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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

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CAPE TOWN.

"BEN SIRACH."

An address by Mrs. Morris Alexander on Ben Sirach was delivered last Tuesday afternoon in the Zionist Hall, under the auspices of the Broth Zion Association. There was a fair attendance of ladies, over whom Mrs. P. M. Clouts presided. In her opening address Mrs. Clouts stressed the competency of Mrs. Alexander to speak on the writings of Ben Sirach.

Mrs. Alexander said that a study of Ecclesiastes revealed Ben Sirach, its author, as a man of modern temperament and outlook. He is humorous and witty, cultivated and sceptical. In modern times a fair amount of research work had been done to unfold the true nature of the author of Ecclesiastes. Two ladies of leisure, Mrs. Lewis and Mrs. Gibson, had in 1896 handed an original leaf from Ben Sirach to Dr. Schechter, Mrs. Alexander's father, who had later visited Cairo where he had discovered other original pages from the manuscripts of the great poet. Dr. Schechter had published his discoveries, but he had left many manuscripts in the Cambridge Library still untouched by scholars.

Ecclesiastes is a book full of wisdom. It contains elaborate training in good manners. Ben Sirach himself was a gentleman with a high code of behaviour. He was also a man of the world. Most characteristic of him was his deep love of friendship. The whole passion and strength of his nature went into scholarship. The fool he held in great contempt.

Despite his wisdom, Ben Sirach was not popular with either Jew or Christian. He had no belief in after-life. For him death was a calamity that destroyed everything.

The character of Ben Sirach, said Mrs. Alexander, in conclusion, was of the type that persisted through the ages and was richly fruitful of good wherever it went.

Mrs. S. Gordon opened the discussion and Mrs. Herman proposed a vote of thanks to the lecturer.

JEWISH NATIONAL FUND BALL.

Last week, it will be remembered, we recounted the difficulties which have faced the committee of the Jewish National Fund in fixing a date for this function, and announced as the date which had been eventually arrived at as August 19th. It seems, however, that this date was not to be final for we now learn that the Ball will be held not on the 19th, but on Thursday, 20th August. This further postponement has been made in deference to a request from the Junior Board of Guardians, who are holding a Grand Concert in the City Hall on the 19th.

The Ball promises to be a most enjoyable affair, a very energetic committee being at present engaged in making all necessary arrangements. It will be held in the Zionist Hall and Vic Davis' Orchestra will be in attendance. Added to these reasons why the Ball should be patronised, there is this most important one—it is being held in aid of the National Fund to support which it is the duty of every Jew and Jewess. It is earnestly trusted that success will meet with this endeavour on behalf of Jewry's most worthy cause.

MACCABEAN GUILD ORCHESTRA.

The second of the series of Maccabean Guild Orchestral Concerts recently inaugurated, was held in the Zionist Hall on Wednesday evening last. There was an appreciative audience and the programme was interesting and well contrasted, satisfying all moods and tastes. The orchestra, under the baton of Mr. George Tobias, was in good form and gave excellent renderings from Mozart, Marie, Schubert. The concluding orchestral item was from Mendelssohn's Italian Symphony.

The soloists all met with an enthusiastic reception. Miss E. Feinhols delighted the gathering with her musical monologues. Mr. B. Garfinkel's vocal items were also very much appreciated, whilst Mr. J. S. Summers played "Silver Birds," by Le Thiere with good effect on the piccolo. Arnold Lorie, the leader of the orchestra, played "Romance" by Svendsen brilliantly. Miss Richman gave several attractive songs. The accompanist was Mr. P. Lewis, who performed his duties in most praiseworthy manner.

The concert on the whole was a great success and the Maccabean Guild Orchestra is to be heartily congratulated.

TALMUD TORAH BOYS' MINYAN.

The fifth anniversary of the Talmud Torah Boys' Minyan (Minyan Joseph) was celebrated at the Talmud Torah on Saturday morning, 25th July. There was a large gathering present. On this occasion a member of the Minyan who had become *Barmitzvah* read his Portion of the Law and his speech, delivered in Hebrew, was suitably replied to by Rabbi Zimmerman.

Services were conducted by Messrs B. Rosenthal and E. Kupowitz.

After the service, the Chairman of the Minyan addressed the gathering. He paid tribute to the late Mr. J. Homa, founder of the Minyan, and stressed the important role that this institution played in the life of the boy who was a pupil of the Talmud Torah.

Rabbi M. Ch. Mirvish and Mr. A. Levin, Principal of the Talmud Torah, delivered short congratulatory speeches, both expressing their appreciation of the good work done by the Minyan.

JEWISH HOSPITAL APPOINTMENTS.

The following Jewish names occur among the appointments of resident medical officers to hospitals under the Board announced at Thursday's meeting of the Cape Hospital Board:—

Somerset Hospital: Dr. R. Meyerstein (Senior R.M.O.); Dr. A. Landau.

Rondebosch Hospital: Dr. A. Kirshner.

Wynberg Hospital: Dr. H. Bernstein.

Dr. R. Resnekov has been appointed by the Cape Hospital Board as one of the honorary anaesthetists to the McGregor Convalescent Home.

GENERAL.

The marriage took place in the Great Synagogue on Thursday morning last of Alice, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Raphael Obowitz, of Capetown, to Schneir, son of Mr. and Mrs. L. Kahn, also of Capetown. The ceremony was performed by Rev. A. P. Bender.

After the ceremony a reception was held in the Zionist Hall and was attended by a large number of guests. Toasts were proposed by Rev. A. P. Bender and Mr. Alfred Friedlander and were suitably responded to by Mr. Obowitz and the bridegroom.

The marriage took place in the Great Synagogue on Sunday evening last of Marguaretha Sophia (Dolly), daughter of Mr. and Mrs. W. Altschul, to Eli, son of Mr. and Mrs. B. Woolf of Maitland.

The ceremony, which was performed by Rev. A. P. Bender, was followed by a reception in the Zionist Hall, which had been beautifully decorated for the occasion. There was a large gathering present.

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