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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.

#### JEWISH SICK RELIEF SOCIETY.

The twenty-ninth annual meeting of the Jewish Sick Relief Society (Bickur Cholim) takes place on Sunday morning, 30th August, and the annual report has just been distributed among subscribers.

The report shows that good work has been done by the Society during the year, 332 Jewish patients were accommodated at the New Somerset Hospital, whilst £32 9s. 7d. was expended on patients accommodated at private nursing homes and on food and nourishment specially supplied to several patients at the City Hospital.

Fully 1,500 visits were paid by the Society's doctors to patients in their own homes and in nursing homes, and 2,020 prescriptions were dispensed by the Society's chemist. Although occupied with its own pressing duties, the Society has at the same time not under-rated the deserving causes of other charitable institutions, and has paid annual subscriptions to many, e.g., the New Somerset Hospital, Eaton Convalescent Home, McGregor Home, Free Dispensary and Toy Fund.

The Kosher Kitchen at the New Somerset Hospital has continued to be a boon and blessing to a large number of Jewish patients and to be run on the most model lines.

The Society, like every other charitable institution, has not been able to escape the prevailing depression, and its balance sheet reveals a deficit of some £300. Considering, however, how bad times are, the Society can be congratulated on having managed to keep the figure as comparatively low as it is. The report is indeed one which does nothing but redound to the credit of the Bickur Cholim.

#### YOUNG JEWISH AID SOCIETY.

We are certain we are not wrong when we state there are few who realise that there is in Capetown to-day a society, consisting of some 200 members of young Jews and Jewesses, whose purpose is the assistance of Jewish charitable work. We ourselves, were not aware of this fact until it was brought home to us last Sunday evening, when a meeting was held by the Society. The aim of the meeting was to make known the work of the Society and to increase the membership.

Mr. H. Winnett, President of the Society, was in the chair, and after a short introductory speech by him, Rev. A. P. Bender delivered an address.

One of the first duties of every Jew and Jewess, said Mr. Bender, was *gemilas chasodim*—the practice of charity in the widest sense of the term. In ancient times it had been regarded as one of the most precious privileges to aid those in need and in every part of the world Jews had made a point of looking after their brethren who were in unfortunate circumstances. With an increase in wealth and prosperity, however, had come a gradual loss of interest in those things that concerned ourselves and in those qualities of heart and mind which had distinguished the Jews throughout the ages.

He hoped, said Mr. Bender, that the Jews of South Africa, even when in the most flourishing circumstances, would maintain the principle of *gemilas chasodim*. In Capetown there were several excellent institutions for Jewish charitable work. Mr. Bender then proceeded to outline the activities of the various local Jewish charitable institutions. He concluded by appealing to the young members of the community to join the Society and to give of their assistance, not so much in the way of financial contributions, but of personal service.

Mr. P. M. Clouts spoke on behalf of the Talmud Torah, Dr. S. E. Kark on behalf of the Board of Guardians, Mr. F. Suritz on behalf of the Jewish Sick Relief Society, Mr. B. A. Crasnow on behalf of the Cape Jewish Orphanage, and Mrs. Herman on behalf of the Kosher Kitchen and Mr. Bender on behalf of the Cape Jewish Aged Home, in the absence of a representative of that institution. The meeting was brought to a close after a vote of thanks to the speakers had been proposed by Mr. E. Miller.

#### THE ZIONIST CONVERSAZIONE.

There was a large attendance at the twenty-fourth Zionist Conversazione held on Tuesday evening last when Dr. and Mrs. C. Resnekov acted as host and hostess.

Mr. B. R. Matz was the chief speaker of the evening, and he chose as his subject "Hebrew Education."

The speaker described the chaotic state in which Hebrew education found itself to-day. We had no authoritative body to control and supervise our teachers, no proper syllabus for the teaching of Hebrew, and finally, we all differed in opinion as to what part religion should play in the Hebrew schools. The lecturer also mentioned the difficulties which arose out of the child having to receive his instruction in Hebrew after the regular school hours, when his Gentile friends were free to play. This aroused in him an antipathy towards Hebrew that was far more deep-seated than was his antipathy, if he felt any, towards other subjects.

Mr. Matz suggested that the best solution to the problem lay in the inclusion of Hebrew as one of the subjects of the ordinary school curriculum. There was no objection to the Board of Education's looking after our educational affairs or to a competent Gentile's teaching Hebrew to Jewish children.

A discussion followed, in which Messrs. A. Levin, Miss Ben-Arie, Mr. M. Ben-Arie, Mr. Rubik, Dr. C. Resnekov, Mrs. C. Cohen, Mr. P. M. Clouts and Mr. M. Teichman participated.

During the evening the news was read as usual and a song was rendered by Miss F. Marks which met with a very favourable reception.

#### THE ZIONIST BALL.

The Zionist Ball held in the Zionist Hall on Thursday evening last was well attended and was a very bright affair. The hall was very prettily decorated with the Zionist colours and dancing took place till 2 a.m. to the strains of Vic Davis' Orchestra. The refreshments, served in the Minor Hall, were delicious, and, generally speaking, there was nothing of which those present could find cause to complain. The Bnoth Zion Association was in charge of the catering and decorations.

#### JUNIOR GUARDIANS CONCERT.

A concert under the auspices of the Junior Auxiliary to the Board of Guardians, a body of young people recently formed in order to assist this institution, took place in the City Hall on Wednesday evening last. An excellent programme had been arranged, but the audience was unfortunately a small one.

Items were given by those ever popular singers, Mr. Paganelli and Mr. Timothy Farrel, who gave some charming renderings. Miss Cecilia Wessels also gave a number of delightful vocal solos, whilst Mr. Boris Rome, with the singing of Yiddish and Hebrew melodies, won great favour.

Madame Marta May played a well selected group of piano-forte pieces with taste and sympathy, and Miss Beryl Pickstone, in the absence of Miss Gladys Lazarus on account of indisposition, delighted the audience by her recitation of a number of humorous sketches.

Mr. Alban Hamer, F.R.C.O., contributed towards the programme by giving a number of organ selections. He also accompanied several of the artists as did Miss Hilda Schwalbe, L.U.C.T., and Miss Joyce Browne, L.R.A.M., A.R.C.M., L.U.C.T.

#### GENERAL.

Two boys of the Cape Jewish Orphanage, Adolph Ellis and Louis Gedalowitz, recited their Barmitzvah portions at the Gardens and Roeland Street Synagogues respectively on Saturday morning last.

A reception was held at the Home on Saturday evening. A number of congratulatory speeches were delivered, Mr. M. Alexander, K.C., presiding over the festivities.

Mr. and Mrs. David Getz are being congratulated on the birth of a son.

The marriage was solemnised in the Gardens Synagogue on Tuesday morning last of Sarah, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. E. Klein, of Capetown, to Theodore Herzl, son of Mrs. and the late Mr. Snitcher, also of Capetown. Mr. Snitcher is president of the local Revisionist Society.