



The Tasks Facing Jewish Women

An Interesting Symposium in Johannesburg

THERE was a good attendance of ladies at the Langham Hotel on Tuesday afternoon when an interesting symposium took place.

The subject was "The Greatest Task of the Jewish Woman." Mrs. M. Franks presided over the gathering, which was held under the auspices of the Sisterhood of the Jewish Reform Congregation.

MRS. D. ORDMAN contended that it was a mistake to segregate activities. The problems facing women were common to them all. This did not mean that the national cause was to be neglected. It meant only that Jewish women did not take full advantage of the many venues of social endeavour open to them. Their attitude to social service might be improved. A thorough study of the problems facing the country would stimulate their mental outlook and do away with the danger of stagnation.

Undirected activity was criminal. In social service women would be doing work in the interests of the whole community.

MRS. E. GORDON stressed the importance of religion. Orthodoxy had failed. The synagogue was only part of a specific Jewish life. The young had drifted away from it. Zionism and Liberal Judaism had come to the rescue. The synagogue should be a social meeting-place, the central institution in modern Jewish life. It was through Reform Judaism that women had come to have equality with men and they must aim to strive for peace and social justice.

The greatest task of a woman was an intelligent participation in the ideals of Reform Judaism, a loyal striving for the furtherance of peace and education and the development of the youth.

MRS. L. SOWDEN said that never before had Jews been such "good news" for the press, and yet never before had the Jews been so misunderstood and so unpopular, and never before so puzzling to themselves. There was the urgency to strengthen their position, and the basis of this task was primarily educational.

Education was not merely knowledge. It combined a love of tradition, and respect for the achievement of ideals. It was necessary to drive home a lesson to the child, and the teaching profession offered a marvellous angle for propaganda.

The Jewish child must be made to understand that he is normal.

There was no doubt that the Jew was now coming into his own. Women, as active propagandists, could teach the wider issues of history.

MRS. M. LEVY felt that the task of any human being was the capacity for adjustment to the needs of his or her own nature and to the world. A woman's task, in essence, was the bringing home to her consciousness, her basic fundamental wants and her adjustment to her own environment. To kill her own identity would not aid her. It was necessary to live her Jewishness rather than talk it. She must understand herself, and re-orientate herself to her present conditions.

To do this she must combine a knowledge of the past with a vision of the future, and also a knowledge of contemporary life.

Woman's greatest task was to accept reality and study conditions affecting it. Without adequate knowledge, she would fail as a mother; with knowledge she would participate in the child's development, and the atmosphere in her home would be naturally and spontaneously Jewish.

Rabbi M. C. Weiler discussed various aspects of the symposium and congratulated the speakers on their treatment of it. He urged that adjustment which would make for a dignified revival instead of a mere survival.

Miss P. Orkin criticised the present system of education and said that Jewish history should be shown in its relation to general world history.

In the course of the afternoon, Mrs. Lena Morrison, finely accompanied by Miss Suzanne Margolius, delighted the audience with several excellently rendered songs.

Association of Jewish Groups

RECENT ACTIVITIES

Two interesting meetings of the groups were held this week. The Israel Zangwill Group (Parktown) met at Miss M. Kobrin's house in Saxonwold to hear a paper translated from the Hebrew of Ben-Gurion by Miss F. Paglin. The paper dealt with the political parties in Palestine, their origin and importance. Members present participated in the lively discussion which followed. Miss Paglin was complimented on the able manner in which she had accomplished her difficult task.

At the Sarah Aronsohn meeting at Mrs. Mierowsky's residence, Mrs. Nora Lessem spoke on Jew Süß. The paper aroused a great deal of interest particularly in view of recent lectures and the film of the same name.

A meeting of the Sarah Aronsohn Group was held last week, at the residence of Mr. Benzion Hersch, Lily Avenue, Berea. The occasion was in the nature of a symposium on various aspects of Judaism, papers being read by Mr. D. Mierowsky, who treated the spiritual and materialistic side; Mr. J. Raphael, who dealt with the cultural aspect; and Mr. I. Lipworth, who spoke on the religious situation. A lively discussion followed. A short reading from history and discussion on topical events concluded the evening's programme.

Mr. Lipworth has taken over the chair from Mr. Raphael for the coming session, while Miss A. Hersch is the new secretary, in place of Miss F. Rosofsky.

"Chug Ivri"—"Bnei Bialik"

Reception to Mr. M. Kleinman.

A reception will be given in honour of Mr. Moses Kleinman (Editor of "Haolam"), to-morrow (Saturday), at 8 p.m. sharp, at the Jewish Guild, Johannesburg.

Mr. M. Kleinman will deliver an address on "Nation and Language." Among the speakers of the evening will be Chief Rabbi Dr. J. L. Landau, Dr. Rosenfeld, Dr. Birnbaum, and Mr. J. Rubik. Mr. J. Klewansky will preside.

The programme includes songs, recitations and music, in which Miss Z. Factor, the Malkin Sisters, Miss Sher, Mr. J. Fried, Mr. M. Ginsberg, and others, will participate. The Beth Hamedrash Hagodol choir, conducted by Mr. H. Ichilchik, will sing Hebrew songs.

The Jewish public is cordially invited.

"THE SCOTLAND YARD MYSTERY" AT THE PLAZA

A mystifying "mystery" will be presented at the Plaza Theatre this week when Sir Gerald du Maurier takes the leading role in "The Scotland Yard Mystery." This is an entertaining film and the supporting programme, being as good as it is, the Plaza attraction this week should appeal to all.

MARLENE DIETRICH AT THE COLOSSEUM

Marlene Dietrich, aptly called the "magnificent enchantress of the talking screen," will again delight film-goers in her latest picture "Songs of Songs," now showing at the Colosseum. Marlene Dietrich has never appeared more ravishing than in her latest picture and her brilliant genius and sheer artistry provide endless enjoyment for one and all. The supporting programme is good and the Colosseum Orchestra is as usual entertaining and appreciated.

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