

In Bloemfontein

(From Our Own Correspondent).

The Chevra Kadisha.

AN "At Home" was held on Wednesday, the 9th inst., by the local Jewish Helping Hand and Burial Society, at the residence of the chairman, Mr. H. Green. Members of the committee of the society, together with their wives; the committee of the Bloemfontein Jewish Ladies' Benevolent Society and their husbands; the chairman of the Bloemfontein Hebrew Congregation, Mr. J. Philips; and the chairman of the Bloemfontein Committee of the Johannesburg Jewish Orphanage, Mr. H. Bradlow, were invited. The Bloemfontein *Gemillas Chesodim* Society was also represented. The guest of honour of the evening was Rabbi Dr. M. Romm.

The honorary life president of the society, Mr. T. Belfort, addressed the gathering, and was followed by Mr. J. Philips, who, in a few words, outlined the praiseworthy work being done by the charitable institutions of Bloemfontein.

Mr. H. Bradlow proposed the toast of "The Ladies," and Mr. N. Woolf, vice-chairman of the society, officially thanked those ladies present for the assistance they had so willingly given in the work of the Chevra Kadisha.

Mrs. L. Kramer responded on behalf of the Ladies' Society, and stated that they all appreciated the opportunity of being of service to their community.

Rev. Reichenberg then sang, after which Messrs. J. M. Jacobson and A. Abelson spoke in a strain befitting the occasion.

Dr. Romm gave an inspiring address, dealing with the various aspects of charity.

Voicing the appreciation of all the guests present, Mr. I. Fogel thanked Mr. Green for his kind hospitality.

Farewell to Mr. Melmed.

Zionism in Bloemfontein has suffered a loss in the recent departure for Escombe, Natal, of Mr. D. Melmed, who has been for some time the chairman of the Herzlia Society, which he, in conjunction with others, founded some fifteen months ago.

On Sunday evening, the 13th inst., a farewell function in his honour was held at the Communal Hall, and the representative gathering present was eloquent testimony of the esteem in which Mr. Melmed is held.

Mr. M. Pencharz, chairman of the Senior Zionist Society, presided. Mr. J. Philips, president of the Hebrew Congregation, paid a sincere tribute to Mr. Melmed as a Zionist, and referred to his able leadership of the Jewish Youth Movement in the O.F.S.

Similar tributes to Mr. Melmed were paid by Mr. R. Lawrence, chairman of the Young Israel Society; Mr. M. Sacks, chairman of the Herzlia; and Mr. S. Berman, chairman of the O.F.S. Zionist Youth Council. On behalf of the latter body, Mr. Berman presented Mr. Melmed with a silver inkstand, suitably inscribed.

Dr. Moses Romm, rabbi of Bloemfontein, delivered a brilliant address, in which he commented upon the position of the Jews in the world to-day, and the attitude of the world to the Jew. He described Jewish history as the thread which prevented Jewish youth from losing their way in the labyrinth of exile, and Zionism as the weapon which would help them to escape from that labyrinth.

At the close of Dr. Romm's address, Mr. Pencharz, on behalf of the Zionist Societies, presented Mr. Melmed with a wristlet watch, the balance which remained after the purchase of the watch being presented, on Mr. Melmed's suggestion, to the Chalutz Scheme.

Mr. Melmed suitably responded.

Johannesburg Lecture on Nordau

The Sisterhood of the Johannesburg Reform Congregation held its seventh literary meeting on Wednesday the 9th inst., at the residence of Mrs. Bernard Alexander. Advocate Pincus delivered an address on Max Nordau to a large and interested gathering.

The speaker described Max Nordau as a doctor of philosophy, typically German in his lengthy and laborious style, entirely lacking in humour, but heavy with sarcasm. The doctrines he expounded, though far in advance of his times, are to-day hackneyed. He aimed at truth, and in his book "Conventional Lies" he denounced the hypocrisies of civilisation, maintaining that the lie in love kills its value, and advocating a freer sex life, proposing remedies which shocked his contemporaries.

Mr. Pincus spoke of Nordau's interest in Zionism, of his friendship for Herzl, and for his work for the cause. Nordau held the opinion, shared by Achad Ha'am, but contrary to the precepts of many of his Zionist colleagues, that the Jewish people should face the realities of Zionism and should be told the truth. He was a great Jewish nationalist, but his somewhat unpopular views led to his relinquishing the cause of Zionism.

In conclusion, Mr. Pincus compared Max Nordau with Achad Ha'am. Both had the same desire for truth, but whereas Achad Ha'am was somewhat bloodless in his cold, stark logic, Max Nordau's views were vitalised by an intense emotion.

During the afternoon Mrs. Beatrix Alexander and Mrs. Francis Friedman contributed musical items. The meeting terminated with a vote of thanks and appreciation to the speaker, proposed by Mrs. S. Abelheim.

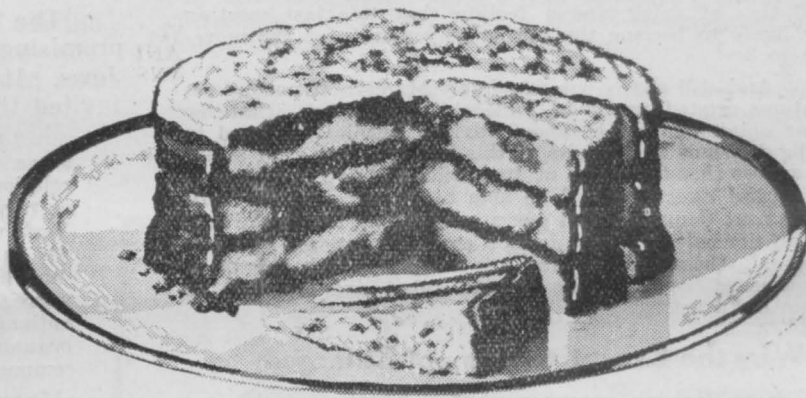
Belville, Parow and Durbanville Ladies Zionist Society

Under the auspices of the Bellville, Parow and Durbanville Ladies' Zionist Society a bridge evening was held at the residence of Mr. and Mrs. N. Berold, Hopkins Street, Parow. The evening proved an outstanding success and the funds will be devoted to the Jewish National Fund.

Maccabee

The above organisation has arrangements in hand for the holding of a Great Maccabee Ball at the H.O.D. Hall on Saturday, July 7th. It is anticipated that this function should prove enjoyable to all who attend.

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