

FROM TOWN AND COUNTRY

From our own
Correspondents.

Contributors to these pages are kindly requested to study the need of brevity in their Reports. Furthermore, all contributions should be written on one side of the paper only, and for preference should be typed double spacing.

BLOEMFONTEIN.

The first cultural meeting organised by the local Herzlia Association was held on the 10th ult., when interesting addresses were delivered by Mr. D. Mierowsky and Mr. J. B. Shacksnovis. On the 19th ult., Mr. N. Philips read an illuminating paper on the "Destruction of Judaea by the Romans." This was followed by a resume of the interesting cable news in the "Zionist Record." On the 21st ult., a debate was held between the Herzlia Association and the local Jewish Guild.

An enjoyable cultural evening was held under the auspices of the local "Herzlia" Association on the 2nd inst., which proved both instructive and educational. A large and appreciative gathering was present. The programme was opened by Miss D. Woolf, who reported on recent events and activities in World Jewry, and touched on matters dealt with at the 14th S.A. Zionist Conference recently held at Kimberley. Mr. M. Sacks followed with the reading of an instructive lecture issued by the Education Department of the Zionist Organisation of Canada. Mr. S. Belfort gave an able impromptu address entitled "Whither are we Drifting?" Mr. C. L. Barnett read an extract dealing with the present situation of the Jews in Germany.

BRAKPAN.

A general meeting of the local Jewish community was held in the Synagogue on the 18th ult., and as a result of which a Jewish Cultural Centre was formed. Rev. M. Altshuler was elected president and Mr. Ch. Joffe secretary of the new society.

The local Young Judean Society, which was recently reorganised, held its first function on the 3rd inst. at the residence of Mr. and Mrs. Hyman, 126 Queen Street. On this occasion Rev. M. Altshuler delivered a lecture, after which social and dance terminated the evening.

BURGHERSDORP.

The annual dance of the local Zionist Society, which was held recently in the Town Hall, realised an amount of £30, which is to be divided equally for the local Hebrew Congregation and the Dunam Drive.

Thanks are due for the success of the dance to the efforts of the M.C.'s, Messrs. D. Haas, L. Singer, S. Breger, M. Kursan, L. Lichtenstein (of Oudtshoorn) and M. Becker, and to those who generally assisted. Jack Forbes Bokomo Orchestra from Capetown supplied the music.

CRADOCK.

The local Young Israel Society recently held a successful debate on "Does Palestine Produce a Better Jewish Youth than South Africa?" The speakers who opened the discussion were the Misses A. and L. Levenstein and Messrs. A. Udwin and B. Sutner.

A social function took place at the residence of Mr. and Mrs. Chazan, which was most successful.

The Young Israel Society had the pleasure of being addressed by the Rev. Mr. Levy, of Port Elizabeth, who is at present on a visit to this town.

The bi-monthly social tea of the local Women's Social Circle was held on the 21st ult. at the residence of Mr. and Mrs. Frank Levenstein, and realised the sum of 13s. 6d. There was a large gathering present, and an impressive prayer was offered by Rev. Levy, of Port Elizabeth, for the restoration of the civic rights of the Jews in Germany.*

EAST LONDON.

"Yetzias Mitzraim"—a Hebrew play written by the Rev. O. Altshuler, Principal of the local Hebrew School and produced by the staff, was recently presented by the pupils of the East London Hebrew School at the City Hall to an appreciative audience of four hundred, who enjoyed this rare treat of histrionic art. The play was brilliantly acted by the children, some of whom were still in the kindergarten stage.

The theme of the play centres around the departure of the Jews from Egypt, and the scenic effects were excellent. The cordial thanks of the Committee are due to Messrs. Aronowitz and Katz for the scenic arrangements, Miss R. Schneider for the musical accompaniment, Miss Pearl Billson for the dance instructions, and Mr. M. Shwer. Congratulations are also extended to Rev. Altshuler for this outstanding success.

A new innovation of the local Talmud Torah is the inauguration of an *Oneg Shabbos* celebration on every other Sabbath.

FRANKFORT.

On the 7th ult. a meeting of the local Young Israel Society was held in the synagogue, as a result of which the following committee was elected for the ensuing year: Chairman, Mr. S. Kantor; vice-chairman, Rabbi M. Chiger; secretary, Mr. P. Rabinowitz; assistant secretary, Miss R. Schiffman; committee, Misses P. Segal, E. Malkin and Mr. A. Wolman.

A social picnic was held on the 14th ult., during which Miss R. Schiffman read extracts from Joseph Trumpeldor's diary, and Rabbi M. Chiger delivered an address on "The Instinctive Case of Religion."

On the 24th ult. a social and dance was arranged at the residence of Mr. and Mrs. Schiffman, which proved most successful.

GERMISTON.

The Barmitzvah of Bert, eldest son of Mr. and Mrs. E. Kramer, was celebrated on Sunday afternoon at their residence in Somme Road, Germiston. Presentations were made on behalf of the United Hebrew Institutions, the Women's Building Fund Section, the Zionist Society and Max Langermann Lodge, H.O.D.

Mr. Z. Hareven presided over the function and speeches were delivered by Rev. Wyschick and Mr. B. Cohen (President of the United Hebrew Institutions), J. Zinn, A. S. Bernstein and Mrs. A. Kaplan. Messrs. S. Kramer, E. Kramer, and the Barmitzvah suitably responded.

A sum of over £20 was donated by relatives to inscribe the names of Mr. and Mrs. E. Kramer in the Golden Book of the Jewish National Fund.

GORDONIA.

A well-attended meeting of the Gordonia Zionist Society was held on Sunday, the 22nd ult., at the Hotel Gordonia.

Office-bearers for the ensuing year were elected as follows: President, Mr. Phil Morris; vice-president, Mr. Sam Werbeloff; secretary, Miss S. Lenhoff; committee, Misses E. Kahn, I. Kangisher and S. Brower, and Messrs. M. Kaplan and M. Bellon.

The annual recitation competition was held, the prize-winners being: Fay Nurick, Sime Berson, Selma Ringer, Joy Nurick, Baby Shulman, Ronny Robinson, Doris Nurick, Ralph Shulman, Ada Nurick and Janie Shulman.

Musical items were rendered by Misses I. and R. Kangisher and Mrs. M. Kowen, while the Misses E. Kahn and Freda Chesed contributed a recitation and dance respectively. The meeting terminated with a vote of thanks being extended to Mr. and Mrs. Kaplan for the use of the hall and to the outgoing committee members.

GRAHAMSTOWN.

The Zionist Society has forwarded to the National Fund headquarters £8 1s. 2d., being the proceeds of a raffle, and £6 12s. 6d., the total yield of the National Fund boxes recently cleared by Messrs. A. M. Ossher and J. Abramowitz.

JOHANNESBURG.

At the wedding of Miss Cohen to Mr. Lax, which took place at the H.O.D. Hall on Sunday, June 4, a sum of £2 was collected for the Fordsburg Talmud Torah at the suggestion of Mr. A. Smith, brother-in-law of the bridegroom.

KIMBERLEY.

On the 28th ult., a farewell concert was held in the Vaudette Theatre. This was organised in aid of charity by Cantor A. Rudy, prior to his departure from Kimberley. The programme was an excellent one, Cantor Rudy also contributing by singing famous Chassidic songs.

The function proved to be successful and thanks must be recorded for the supporting committee, Messrs. S. Apter, S. Goldberg, M. Kaplan, Phil Goldman, Louis F. Lezard, Joe Herman and Jacob Davidson for their efforts and assistance. Out of the funds raised a sum of £2 2s. has been forwarded for the Sharon Redemption Fund.

During the interval, Mr. Louis F. Lezard presented Mr. Rudy with a cheque as a mark of appreciation from a number of admirers, and extended the wishes of the community for his success in the future. Cantor Rudy, in suitably responding, also expressed thanks to the artists at the concert.

KRUGERSDORP.

A successful social evening was held at the Communal Hall on the 13th ult., under the auspices of the local Women's Zionist League. A sum of £14 10s. was raised, for which thanks are due to the energetic workers Mesdames Mendel Raissen, L. D. Adler, R. Riebek and J. Solomon. Two gifts donated by Mrs. Morris Raissen and Mrs. Levy were competed for and won by Mr. L. Esmany and Miss Rose. Special thanks are due to the indefatigable secretary, Mrs. N. Stutzen, and the committee in making the function a success.

(Further Town and Country Items on page 27).

The Tourists on the Hills

By

Harry Levin

THE tourist season in Palestine is in full swing, the season of Baedekers, Bibles and *baksheesh*. The maximum of impressions is being accumulated with the minimum expenditure of time. Personally conducted tours flash down upon the country, their schedules are ticked off, and they are gone. But some of them, time permitting, exceed their schedules, and permit the keen, limpid air of these early winter months and the vast carpet of glorious green and flowering to sink in on their consciousness. For Palestine in winter, for the major part, is a land of delight. Its air, impregnated with an exhilarating freshness, is wonderfully clear, and one's range of vision these months extends seventy, eighty, ninety miles away.

There is a little hillock not many miles outside Tel Aviv from whose summit in these winter days one sees the whole of Palestine stretched out like a map. Faraway to the north lies "Hadar Harcarmel," "The glory of the Carmel," with the ocean lapping gently at

its feet. To its south lies the Sharon, the home of the "golden apples" of Palestine. Somewhere there, in the long stretch of thickly-growing green, is a tract that for all time will be associated with the Jews of South Africa. East of the Carmel is a dip, the "Emek" of Jezreel. Beyond dilates the "Galil"—the highlands and the curving valleys of Galilee stretched out as on a fairy canvas. To the right lie the hills of Judaea that take us down, down to Beer-sheba in the distant south.

AND there is another vantage ground. The Mount of Olives. Here once again one sees the little land unwrapped before one, Gaza to Metullah. In a panorama of unsurpassed grandeur and majesty lies the valley of the Jordan, winding like a monstrous, green serpent; opposite is Moab, with "the mountain of Nebo, the top of Pisgah," and further to the north, tier after tier, rises the Hauran.

Yet another prospect—from an eminence in the Galilean hills, just

beyond Nazareth. Tabor with its rounded dome; Hermon, aspiring to heaven in the distant north, a monarch with a royal crown of white; Carmel again, and the Mediterranean; the Valley of the Kishon. And again, here at one's feet, a jewel of green in its rocky pyramidal fastness, the broad plain of the Valley of Jezreel—Ha-Emek.

IT is a glorious land, this Palestine. Rugged here, forbidding, grand; soft and green there, where a loving hand has caressed it. Here again wildly rapturous in its galaxy of flowers, that blend in colour and fragrance to form an unforgettable joy; and there desolate and void, giving a sense of nothingness and loneliness.

In our pride we call this land Erez Israel—the land of Israel. But we look at it again from the height outside Jaffa, from the Mount of Olives, from the Hills of Galilee, and from Dan unto Beer-sheba we see but a Jewish spot here and there, with only the Emek in the north, and the Sharon on the coast to support the sinking heart—and that alone is Erez Israel. The little land suddenly assumes gigantic dimensions and the broad plains and rugged hills overwhelm our tiny spots. And "Erez Israel" reverberates in our ears with a ring of rebuke. What have we done to make it the Land of Israel?

From Town and Country

(Continued from page 29.)

DE AAR.

On Monday, May 22, Mr. Alexander Lewin addressed a very well attended General Meeting of the Zionist Society over which Mr. M. Hoffman presided. After Mr. Lewin's stirring address, it was proposed by Mrs. Hoffman, seconded by Mrs. B. Baumgarten and supported by the Chairman, that the Zionist Committee be reorganised and be made up entirely of ladies. It was the general feeling that this would result in a thorough revival of the Society, and the subsequent elections accordingly resulted as follows: Chairlady, Mrs. A. Oserovitz; Vice-Chairlady, Mrs. M. Hoffman; Treasurer, Mrs. B. Baumgarten; Secretary, Miss L. Feldman. Committee: Mesdames S. Blumberg, I. Blumberg, R. Blumenthal, Kuper, and Misses V. Feldman and Klaff. Mesdames S. Blumberg and Weinberg were appointed National Fund Box Commissioners.

Thanks are due to Mr. Lewin for assisting in drawing up the programme of cultural work for the ensuing six months.

RANDFONTEIN.

The second quarterly meeting of the Randfontein Zionist Association will be held on Tuesday, June 13, at 8.15 p.m., at the Synagogue.

A literary trial will be held in the Supper Room of the Town Hall on Tuesday, the 20th inst., at 8.15 p.m., when the hero of Tchernichovsky's famous poem, "Baruch of Magentzia," will be tried by a judge and a jury.

In aid of the Dunam Drive a most successful Bridge Drive and Dance was held in Randfontein under the auspices of the Randfontein Zionist Society, to whom considerable credit is due for the outstanding nature of the function. A special ladies' sub-committee, which was organised to supervise the catering, also deserves cordial thanks. The net proceeds of the function was £50.

"KISMET" AT THE PLAZA.

What is undoubtedly one of the most elaborate talkies ever produced is that of "Kismet," the attraction at the Plaza Theatre this week. Otis Skinner, the great actor, who made himself famous in the stage production of "Kismet," will be seen in the First National production of the talkie version. No lover of great spectacles on the film should miss this fine attraction.

East London Zionism.

A SERIES OF MEETINGS.

Visit by Mr. Alexander Lewin.

Mr. Alexander Lewin arrived here from Queenstown on Friday, May 12th, and spent the week-end in coming into personal touch with the Zionist Committees and workers, and with members of the community generally.

On the ensuing Monday evening a mass meeting was held in the Communal Hall, which was exceptionally well attended. Mr. Meyer Hertz, President of the Zionist Society, was in the chair, supported by Mr. M. Shwer, President of the Hebrew Congregation, and Mrs. I. Sapire, President of the Women's Zionist League. After the usual welcomes, Mr. Lewin addressed the gathering at length, dealing particularly with the situation of German Jewry. His address was followed with keen interest.

Mr. A. Addleson, Hon. Secretary of the Society, then made an appeal for its reorganisation and for a fresh enrolment of members. There was a unanimous response, several newcomers enrolling. The election of a new Committee was immediately proceeded with, and the following were chosen:—Messrs. Meyer Hertz, D. Gottlieb, M. Shwer, A. Kossowsky, A. Addleson, D. Lazarous, Rev. O. Altshuler, I. J. Aberman, M. Baskir, J. Green, D. Spiro, L. Aronowitz, F. L. Fainsinger, M. Aingorn and the Rev. Katz ex-officio.

The next day was a busy one for Mr. Lewin. In the afternoon he addressed the Women's League under the Presidency of Mrs. Sapire. At the conclusion of this very enthusiastic gathering, he came into close conference with a few of the younger element and emerged with the nucleus of a strong Young Israel Society with Mr. A. Sacks as President.

In the evening, the newly-elected Committee of the Zionist Society, together with representatives of the Women's League and of the Y.I.S., met Mr. Lewin, when all details of the work to be done by the various sections was gone into at length, after the following Executive had been chosen: President, Mr. Meyer Hertz; Vice-President, Mr. I. J. Abelman; Hon. Treasurer, Mr. F. L. Fainsinger; Hon. Secretary, Mr. A. Addleson.

There is no doubt whatever that as the result of the visit local Zionism has taken on a new lease of life. Fresh elements, anxious to make a success of their undertakings, have been brought in, and the various Committees are fully alive to their responsibilities and determined to discharge them.