

## CHANUKAH IN JOHANNESBURG

### SPECIAL SERVICES IN CITY SYNAGOGUES

**T**HE festival of Chanukah will be ushered in on Saturday evening, and on the following day a number of special Chanukah services will be held in Johannesburg synagogues.

Under the auspices of the United Hebrew Congregation, a special service will take place at the Yeoville Synagogue at 5.30 p.m. and will be conducted by Cantor Lopato and choir. The Rev. A. T. Shrock, B.A., will preach the sermon. Members of the local Jewish Ex-Service League, Defence Force and V.A.D. will attend.

The Berea Hebrew Congregation is having its Chanukah service at 4.30 p.m. This will be conducted by Cantor S. Steinberg, assisted by a fully trained choir. During the service, Mr. D. Mierowsky (Director of the S.A. Board of Jewish Education) will deliver an address. The Johannesburg sections of the Habonim and Habonot will be present.

A special Chanukah service will be held by the Johannesburg Jewish Reform Congregation on Sunday, at the Freemasons' Hall (cor. Plein and Claim Streets) at 6 o'clock. Rabbi M. C. Weiler will deliver a sermon on "The Maccabees—if they were alive to-day." The service will be choral and orchestral.

## Johannesburg "Reps." in "Avalanche"

**B**EVERLEY NICHOLS' three-act play, "Avalanche," was presented at the Jewish Guild, Johannesburg, on Saturday evening last by the Repertory Players. The play itself, although in several instances it loses pace and is badly grouped and constructed, nevertheless provided good entertainment, and was outstanding both for the excellence of its production, and for some really fine acting.

Mr. Bruce Lezard took the part of Nigel Chelmsford, a dramatist, and revealed a fine, sensitive understanding of the emotional and highly-strung nature of the character. Another outstanding performance was that of Ethel Ainge as Lady Rockstone. She gave a breezy, professional performance, the plums of the dialogue falling to her, and contrasting well with the dramatic moments.

Jessie Bell, as Nigel's patriotic fiancée, Helen, entered into her part with sincerity, but did not convey the character as well as she might have done. Jack Willington, the young man who loved England and Helen, was most naturally played by Harry Boyd. Joe Levy was a most likeable and sympathetic butler, and Vera Patlansky was adequate in the part of a foolish young woman who had incredibly won the love of an American poet, the latter played by Sonny Isenberg, who is to be congratulated on his expert "Americanese." Geoffrey Floyd portrayed Lord Rockstone, an English financier, with a little too much emphasis. This tended to caricature the portrait, and took away from the dramatic value of the plot and action.

The production itself was one of the best seen for some time at the Jewish Guild, and the players one and all threw themselves genuinely into their parts. Mr. J. Orkin was stage manager, and the electric effects were supervised by Mr. R. Fisher. Miss Muriel Alexander, the producer, and Miss Sylvie Mathey, the associate producer, are to be congratulated on a neatly-conceived and well-cast play.

B. S.

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## Johannesburg Women's Zionist League

**Mayfair Branch.**—On Wednesday afternoon, the 21st inst., a well attended social and lecture was held at the residence of Mr. and Mrs. Michelow, 28 14th Avenue, Mayfair.

After the chairlady had welcomed those present, Mrs. M. Guinsberg read a most interesting paper on the history of Zionism, which was greatly appreciated. Little Miss Sybil Michelow rendered several excellent musical items. A vote of thanks was proposed by Mrs. C. Michelow to the speaker and the hostess.

**Kensington Branch.**—The cultural meetings, which are held regularly every fortnight by this branch, are becoming more and more popular amongst the residents of this area, as was evidenced by the exceptionally large number of ladies present on Thursday morning, the 8th inst., when a reading took place at the residence of Mrs. A. Friedgut.

Miss Minnie Levy read an article entitled "My Impressions of Palestine," by Mrs. S. Favish, Bulawayo; and Mrs. I. Schmidt read humorous extracts from the Yiddish works of Moische Nadir. Mrs. F. Freed proposed a vote of thanks to the ladies for reading and to the hostess for her hospitality.

**Doornfontein Branch.**—An interesting meeting in the form of a literary afternoon was held at the residence of Mrs. Teeger, 25 Charlton Terrace, on Tuesday, the 20th inst. A large number of ladies attended, and Mrs. Kirson, in opening the meeting, welcomed the gathering. Mrs. E. Soreson read Sholom Aleichem's "Tevia der Milchiker," which everybody thoroughly enjoyed, and the remainder of the afternoon was spent keenly listening to Mrs. O. Guinsberg, who read extracts from "The Ploughwoman." The meeting terminated with a vote of thanks to Mesdames Soreson and Guinsberg, and to Mrs. Teeger, for her kind hospitality.

The branch is holding a bridge drive on December 1, at the residence of Mrs. Maltz, 15 Saratoga Avenue, Doornfontein.

**Bertrams-Judith Paarl Branch.**—These branches are having a bridge drive in aid of the Jewish National Fund, which will be held at the Jewish Guild Hall on Wednesday, 5th December, at 2.30 p.m. Tickets are 2s. 6d. each.

**Yeoville Branch.**—Extensive preparations are being made for a morning market to be held by this branch on Thursday, December 6, at the Yeoville Synagogue grounds (corner Kenmere and Francis Streets), opening at 8.30 a.m., in aid of the Jewish National Fund. It is hoped that ladies will keep this date open and give their valued support.

A literary afternoon will be held at the residence of Mrs. S. Sieff, 70 Eckstein Street, Observatory, on Monday afternoon, December 3. Mrs. E. Hayman will read a paper, and Mrs. Esther Hurwitz will give the news items. All interested are cordially invited.

**Belgravia Branch.**—On the 21st inst. a card afternoon was held at the residence of Mrs. S. Fogel, 176 Galteemore Street, Malvern, in aid of the Jewish National Fund. There was a gathering of about 45 ladies, and a most enjoyable afternoon was spent.

## An Interesting Symposium

A symposium on "The Greatest Task of the Jewish Woman" will be held at the Langham Hotel on Monday, 3rd December, at 3.15 p.m., under the auspices of the Johannesburg Jewish Reform Congregation Sisterhood. The following speakers will participate: Mrs. G. Ordman, Mrs. G. Trevor, Mrs. E. Gordon, Mrs. L. Sowden, Mrs. M. Levy.

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## Johannesburg Jewish Guild

**A Travel Talk.**—A travel talk on "Venice" will be delivered by Mrs. Selina Hirsch, B.A., at the Jewish Guild on Saturday, December 1, at 8.30 p.m. The lecture will be illustrated with coloured pictures and photographs shown through an epidiascope machine. Although held under sectional auspices, admission will be free.

**A Chanukah Social.**—On Sunday, December 2, the Guild has arranged to hold a Chanukah social. Proceedings will be opened by the kindling of the Chanukah Lights by Mr. M. Ginsberg, Chairman of the Hatechiya Section, and Chanukah songs will be sung by the choir of the Beth Hamedrash Hagadol under the baton of Mr. Ichilchik. The programme will also include a quartette "Valeska," sung by Mr. L. Ostrowiak, and three other members; a Yiddish sketch by Mr. Freed; a novel tap-dance by Miss Phyllis Lehmann; songs by Mr. Louis Sachs, and other items, followed by informal dancing. There will be community singing of Hebrew melodies. Admission is free to members.

**"Cock Robin."**—On Sundays, December 9 and 16, the Guild Dramatic Section will present at the War Memorial Hall "Cock Robin," an ingenious three-act murder play by Elmer Rice and Philip Barry. The action of the play takes place during a dress rehearsal and the first night of an eighteenth century costume play, and the murder is committed, and the mystery solved, in the presence of the audience. A strong cast has been selected, and Mrs. Anita Colman is the producer. The Hungarian artist Mr. D. Koenig, has designed and executed a remarkable poster depicting the main scene, which is on view in the Guild vestibule.

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