

In Port Elizabeth

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

The final function of the Hebrew School, which took the form of a *Chanukah* celebration and distribution of prizes to pupils, was held on Sunday, the 14th ult., in the St. George's Hall. The evening commenced with the lighting of the *Chanukah* candles by Mr. I. Silpert and the singing of "Moauz Tsur" by the school choir. The programme, which consisted of Hebrew sketches, Hebrew songs and recitations rendered by the pupils of the school, was thoroughly enjoyed and appreciated by the audience.

Mr S. Weinronk, the chairman of the Hebrew School Committee, paid a tribute to the excellence of the performance and also thanked Mrs. Mibashan, to whose efforts the success of the concert was largely due. Mr. Weinronk then expressed the thanks of the Hebrew School to Mr. and Mrs. Lazar Mirkin for their *Chanukah* presents, and urged upon the parents the necessity of giving a Hebrew education to their children. Rev. A. Levy delivered an address on the significance of *Chanukah*, and Rabbi A. Willenchyk also spoke.

Dr. J. Mibashan, the principal of the Hebrew School, in presenting the report for the past year, said that in view of the large number of Jewish children living in Port Elizabeth and the good results obtained in the school, it was regrettable that so many failed to attend. The 90 pupils of the school were grouped in five standards and a matriculation class. Instruction was given on modern lines, not only acquainting its pupils with the holy language, but effecting a synthesis of all the fundamentals of Judaism. The progress made by the pupils, as evidenced by the examinations held in June in the presence of the School Committee and by the examinations in December, was remarkable. The speaker then referred to the conscientious work of Mr. I. Silpert, the assistant teacher, who also prepared the pupils of the *Bar Mitzvah* class.

A Hebrew kindergarten, continued Dr. Mibashan, was an imperative necessity for the community and provided an excellent basis for the school. The kindergarten, which existed for only six months last year, under the voluntary management of Mrs. Mibashan, had to be closed down owing to lack of funds and suitable premises. The speaker mentioned the numerous obstacles besetting the work in the Hebrew School, which included inadequate premises, the short time allotted to Hebrew, the irregular attendance of the pupils, the lack of sufficient interest of parents in the Hebrew study of their children, etc. Finally Dr. Mibashan made an earnest appeal to the public to support the Hebrew School and to influence their children to attend regularly.

After the *Chanukah* presents had been given to the children, the distribution of prizes was proceeded with by Mrs. A. Levy, the four matriculants of 1929 receiving cheques of £5 each from a special fund. Dr. Mibashan, in addressing a few words of farewell to the winners, exhorted them to bear in mind the teachings received at the Hebrew School. Mr. Raphael Schauder, on behalf of the matriculants and himself, expressed appreciation for the work of the Hebrew School and thanked Dr. Mibashan for the valuable Hebrew and secular knowledge imparted to him and his colleagues.

GERMISTON.

Under the auspices of the Germiston Young Israel Society an interesting lecture on "Jewish Music" was delivered by Mr. Z. Hareven, chairman of the Germiston Zionist Society. The function took place at the Synagogue Hall, and was presided over by Mr. I. Dunsky, chairman of the Germiston Y.I.S.

Jewish music in its elements and characteristics, like Jewish culture, said the lecturer, is the product of a small, oppressed, disfranchised and scattered minority. It sets forth Israel's sentiments, ideals, pain and sorrow. The Jewish voice in music is the voice that vibrates the spirit of its life and history, and as such it is rich in motives, vast in range, and deep in conception.

After discussing the various forms of Jewish music, and referring specially to Felix Mendelssohn, the lecturer concluded by saying that the future can only come from Jews born and bred in Jewish environment.

The Misses M. Goodman, H. Huftel and Mr. Z. Hareven rendered musical compositions from Mendelssohn, and Miss M. Dunsky sang two songs by the same composer.

Mr. P. Berman proposed a vote of thanks to the lecturer.

MARITZBURG.

Departure of the Rev. Mr. J. Levine.

The departure of the Rev. Mr. Levine for his new sphere of labour in the Pietersburg Congregation called forth expressions of genuine regret from every section of the local population. Mr. Levine has endeared himself to Jews and Gentiles alike, and he will be missed by all, particularly the members of the Jewish community, by whom he was held in the highest esteem.

On Sunday evening a large number of friends and admirers assembled at the residence of Mr. and Mrs. S. Kirkel to bid farewell to Mr. and Mrs. Levine and family. During the course of the evening Mr. Levine was presented with a purse of gold as a mark of the high esteem in which he was held. Mr. J. Caminsky, in making the presentation, spoke eulogistically of Mr. Levine's outstanding abilities as a minister and of the excellent work he has done during his eight and a half years' service. His sound judgment and knowledge of worldly affairs justified the confidence they had in him. Maritzburg's loss was Pietersburg's decided gain.

Mr. Levine, who was loudly cheered on rising to reply, thanked those present for their loyalty and goodwill. He regarded the ministry as a means to an end, as the medium through which one could reach to the highest ideal of service to God and man. So high stood the ministry in his own estimation that he influenced his son and his nephew to take up the ministry, for which they are at present preparing at Jews' College, London. During his 23 years of ministry in different communities in England and in this country he had enjoyed the tenderest affection and consideration.

At the last meeting of the Sir Matthew Nathan Lodge, H.O.D., Wor. Bro. Levine, who has been President of the Lodge for the second time, was presented with a beautiful bronze electric reading lamp, suitably inscribed, in appreciation of his services to the lodge.

The Ladies Guild gave an afternoon tea in honour of Mrs. Levin at the residence of Mrs. Kirkel, when Mrs. M. A. Jacobs, president of the guild, presented Mrs. Levine with a silver-mounted cut glass scent bottle.

OBITUARIES.

SAUL ALBOW (Capetown).

The deepest sympathy is extended to the relatives of Councillor Saul Albow, whose death took place on Friday morning last, after a serious operation.

Mr. Albow was one of the most respected members of the local Jewish community. He was a very active communal worker and had done much, particularly for the Board of Guardians and the Helping Hand Society. On the committee of the former he acted as the very able president for a number of years, whilst besides being a member of the committee of the latter for a long period, he occupied the position of vice-chairman for a fair length of time. His presence will be deeply missed in Capetown.

I. M. PAPERT (Capetown).

The death took place last Sunday night of Mr. I. M. Papert, one of the oldest and most respected members of the Jewish community of Capetown and a very learned Talmudical scholar. Mr. Papert during his lifetime always evinced a and active interest in Jewish affairs. There was no institution with which he was not connected and his services in the Talmud Torah and the Bickur Cholim were outstanding. He served for many years on the committee of the former and was finally made a life committee member. He was largely responsible for the establishment of the Bickur Cholim, and besides acting on its committee for a large number of years was its most able chairman for a fair length of time. At the time of his death he was honorary life president.

Mr. Papert was active until the last moment and even attended the South African Zionist Conference held last week.

The deepest sympathy is extended to his relatives in their bereavement.

MAX WILLIAM BAYER (Kimberley).

Max William Bayer, whose death under tragic circumstances took place at the Kimberley Hospital on the 27th ult., was the youngest son of Mr. and Mrs. Morris Bayer of Taungs, British Bechuanaland. The deceased who was born at Taungs nearly eighteen years ago, had shown promise of a great career. At the Boys' High School, Beaufort West, he was the leader of his class and two years ago in the Junior Certificate Examination, he obtained a first class and was awarded a Municipal Bursary. Only quite recently he had written the matriculation examination and had already made up his mind to take up the study of medicine. He was beloved by his class mates for his kindness and willingness to help others. He took an active part in all societies of his school and was chairman of the Debating Society, and Quarter-Master Sergeant in the Cadets.

The funeral, which was largely attended, took place at the West End Cemetery, Kimberley, on Sunday, 28th December. The Rev. M. Kenvisser and Cantor Rudy conducted the service.