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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.

THE ZIONIST CONVERSAZIONE.

The Zionist Conversazione has become a regular feature in the life of Capetown Zionists. Twice a month an opportunity is afforded for earnest and deliberate discussions on the questions that present themselves to-day to world Jewry. At the last function held at the Zionist Hall on 14th inst., there was a good attendance. It is to be regretted, however, that the intimate circle of those interested is not enlarging itself. One meets at these Conversaciones the same group that is attracted to everything Jewish. But one feels sure that there are many others who, when once introduced to this homely sphere of discussion, would find pleasure in sharing their opinions with others. If they could only be made to come once, their regular attendance would be assured.

Mr. J. Weinreich was the host at the last gathering, and he apologised for the unavoidable absence of Mrs. Weinreich. The J.T.A. news bulletin was read by Mr. D. Getz, after which Miss Paula Cosay gave two songs, accompanied by Mr. Boris Rome. Adv. M. Barnett read a paper in which he tried to find some explanation for the apparent apathy displayed by the Jewish youth in matters of religion. He deplored the fact that the synagogues were empty at the Sabbath services, and hinted that more inspiring and impressive sermons might make a stronger appeal to the young people. His arguments, however, found very little support from among those present. Mr. M. Horwitz was inclined to agree with the statement that religion had to be made attractive, or it would lose its hold on the people. Mr. M. Jaffe contended that the synagogue was no longer the most popular meeting-place. In Eastern Europe the young men went to the house of worship not only to pray but also to study. Mr. Benzion S. Hersch found an explanation for the lack of religious observance among South African Jews in the fact that they were not economically free to hallow the Sabbath. His line of argument was followed by Rev. S. Kassel and Dr. C. Resnekov, both of whom maintained that the best means of fostering the spirit of Judaism was through Hebrew education. Mr. D. Getz took the view of the extreme materialist. "Why should I go to synagogue?" he asked. "What would I get for it?" But his argument was not taken at all seriously.

It was late in the evening when Adv. P. Clouts gave a few reflections on the Zionist movement. He tackled many diverse problems, but there was no time for discussion. Mr. Benzion Hersch drew attention to the next Congress at Basle, and made an appeal to those present to vote for South African Zionists to represent them. Dr. S. E. Kark took the opportunity of wishing Mr. J. Zuckerman Godspeed on his voyage to Europe and Palestine. Mr. Zuckerman replied.

MR. JULIUS LEWIN'S IMPRESSIONS.

Mr. Julius Lewin, who has recently returned from a Student's Debating Tour overseas, is a bright orator. At a meeting of the Fabian Society he won an overwhelming victory over Mr. Harry Lawrence, M.P., in a discussion on unemployment. On the 13th inst. he gave a talk to the Maccabean Guild on his experiences and impressions of life overseas. His observations of Zionistic activity in London has led him to the conclusion that South African Zionism needed more dissent within its own ranks in order to make it more alive than it is. Zionism, was stagnating in this country as compared with Europe, but the need for Zionism on sound economic lines was becoming more widely felt. In England there was a definite policy to educate the Gentiles to Zionism, and Mr. Lewin deplored that nothing was being done in this direction in South Africa.

While staying with Sir Herbert and Lady Samuel, Mr. Lewin was approached by the latter with a request that he should attempt to introduce in South Africa a branch of the

Women's International Zionist Organisation which existed for the development and training of women for every aspect and branch of domestic life in Palestine. Mr. Lewin was considerably impressed by the efficiency of the women overseas. Wherever there was an association which required organising ability women were found at the head of it. At the Zionist Headquarters in London women did most of the organising work.

ZIONIST HALL LIBRARY CONCERT.

On Sunday evening, 19th inst., a grand concert was given at the Zionist Hall in aid of the Zionist Hall Library. The programme, though not much varied, was an interesting one. Mr. M. S. Freedman gave a piano solo and Mr. M. Losman recited. Miss Bebe Kahn was very good in her dialogues, particularly so in the one depicting an interview with a Cape-coloured servant. Mr. M. Kavarsky's Yiddish songs were much appreciated, so was the singing of Miss E. Heller. Mr. A. Harte has a deep, musical voice, and his choice of songs was also very good. Two pupils of the Miriam and Elviera Kirsch School of Dancing gave solo dances. The concert was well attended and the library funds will consequently benefit by an appreciable sum. During the course of the evening, Dr. C. Resnekov spoke on the importance of maintaining the Zionist Hall Library. He said that the library should be one of the foremost institutions in the communal life of Capetown Jewry. At present, however, through lack of support, there was the danger that its doors might be shut. This would, indeed, be a great pity, and he therefore appealed for financial support. Ignorance was a commodity that every person possessed to a greater or lesser degree, and the only means of combating it was through the medium of books. Intensive cultural work in Capetown was not possible without the immediate aid of the library. A lack of interest in Jewish matters was generally displayed by those who were uneducated in the traditions of their forefathers. In the *Midrash* it was stated that books and the sword were delivered from heaven intertwined. It was the duty of Capetown Jewry to support a library that was worthy of the community and of Jewish tradition and learning.

JUDEAN CENTRAL COUNCIL.

At the first Council meeting of this year, held at the Zionist Hall on 12th inst., the following executive was elected: President, Mr. H. Zuckerman; Vice-President, Miss H. Suchedowitz; Treasurer, Mr. E. Miller; Joint Hon. Secretaries, the Misses D. Segal and R. Simenhoff; Publicity Agent, Mr. E. Kluk, and additional member, Mr. Sol Cohen. Mr. S. Levin was elected Acting Convener of the Cultural Sub-Committee, and Mr. S. Cohen, Convener of the Camp Sub-Committee. Mr. S. Kovalsky was re-elected Associate Editor of the "Judean" for the Cape, and Mr. S. Frank additional member of the Judean Sub-Committee.

GENERAL.

"That Palestine is the only possible Jewish National Home" was recently discussed at a meeting of the Capetown Young Judeans. Mr. S. Levin presided. Mr. S. Wyr seconded, by Miss F. Joffe, moved the motion, which was opposed by Mr. L. Cooper and Mr. L. Jochelson. The motion was carried by a large majority.

Congratulations are being extended to Miss Dolly Altschul, elder daughter of Mr. and Mrs. I. Altschul, and Mr. Eli Woolf, younger son of Mr. and Mrs. B. Woolf, of Breede River, on their engagement.

Fellow-Zionists congregated at the Capetown Docks last Friday afternoon to bid Godspeed to Mr. J. Zuckerman, whose intentions are to be present at the Seventeenth Zionist Congress. Mr. Zuckerman, who has been an earnest worker in the Zionist movement, is a member of Committee of the Dorshei Zion Association.

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