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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.

There was a very representative gathering at the twenty-ninth annual meeting of the Jewish Sick Relief Society (Bickur Cholim) at the Zionist Hall on Sunday morning last. Mr. F. Suritz, President of the Society, was in the chair, and before proceeding to the business of the meeting, referred to the large number of deaths which had taken place among members during the last year. The gathering rose as a mark of respect to the deceased.

In moving the adoption of the report and balance sheet, Mr. Suritz said that notwithstanding the depression, the committee had, during the last twelve months, been able to carry out its duties in a most satisfactory way and with much benefit to the applicants for assistance. It had been approached this year for assistance to a greater extent than ever before and in many cases had had to co-operate with the Board of Guardians.

Mr. Suritz explained that the Society dispensed relief in the widest sense of the term. It was not only the smallest but also the first of the institutions. It had to give assistance immediately—it could not afford to wait.

The work of the institution had increased considerably of late, and it had been found necessary to obtain a special office. This step had been taken not only for the convenience of the committee but also for the comfort of applicants.

Excellent work had been done at the Kosher Kitchen and in this connection Mr. Suritz paid a tribute to the Jewish Ladies' Society. Attention had also been given to the patients at the City Hall, and in many cases kosher food was supplied to the patients there. At the New Somerset Hospital, excellent work for the Jewish, as well as the other patients was being done by Miss Gertrude Gerber, the Lady Almoner.

The balance sheet revealed a deficit of some £300. This was due not to the fact that members had neglected the matter of raising funds, but because the Society had felt that it had to leave the field clear for the Board of Guardians which had found itself in dire straits. It was necessary, however, that assistance should be given to the Society.

Mr. Suritz concluded by thanking all those who had assisted the institution.

Mr. C. Sher, the Treasurer, formally seconded the adoption of the report, pointing out that the deficit had been incurred not through a drop in income but through an increase in expenditure.

Rev. A. P. Bender, in a short address, expressed admiration of the praiseworthy work done by Mr. Suritz in connection with the Society. The personal service he had performed on behalf of the Jewish patients at the hospital was an example to all.

Mr. Bender expressed his grateful acknowledgments to the ladies for their work at the Kosher Kitchen. He also described the invaluable work done by Miss Gerber at the New Somerset Hospital and the debt of gratitude which was due by all to her. In addition to giving her recognition for her services, the community could show their appreciation of her services in another way—by furnishing her with the funds to help her carry out her excellent work in relieving the suffering of others.

There was a serious depression to-day, but there was still no country in the world where Jews were better off than in South Africa. They should be prepared to make personal sacrifices and thus bring the institution to the highest state of efficiency and usefulness. In this way they would be acting in that spirit of old-world Jewish sacrifice which had made possible the persistence of the race throughout the ages and which had made us a power in the world.

Mr. Suritz moved a hearty vote of thanks to Mr. Bender, laying stress on the deep interest he had always shown in the Society. There was no discussion on the report, which was carried unanimously.

The election of members in place of several who automatically retired then took place, and as a result the committee now consists of the following: Messrs. F. Suritz, T. Jochelson, S. Schach, B. Witten, H. Sandler, B. Chideckel, R. Winnett, B. Phillips, N. Bloch, Rev. F. Spektor, Mr. H. Cohen, Mr. I. Yankelowitz, with Mr. C. Sher as treasurer. Mr. I. Rosenthal and Mr. A. Mirvish will, according to the decision of the meeting, continue to act as hon. auditors, whilst Rev. L. Kirschner, Mr. S. Schach and Mr. J. Gitlin will act as trustees.

A short speech, in which he spoke highly of the work done by the Society and in which he expressed hope they would continue to progress in the future, was delivered by Rabbi I. S. Kramer. A few minor questions were raised under "General," and the meeting was terminated shortly afterwards.

### CAPETOWN HEBREW CONGREGATION.

The eighty-ninth annual report of the Capetown Hebrew Congregation has just been issued. It is, on the whole, a satisfactory report, although, it is true, the statement as to a deficit of £2,011 16s. 9d. for the last year is somewhat alarming at first. It is only on reading fairly well into the report that one finds that this "is mainly due to the exceptional expense involved in the complete renovation of the synagogue and the properties of the congregation."

During the year the congregation fittingly celebrated a very happy occasion—the semi-Jubilee of the Great Synagogue. As is stated in the report, "it is earnestly hoped that the new period in the history of the congregation which has so auspiciously commenced, may be marked by whole-hearted and unwavering devotion to the most cherished traditions . . . of the Mother Synagogue."

Daily, Sabbath and Festival services have, as usual, been held throughout the year, whilst a number of special services have also been held.

With regard to the building of a synagogue at Sea Point, it is regretted that the agreement which it was fondly hoped would be shortly concluded with the representatives of the Sea Point Congregation has not been brought to a successful consummation. Fortunately, however, "a union of the several congregations of the Cape Peninsula and also of a large proportion of the Western Province, has already been successfully launched, and it is confidently expected that, in process of time, this United Council which is seriously considering questions of communal importance . . . will be of permanent value as a powerful unifying factor in the life of the community."

The report deals with the urgent appeal made by the United Hebrew Schools some time back for financial assistance and the unanimous decision at a special general meeting of the congregation to increase the personal levy on members to 10s. per annum. It also states that a satisfactory report has been received from Cape Peninsula Board of Schechita.

The annual collection for the Matzo Fund was this year carried out in conjunction with the several congregations in Capetown, and likewise in response to an urgent cable received from the Chief Rabbi for the British Empire for funds towards remitting fifty thousand parcels to starving members of Jewry in Russia, the sum of £100 was cabled to London.

A renewed attempt to amalgamate the Chevra Kadishas in the Cape Peninsula was made without success, but it is hoped that it will be possible to make this an accomplished fact in the near future.

The general meeting of the congregation will be held in the Old Synagogue on Sunday morning next.

### "SWEEPSTAKES."

The Maccabean Guild are to be heartily congratulated on the success of the musical revue, "Sweepstakes," staged by them at the Zionist Hall last week. "Sweepstakes" is a bright and entertaining show and it was performed in very creditable manner, some forty artists participating. Mr. William Perl, the author of the revue and composer of the special musical numbers, showed very great talent and originality, and Mr. Laurie Weinreich proved a very able assistant to him as producer.

"Sweepstakes" was staged on two nights of the week, and at both performances there were large audiences. The proceeds should certainly help the Maccabean Guild to wipe off a large portion of its liabilities. But the show has done more than this, for it has also brought to light the fact that there is a considerable amount of latent talent in the Jewish community, and that it would be really worth while developing it.

During the performance the Maccabean Guild Orchestra, under the conductorship of Mr. George Tobias, L.R.A.M., played the special music. The incidental music was conducted by Mr. Perl.