

Jews and the Modern State

"Is Fascism compatible with Judaism?" was the subject of a stimulating address delivered by Rabbi M. C. Weiler at the second "Open Forum" held under the auspices of the United Zionist-Socialist Party at the H.O.D. Hall on Wednesday evening last.

Mr. J. Batnitzky presided over a well-attended gathering. In the course of his remarks, Rabbi Weiler said that the progression of Fascism should be of interest to every Jew, for Fascism is no longer an episode but a striking feature of contemporary social life. Certain ideas of Fascism had penetrated even into the inner councils of the Zionist movement, and the speaker, although a non-party man, deprecated certain tendencies in modern Jewish life. Jews also should concern themselves with the general aspects of any problem facing them apart from the specifically Jewish connection with it.

After dealing at length with the growth of Fascism in Italy and in other countries, the lecturer dealt with the negative attitudes of that orientation. In the main, Fascism was opposed to pacifism, internationalism, Marxian socialism, democracy and liberalism; it upheld the belief of an absolute state. In its religious sphere, particularly in Italy where the movement had its origin, the Fascist state sponsored the conception of a mediaeval union between church and state, and developed along strictly nationalistic lines. All in all, Fascism preached uniformity instead of unity. For the Jews, on the whole, Fascism did not bring any blessing, only in lands of liberty can the Jew find his salvation, culturally and otherwise.

Thus, there were opposing differences between the philosophy of Judaism and Fascism. Judaism was based on the spirit not on force, and laid emphasis on the unity of humanity. The Jewish super man was no Nietzschean admirer but built his faith on the ethical idealism of an Amos or an Isaiah.

Rabbi Weiler, in referring to intolerance among Jews, declared that it was difficult in times of persecution to tell whether one was a good Jew or not; in days of peace, it was otherwise.

Touching on present-day Zionist politics, the speaker pleaded for a tolerant attitude among the different groupings. He hoped that Labour in Palestine would not follow in the wake of the collapsing labour movement in Europe. The Histadrut should include in its fold all the diverse elements of the Jewish labour masses in Eretz Israel.

ERETZ ISRAEL DAY BY DAY

(Concluded from page 27).

living conditions are better, and earning possibilities greater.

Everything is delayed. Every employer is worried, and the cry of "no labour," "I can't get workmen," is on everybody's lips. There are some who say that the labourers themselves are being rather spoiled by their unique independence, their ability to pick and choose their jobs, and the certainty of their being able to walk out of one job into another.

And all this while thousands are clamouring to enter Palestine, while a League of Nations' official is looking everywhere for a place to settle Jews!

The Government has been made familiar with all this through constant representations, and indeed, it is impossible to remain unaware of what is so very patent; and yet the proven figures of the Agency have been rejected, and less than one-third

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After light refreshments had been served, a spirited discussion on Rabbi Weiler's remarks took place. Mr. Ch. Achron read news-items of current Zionist affairs and Miss Margolis rendered several delightful recitations. An earnest appeal was made to members of the United Zionist-Socialist Party to support wholeheartedly the present Keren Hayesod campaign both morally and financially.

Departing for Palestine.

Under the auspices of the Johannesburg "Hechalutz" organisation, a social will be held on Wednesday, the 30th inst., at the Hechalutz Hall (corner Beit and Height Streets, Doornfontein) at 8.15 p.m. This occasion will serve as a farewell to the two of the Hechalutz members, Messrs. D. Soffer and M. Lapidaus, who are departing for Palestine.

Mr. I. Dunsky, Secretary of the S.A. Zionist Youth Council, will present the members with membership cards. All the members of the Hechalutz and members of Zionist Youth organisations, are cordially asked to be present.

"No Man of Her Own" at the Colosseum

There is an attractive programme at the Colosseum Theatre this week. Clark Gable, the celebrated movie star, is coupled with that fascinating actress, Carole Lombard, in a striking play, "No Man of Her Own." This contains a moving story, in which the two stars give splendid performances. The Colosseum Symphony Orchestra appears to arouse more enthusiasm as time goes on.

of the certificates asked for have been granted.

The Arlosoroff Trial.

THE Arlosoroff trial has entered into its twelfth day, and the Crown case is likely to be concluded within another one or two days. Interest in the proceedings is still very great, and in some quarters feelings continue to run high. But an extraordinary change has come over the attitude of the general public. During the preparatory examination, everyone was quite certain that he knew whether or not the accused men were guilty, and nobody hesitated to declare his knowledge. The case was tried and disposed of in the cafes and on the street corners, and to very many people, the court proceedings seemed quite superfluous. There is no doubt that the local newspapers were largely to blame for this grossly unfair and dangerous partisanship. Some newspapers actually analysed the evidence each day as it was given, and expressed an opinion on its acceptability and

South African Jewish Orphanage

ANNUAL MEETING NEXT SUNDAY

THE annual general meeting of the above institution, will be held at the Home in Oxford Road, Johannesburg, on Sunday, the 27th inst., commencing at 2.45 p.m. It is anticipated that subscribers will seize with eagerness, this opportunity of visiting and inspecting the premises of the Home, while at the same time attending a gathering of great communal importance.

In connection with the meeting, an interesting and informative report and balance sheet has been issued. Special mention is made of the donation of Mrs. Rose Lewis of the sum of £4,000, in memory of her late husband, Joseph Solomon Lewis. In recognition of this generous gesture on the part of Mrs. Lewis, she has been elected a life member of the institution.

A comparative table shows that within the last ten years there has been a steady increase in the number of inmates, accompanied, necessarily, by the need for an increased number of subscribers. The Endowment of Beds scheme, however, has drawn donations double in amount of the total achieved in the previous year.

Detailed mention is made of the education and employment of the children, and of particular interest is the paragraph dealing with the after-care of the inmates. To date, 95 children are in the care of the After-Care committee, and all are in billets and are making satisfactory progress. All are visited regularly by members of the committee at their homes or places of employment, and a watchful eye is kept on their activities. Gratitude is expressed to Mr. Edwin Cohn, chairman of the committee, for the services he has rendered the Orphanage in connection with the after care of the children.

Reference is made in the report to all other branches of the institution's activity, and thanks are offered to all those who have been of assistance in its maintenance.

Col. Patterson to Address the Palestine Club

Colonel J. H. Patterson, D.S.O., has accepted the invitation of the Palestine Club to give an address to the members. The function will take place on Saturday evening, June 2nd, at the home of Mrs. Jaff, 39, Observatory Avenue, Observatory. The Colonel will speak on the subject of "From Dan to Beersheba."

value. Others were content to abuse unfavourable witnesses, the advocates and the police. Of course, this does not apply to the entire press, but anyway, sufficient inflammatory material was placed on the streets each morning, to create a very undesirable atmosphere.

Then the Attorney-General took a hand in the game. The charges of contempt of court, brought against several editors, the astonishment which the latter expressed in court when the gravity of their offence was explained to them, and the humble apologies which they made—these are all old "news," but the beneficial effects are only now being felt. During the present trial, the press has been for the most part exemplary in its moderation and fairness. The evidence is being published very fully, and most papers devote whole pages to it. But there is never a word of comment, and the public, on the whole, is taking its cue from the press, and is apparently willing to leave the trial to the court.