

EDUCATION CONFERENCE

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The Director's Report

THERE was a lengthy discussion on the Directors' report (extracts of which were given in last week's issue). Mr. I. Levy stressed the importance of kindergartens in the country. Mr. M. Geffen spoke on the necessity of tackling immediately the establishment of a Jewish boarding school.

Rev. Glass urged a conference of Jewish teachers and that they should concentrate on the teaching of the Bible. Mr. I. J. Hersch spoke in favour of establishing kindergartens. Mr. L. H. Penn said they should teach the history of Zionism to bring out a race conscience among the Jewish children.

Mr. H. Port urged that a campaign for collecting children instead of money for their schools be undertaken. Mr. Saron spoke on the matriculation Hebrew paper and the kindergartens, and urged that they must in the future work more with the Jewish adolescent.

Mr. B. S. Hersch said there was too much work left to be done in the elementary stages. They had to face the very serious position that, as pointed out in the report, three-quarters of the children of South African Jewry were illiterate in Hebrew and Judaism. Propaganda from the Jewish educational point of view was required.

Mr. D. Mierowsky, replying to the debate, emphasised the supreme importance of the kindergarten for Jewish education. The old system was one of mechanisation—reading Hebrew "like water." They must give the child a living knowledge of Hebrew and that could be only done by the kindergarten, when six months was equal to six years of subsequent teaching. There again the problem was shortage of good teachers. It was a common error to think that Hebrew was taught at any school at the expense of any other subject, for just in those schools where it was taught they had the best results in history and other subjects. He stressed the overwhelming importance of overcoming the difficulty of the supply of good teachers.

Training of Teachers.

MR. J. B. SHACKSNOVIS, the travelling inspector and propagandist of the Board, gave an interesting address on South African Jewish education and educators. He urged as a solution of the difficulty of the scarcity of good teachers the training of the South African boy as a teacher for South African children, the only teacher to understand the mind of the Jewish child of to-day in South Africa. The object of the Jewish school was to produce the desirable Jewish layman of the future, not rabbis.

In the debate on the resolutions on the agenda, it was agreed that the Board introduce a certificate of proficiency for those who have completed and passed its examinations, that it publish a manual of Jewish history, that where practicable history be taught through the medium of Hebrew, that a conference of Jewish teachers be held under the auspices of the Board at least once a year, that the Board encourage the Sephardic pronunciation of Hebrew, and that it institute propaganda for education throughout the country.

The election of the Council for the next two years resulted as follows: President, Adv. Maurice Franks; Vice-President, Mr. I. J. Hersch; Hon. Treasurer, Dr. Jack Shapiro; Hon. Secretary, Mr. Max Geffen. Council: Revs. A. T. Shrock and L. Wolk; Messrs. B. Segal, I. Levy, Norman Lourie, G. Saron, A. Mendelow, C. P. Cohen, L. H. Penn, S. Tolkin.

Mr. Harry Lourie was elected hon. vice-president, a number of speakers paying tribute to the splendid service he had rendered to the Board in particular and to Jewish education in South Africa in general.

The Chairman in closing the conference returned thanks for the honour conferred on him and thanked the outgoing hon. officers and members of the council, the hon. auditor, Mr. I. B. Rudaizky, as well as the director, Mr. Mierowsky, and the other officials of the Board and the Jewish press for the services they had rendered to the Board.

The Conference came to an end at 6.30 p.m. with the singing of the Hatikvah.

"THIS IS THE NIGHT" AT THE PLAZA.

Lily Damita, one of the most famous of film favourites, is starring in "This is The Night" at the Plaza this week. The story of the film is a daring one indeed and has attracted considerable attention overseas.

The supporting programme at the Plaza is of a particularly attractive nature this week.

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ZIONIST SOCIALIST PARTY.

On Sunday, the 3rd inst., a meeting of the Zionist Socialist Party took place in the H.O.D. Hall. Messrs. Ch. Sachs and J. Batnitzky gave reports of the work of the committee and pointed out the further work which had to be done by the party.

It was mentioned that the club of the party is open every Tuesday and Thursday evening in the H.O. D. Hall. In the reading-room of the club there are available various Jewish newspapers and journals from overseas. A cultural programme for the work of the party is being prepared.

"HECHALUTZ" ORGANISATION.

Under the auspices of the above organisation, classes are held every Monday and Thursday at the Hechalutz Hall, 93, Davies Street, Doornfontein, at 8.30 p.m. The teacher is Mr. J. Rubik. Tuesdays and Wednesdays, readings of Hebrew, Jewish and English papers. On Sundays lectures are given by eloquent speakers of Johannesburg.

All those who bought tickets for the Hechalutz picnic are kindly requested to be at the H.O.D. Hall on Sunday, the 17th inst., at 8 a.m. sharp.

RONALD COLMAN AT THE COLOSSEUM.

That popular idol of the film world, Ronald Colman, is the attraction at the Colosseum this week in an attractive film story entitled "The Unholy Garden." This is full of thrills and intense interest.

The Colosseum Symphony Orchestra continues to arouse the greatest admiration from the many music lovers.

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