

The Jewish Woman in South Africa

An Interesting Symposium in Johannesburg

THAT the Jewish women of Johannesburg are a vital and self-conscious group of persons was evidenced by the extremely successful meeting of the Saxonwold branch of the Johannesburg Women's Zionist League, which took place last Monday afternoon, at the residence of Mrs. Sam Denton.

Over a hundred persons, representative not only of the Saxonwold branch, but of the entire League, attended for the purpose of listening to a symposium, in which five speakers participated, dealing with the function of the South African Jewish woman in the life of her people.

Mrs. I. Marks (who has been acting chairman of the branch during the prolonged absence of Mrs. Ethel Hayman oversea) presided, and welcomed Mrs. Hayman back to South Africa.

Mrs. J. M. Edelstein, speaking on the function of the South African Jewish woman in the home, stressed the necessity for the introduction and maintenance therein of a true spirit of Jewishness. The efforts of the mother, she said, were epitomised in the manner in which she recognised the Sabbath. If she observed here, and in the other fields of Jewish life, the minutiae of our religion she could bequeath to her children an emotional consciousness of their Jewishness, which would stand them in good stead.

Mrs. Shrock, who took the place of Mrs. E. Jacobson, who had found herself unable to speak, dealt with the battle against anti-Semitism. She stated that since Palestine could not absorb all Jews, the two possible escapes appeared to be assimilation and segregation, neither of which were really acceptable to the Jew. The only remaining solution was that the Jewish woman, and with her her family, should be herself, in consciousness of her heritage, and at the same time should attain a mean of living, avoiding that exaggeration which aroused the dislike of the Gentile world.

Mrs. Jack Fredman, of Benoni, in dealing with the Jewish woman's pre-occupation with the religious aspect of her life, called for an understanding of what that religion meant. Judaism was not merely a great heritage, she said; it was also so great a burden that often one was tempted to wish that it had found a natural end at some stage in history. Since, however, it appeared incapable of extinction, it was necessary to discover its true content, and to realise that it alone was holding Jews together and that Jewish women had played a great part in its preservation. Jewish children, to-day, must be fed by their mothers with the best of their re-

ligion, so that they might have a true hope for the future.

Miss R. M. Franks, speaking on the social aspect of the Jewish woman's life, declared that it was here that she was obviously at her worst. She had the ability and the time to make much use of her mental equipment, yet she frittered away her leisure in frivolous social preoccupations. The speaker called upon the Jewish woman to introduce into her ordinary daily existence that same fervour which she displayed in her work for Zionism. If she did this there was the hope that she might rise to great heights of scholarship.

Dr. Deborah Katzen dealt at some length with the part played by Zionism in the life of the South African woman. She dealt first with the value of Zionism, which gave the incentive of the upbuilding of a national home in Palestine, and at the same time supplied a platform from which the Jew might face the world. It was necessary that supporters of Zionism should first educate themselves, should then educate their children and their fellows. Having explained the work of the Jewish National Fund and the Keren Hayesod, Dr. Katzen stated that although much fine work had been done by local Jewish women, yet they had the leisure to do much more. She reminded them that in reality work for Zionism was essentially selfish, since it gave the enthusiast unending joy and satisfaction.

During the course of the afternoon Mrs. Frances Freedman performed at the piano with her customary brilliance, and was warmly applauded, as was also Mrs. A. S. Hersov, who sang two delightful operatic solos.

A certificate for five trees in Palestine was presented to Mrs. Marks in recognition of her services to the Saxonwold branch of the League.

Mrs. B. Patley, chairman of the League, extended a welcome to Mrs. Hayman on behalf of the Zionist women of Johannesburg, and called upon all present to do their best for the forthcoming Keren Hayesod campaign; and Mrs. K. Gluckman announced that the Women's Keren Hayesod Committee would give a reception to Mr. Nahum Sokolow, Dr. Celina Sokolow and Mr. Leib Jaffe at the Carlton Hotel on the 22nd inst.

Mrs. D. Ordman, seconded by Mrs. Capnek, extended a vote of thanks to the speakers, while the company's appreciation of the services of the artists and of the hostess, Mrs. Denton, was expressed by Mrs. Marks.

ERETZ ISRAEL FROM DAY TO DAY

(Concluded from page 13).

Can some way be found for storing oranges so as to enable the home market to be supplied during the summer season? Palestinians love oranges, almost subsist on them during the winter. There is a stall which sells pure orange juice on practically every corner in Tel-Aviv. The juice is known to everybody as "Mitz," and costs 1d. per tumbler. The stalls are besieged all day, and Palestinians don't merely drink oranges, they eat them as well, and altogether the number of oranges so consumed is of steadily growing importance to the industry. Yet a few weeks after Pesach all supplies of the fruit cease, and not an orange is to be had during the hot summer months when it is most wanted.

Another important outlet for oranges is being found by a factory started about a year ago in Rehoboth. This factory uses the entire orange, pips and all, and already exports to several European countries. Its chief product is oil, and in addition it manufactures essences and other unexpected things. The first year it consumed sixty tons of oranges, this year six hundred, and the estimate for next year runs into thousands of tons. The factory is owned by pardess owners, and is conducted on a co-operative basis for the benefit of the fruit growers themselves. Such industries are obviously of the greatest importance and significance.

THE Levant Fair opens in a week's time.

The site on the side of the Yarkon to the north of Tel-Aviv is almost ready. I heard a Tel-Avivate just back from a visit to the grounds telling his friends that another town as large as Tel-Aviv had been erected there; and, in fact, there is some justification for his remark, for the great halls and pavilions of the "Yerid" cover a most impressive area. The amount of interest being displayed in the Fair by the various European countries is astonishing. Almost every boat brings representatives from different States to organise and to take charge of the exhibits of their respective countries. Poland is making a great bid for the most comprehensive exhibit, and representatives of Great Britain, France, Roumania and other Balkan States have been in the country for some time. Lord Melchett, Sir Herbert Samuel and many members of the British House of Commons are expected in Palestine for the exhibition.



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