nations in order to have it brought before the Court or would itself have to bring it before the League which would in turn bring it before the Permanent Court.

Those who took part in the discussion were Mr. Rosenblit, Dr. Sachs, Mr. Getz and Mr. Sorokin. Mr. Shacksnovis suitably replied.

The only other feature of the evening were the reports on Jewish world activities delivered as usual by Mr. Getz.

The evening closed with the singing of the Hatikvah.

LECTURE BY MR. PICKERILL.

There was a very good attendance at the Zionist Hall last Tuesday night when Mr. W. J. Pickerill, conductor of the Municipal Orchestra, delivered a lecture to the members of the Maccabean Guild. The subject of the lecture was "Good and Bad Music," and Mr. Pickerill dealt with it in a way that was both interesting and illuminating.

During the evening the Maccabean Guild Orchestra, under the baton of Mr. George Tobias, played selections of good and bad music, illustrating the various points raised by the speaker, and Mr. Harry Garfinkel sang a number of folk-tunes. In a short speech towards the conclusion of the evening, Mr. Pickerill spoke warmly in praise of the orchestra.

Mr. S. Nell, president of the Maccabean Guild, presided, and Mr. Tobias proposed a vote of thanks to Mr. Pickerill.

A MANNEQUIN PARADE.

A very pleasant function took place last Thursday evening at the residence of Mrs. H. Bertish, of Kenilworth, when a Mannequin Parade was held in aid of the Board of Guardians. Some 500 persons were present, all of whom assembled in a beautifully lit-up garden where tables had been set and where the actual parade took place. Many leading firms in town had lent frocks for the occasion and these were displayed by the "Mannequins"—well-known girls in the community—to considerable advantage. During the evening refreshments were served and musical items rendered. Dancing took place towards the latter part of the evening. The function should benefit the Board of Guardians by a not inconsiderable amount.

KADIMAH ASSOCIATION.

The Kadimah Association held a very successful function last Wednesday evening which took the form of a "Living Newspaper." Articles were written and read by Messrs. Natas, Avin and Rechtman, all of them of a very high standard. What made the evening particularly interesting was the fact that the articles were marked by variety and that there were a fair sprinkling of humorous ones among them. Mr. Charloff presided over the gathering.

CAPETOWN HEBREW CIRCLE.

A meeting to celebrate the seventieth birthday of Simeon Dubnow was held last Thursday evening under the auspices of the above, and was fairly well attended.

Lectures on this eminent Jewish historian's life, works and general outlook were delivered by Mr. A. Levin and Mr. Z. Avin, both of which were followed keenly by a highly interested audience.

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