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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.

Hebrew in Capetown.

On Wednesday evening, 13th inst., a discussion on "The Book and the Reader" took place at the Zionist Hall, under the auspices of the Capetown Hebrew Circle. The discussion, which was a most interesting one, and which lasted till a fairly late hour of the evening, was initiated by Mr. A. Levin, and those who participated in it were Mr. M. Wolozinsky, Mr. Zohar, Mrs. S. Gordon, and Mr. G. Tellim.

Hebrew has indeed made rapid advances in Capetown during the last few years—one has only to note the increasingly large number who attend and participate in the functions of the above-mentioned Hebrew Circle to know that this is so. The membership is restricted not only to foreign Jews, who are in the majority of cases well versed in Hebrew, but includes a fair number of South African-born Jews who have made themselves acquainted with the language. To the latter these functions, even if not actually participated in, are a source of much interest and have a definite educational value.

The younger people, too, have organised a Hebrew Circle. The members are from about twelve to fifteen years of age, and functions are held with most commendable regularity. It is amazing to note the way in which these juniors participate in the functions arranged. Nothing, of course, but Hebrew is spoken, but this, to all outward appearances, hardly seems an obstacle.

And as for Hebrew among the very young—one has only to point to the two kindergartens being run by the Bnoth Zion Association and to the more than excellent work being done by them. On more than one occasion we have drawn attention to the rapidity with which the child picks up the Hebrew language in the kindergarten while he does not realise he has been doing more than playing and singing. It is a marvel to us that such kindergartens are not distributed all over the Union—wherever, in fact, there are Jews with any strength of national feeling and with any realisation of the importance of the part Hebrew must play in our lives.

We were more than ever charmed with the work of the kindergartens when we watched the Shevuoth Celebration given by the pupils last Monday morning in the Zionist Hall. As usual at the festival celebrations held by the kindergartens, the most delightful little Hebrew songs were sung by the children and the story of the festival was very vividly enacted. Whilst singing one song, the tiny tots marched round the stage, all of them carrying little Torahs, whilst the March to the Temple of Jerusalem where the children brought the fruits of the harvest for sacrifice was very beautiful.

We sincerely trust that this march forward which Hebrew has taken in Capetown will continue. We trust that the number of those whom the various Hebrew organisations include will rapidly increase and that in the near future Hebrew in this town will be a language spoken and understood not only by a select few but by as near to all of those who realise its importance.

S.J.A. and Maccabean Guild.

On Tuesday evening, 19th May, an inter-debate between the S.J.A. and the Maccabean Guild took place in the Zionist Hall, the subject being "That the Passfield White Paper is detrimental to Zionism." Mr. S. Nell presided.

Mr. Matz, in introducing the motion on behalf of the Maccabean Guild, stated that the White Paper was definitely opposed to Zionism when one considered the definition of Zionism as laid down by the Basle programme. By a national home was understood a territory where the Jews would be given an effective majority in the government of the country. The Passfield White Paper spoke too much in favour of the Arab section of the population.

Mr. Harry Snitcher, who led the opposition, contended that throughout the world Jews had condemned the White Paper in a moment of heat and passion, most of them never having read the document, but having gleaned their knowledge of it from scanty newspaper reports. The clauses in the White Paper against which the chief objections were raised, viz., those concerning land and immigration, were precisely the same as those of the British Statement of Policy in 1922, and the latter document had been accepted by the Zionist Organisation. The 1930 Statement of Policy was based on the principle that justice and fairness must be meted out to both sections of the population, Jewish and Arab.

Dr. W. Altschul seconded the opposition. He took up the point of view that the Zionist Movement meant not only Jewish activities in Palestine, but also the support of those outside of Palestine. The White Paper, in having made Jews throughout the world suspicious of the British Government, rendered it much more difficult to-day for propagandists to receive the support of the Jewish masses. In this way it was detrimental to Zionism.

Mr. S. A. Kahn, in seconding the opposition, stated that the White Paper firmly entrenched the principle of the bi-national state. Zionists had to realise that Palestine was composed of two national elements whose duty it was to co-operate in every possible way. The White Paper also discouraged the principle of the exclusive employment of Jewish labour in Jewish undertakings, and this was a desirable thing, since a great deal of the strife between Arabs and Jews was economic in character.

The debate was thrown open for discussion, after which the meeting concluded with a vote of thanks being proposed to the visitors.

A Luncheon.

Mr. Shura Cherkassky and Mr. Wm. J. Pickerill were the guests at the Maccabean Guild luncheon held at the Carlton Hotel on Thursday last.

Rev. A. P. Bender presided and, in a short but eloquent speech, extended a welcome to the guests. All took pride, he said, in Mr. Cherkassky as a member of the Jewish race who was distinguished by the touch of genius. The Jews were a music-loving people who had produced many great musicians and who had venerated the art of music perhaps more than any other race. That was why they took pleasure in welcoming this great artist.

In paying a tribute to Mr. Pickerill, the speaker referred to the fact that he had always encouraged Jewish musicians. As conductor of the Capetown Orchestra he had done some excellent work, and it was sincerely trusted he would continue this good work for many years in bringing inspiration, comfort and joy to thousands.

Both guests acknowledged their thanks for the welcome accorded them. In doing so Mr. Pickerill expressed praise for the Jewish community as being enthusiastic supporters of music.

General.

Mr. Isaac Ochberg left for Europe last Friday on board the *Carnarvon Castle*.

The marriage took place at the Gardens Synagogue last Sunday evening of May, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. J. Goldblatt, of Kloof Road, to Zavel, son of Mr. and Mrs. J. L. Maister, of Tamboers Kloof. A reception was subsequently held at the Zionist Hall and was attended by a large number of guests.

It is regretted that in the report given in these columns to the Bnoth Zion Sale of Work the names of Mrs. S. Gesundheit and Mrs. Gorfinkel were omitted. These ladies were in charge of the sweet stall and were assisted by Mrs. R. Gordon and Miss Gesundheit.

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