

IN AND AROUND THE PENINSULA

The Zionist Conversazione.

That civilisation in the West is declining was a conviction expressed by Dr. Sachs at the Zionist Conversazione on Tuesday night.

Dr. Sachs stated his belief in Spengler's view that civilisations only rose to a certain point after which they sank—like fruit on a tree they blossomed, ripened and then fell. Various civilisations had come and gone this way in history, for when a civilisation ripened it lost its original impulse. It became too mechanised, too "frozen," too removed from the concrete things of its beginnings to be able to continue indefinitely.

Western civilisation to-day showed all these signs of ripening before the fall. In the spheres of art, economics, religion, morality it showed that it had lost touch with the original sources from which its strength and power were drawn. There was too much intellectualism with a resultant paralysis of the will.

At every late stage of any civilisation, the Jews always seemed to get the worst of it. It had been so in Egypt just before the Exodus, it had been so in Rome when it captured Judea, and it had been so in Spain at the time of the expulsion. To-day we were seeing the same thing in Germany in which the fruit of civilisation had not only fallen but had already begun to rot. There was a reason for this—it was because the Jews were not a materialistic people, whereas decadent civilisations were generally materialistic in outlook. The Jews were essentially a cultural people with whom qualitative values weighed more than quantitative. The exact opposite was the case with those civilisations which had risen to great heights and had persecuted the Jews, and the result was naturally a conflict in which, for obvious reasons, the Jew came off worst.

Although Jewish culture was also a little "frozen," we still had that elemental force and vitality in us that could never bring us to the same situation as Germany was in to-day. But it was necessary for us to effect a return to a more primitive fundamental life, to the soil and the soul from which we had sprung. In the East, too there could still be found a greater wholeness, a greater integration of faculties and an emotional life with power to act. For these reasons, Dr. Sachs gave it as his opinion that civilisation which was sinking in the West would rise in the East.

Those who took part in the discussion that followed the lecture were Mr. S. Futeran, Dr. S. E. Kark, Mr. B. Mirvish, Mr. J. Weinreich, Mr. M. Comay and Dr. Hurwitz. Dr. and Mrs. Mibashan acted as host and hostess.

During the evening Miss Cohen gave a pianoforte solo which was much appreciated, and the Jewish news was read as usual.

Celebration at the Orphanage.

The Committee of the Cape Jewish Orphanage arranged a very pleasing little celebration at the Home after their meeting on Thursday evening, the 10th inst.

During the last few months four of the girls who have passed through the Home have become engaged, and a special party was arranged in order to offer joint and individual congratulations to the various couples. Members of the Committee subscribed towards the necessary expenses and a very happy gathering was the result. The four young couples were Miss Nellie Hans and Mr. Frankel, Miss Molly Shapiro and Mr. I. Cohen, Miss Polly Mandelblatt and Mr. Kapelus and Miss Sarah Lewis and Mr. Glass.

The table in the Committee Room was tastefully decorated and arranged by Mrs. Ch. Beresinski, the Orphanage Matron, and some eighteen members of the Committee were assembled to show their interest in and extend their felicitations to the couples.

In the absence from town of the President, Mr. H. J. Stodel, the Vice-President, Mr. J. M. Weinreich, occupied the chair. Has was ably supported by Messrs. Kadish, Gradner and Crasnow, all past Presidents, who offered the couples the warmest congratulations. Mesdames Lurie and Gradner, in the unavoidable absence of the Chair-lady, Mrs. Stodel, also expressed the delight of the ladies of the Committee at this *Simcha*.

Mr. Frankel replied on behalf of the young men, and the gathering dispersed at about 11 p.m. after a very happy social gathering.

Students' Jewish Association.

The S.J.A. of the University of Cape Town received a stirring address from Adv. J. Herbstein on Thursday evening, 10th inst., on "The Chalutz Movement." Mr. S. N. Herman presided.

Adv. Herbstein traced the early methods of colonisation in Palestine and the growth of the Zionist movement. He described the spontaneous immigration into Palestine on the part of the Chalutzim and drew a picture of the life and work of the Chalutz.

In conclusion he mentioned the Chalutz scheme of the South African youth and urged those present to realise the necessity of being active participants in it.

Mr. J. Bobrov proposed a vote of thanks, after which the meeting terminated. Promises totalling over £6 were handed in.

Farewell to Mr. and Mrs. Ch. Kovarsky.

The Zionist Socialist Party, on Tuesday, gave a farewell evening to their members, Mr. and Mrs. Ch. Kovarsky, who leave for Palestine to-day. The Talmud Torah Hall was crowded to capacity till past midnight

by members of the Zionist Socialist Party and friends who came to bid farewell to their departing comrades.

Mr. Ch. Kovarsky was one of the founders of the Zionist Socialist Party in Cape Town about three years ago. Since then he has always been active among the circle of enthusiasts who developed the party to its present state. He was the party's first Secretary and rendered yeoman services as a member of the committee.

Farewell speeches were delivered by Mr. G. Telem, the Chairman, who opened the evening, Mr. Ch. Achron, Mr. Z. Avin, Mr. B. Padowich and Mr. L. D. Hirschowitz, who spoke on behalf of friends and sympathisers of the Zionist Socialist Party. All the speeches expressed encouragement and wishes of bon voyage to Mr. and Mrs. Kovarsky, but contained at the same time expression of regret at the parting, as both Mr. and Mrs. Kovarsky have endeared themselves to all who came in contact with them. A camera was presented to them as a token of the Party's appreciation of their services and in commemoration of years of friendly associations and comradeship.

Address by Miss Van Gelderen.

A large gathering of ladies assembled at the Zionist Hall on Tuesday afternoon when, under the auspices of the Bnoth Zion Association, Miss Rosa Van Gelderen delivered an address on her impressions of Palestine.

Miss Van Gelderen spoke very enthusiastically about all she had seen in Palestine during the five weeks she had spent there recently. She had been particularly impressed by the attention given to the children, all of whom looked very healthy and happy, and by the health work done there. She spoke very highly of the Central Emek Hospital at Afuleh.

Mrs. S. Gordon presided and at the conclusion of the lecture conveyed the thanks of all to Miss Van Gelderen for her address.

During the course of the afternoon Mrs. Max Cohen, Hon. Secretary of the Cape Branch of the S.A. Board of Jewish Education, announced that an "Education Week" was being held in the Peninsula during the week between Rosh Hashona and Yom Kippur. She urged those present to volunteer as assistants in the work this involved.

Hebrew Teachers' Association.

The monthly meeting of the Hebrew Teachers' Association was held on Sunday, 20th August, in the Talmud Torah Hall, Cape Town. Mr. A. Levin presided.

The outstanding feature of the meeting was a detailed report of the Education Conference delivered by Mr. Z. Avin, who dealt with the various problems of the Conference and stressed the importance of the resolutions adopted.

A lively discussion followed in which Messrs. A. Sive, M. Natas, A. Levin, Ch. Beresinsky, J. Abitz and Z. Avin participated.

Several other matters were also discussed. The lecture on "Games and their Educational Value" was postponed owing to the late hour till the next meeting.

Federation of Polish Jews.

The second annual general meeting of the Federation of Polish Jews in the Cape took place at the Old Synagogue on Sunday last. The Secretary, in presenting the report and balance sheet, laid stress on the apathy of the members which revealed itself in their not attending the general meetings as they should do.

Despite the lean year, owing to depression, they had managed to pay off £10 of last year's deficit and showed a slight profit on the year's working.

Election of officers for the ensuing year took place with the following results:— President, Mr. L. Morris (re-elected); Vice-President, Mr. Max Kaimowitz; Treasurer, Mr. D. Goldman; Secretary, Mr. C. Stern; Trustees, Messrs. B. Pockey and J. Kelner. Committee: Messrs. A. Bornstein, D. J. Berlinsky, Z. Schulman, J. Baisman and S. Alambik. Auditors: Messrs. J. Swider and M. Centner.

South Peninsula Jewish Club.

"Patchwork," the revuette produced by the South Peninsula Club on August 12th, was an outstanding success. The Misses Molly Short, Murielle Kadish and Ruth Kadish were the leading ladies, whilst Mr. Felix de Cola's syncopated items were received with acclamation. Messrs. H. L. Stern, Max Melmed, Morrie Belikoff and Morrie Lazerow were the leading men, and the production was in the capable hands of Mr. Lionel Berman, while the ladies, under the convenorship of Mrs. R. M. Rifkin, attended to the catering. The organisation of the whole show was excellent and "Patchwork," which was followed by a dance, was thoroughly enjoyed by the large crowd present.

On Friday, August 11th, Rabbi I. M. Gervis delivered an address to a large audience on Achad Ha-am as essayist and Zionist philosopher. Messrs. D. Getz and M. Aaronson participated in the discussion and Mr. J. Herstein finally moved a vote of thanks to the speaker. Mr. M. Barnett was in the chair.

Dr. H. W. Altschul was the speaker on August 18th, the subject of his lecture being that extremely interesting personality in Zionist politics, Vladimir Jabotinsky.

On August 25th, Mr. R. K. Sieradzski will deliver his postponed lecture on "George Bernard Shaw," and on September 1st, Mr. H. L. Stern will speak on "The Influence of the Boy Scout Movement."

The Club has made definite arrangements with the Hebrew Congregation whereby they will have the use of the hall four nights per week—Sunday, Monday, Thursday and Friday. The Club has also arranged the following special functions:—

Monday, August 28th: War Bridge, Rummy and Card Evening.

Monday, September 4th: Grand Marine and Derby Night.

Badminton will commence on Thursday, August 31st. The fee for the half-year will be 2s. 6d.

A Dramatic Section has been formed and members are asked to hand in their names to the Hon. Secretary immediately. The Club intends putting on a Musical Comedy in the season. Rehearsals for this will start in the course of the next fortnight.

A Studio Party.

A very successful Studio Party in aid of the Rainbow Fete was held last Saturday evening in Signor Coscia's studio in Plein Street. A large gathering attended and a very happy and more or less informal atmosphere was maintained throughout the function. During the evening vocal solos were given by Signor Coscia and were much appreciated. A number of recitations were given by Mr. A. Davis.

The dance was held under the auspices of the C.T. Jewish Girls' Association, who are in charge of the Babies' Outfitting Stall at the Fete. They, and particularly Mrs. J. Weinreich, their supervisor, are to be congratulated on the result of their effort.

Muizenberg Young Israel Society.

Last Friday night the Muizenberg Young Israel Society held a successful "Fireside Evening." The meeting commenced with Mr. Seagull's reading the news service. A debate followed, the subject being "That women should have the franchise in Palestine." Mr. A. Kahn moved, and Miss N. Guinsberg opposed. The result was a draw. A passage out of "The History of the Jews" was then read, each member reading a paragraph. A number of members also read prepared articles on various subjects.

Young Judeans Concert.

The Old Shul was filled to capacity on Sunday night last when the above Society held a concert in celebration of its seventh anniversary. An attractive programme had been drawn up, the first half consisting of a song by Mr. L. Fagan, a recitation by Miss Beryl Joffe and a piano solo by Miss Helen Futeran; Mr. S. M. Levin rendered a musical monologue and a "cross-talk" was given by Messrs. C. Reitstein and L. Sohn. A popular song with a guitar accompaniment by "Mexican Mick" was followed by an interval.

In the second half, Mr. Selig Sacks provided a humorous item, Miss Frieda Fernandez danced, Messrs. L. Fagan, C. Reitstein, and "Mexican Mick" also performed again.

The programme was concluded with a performance of a one-act play, "Thread o' Scarlet," by J. J. Bell. The parts were taken by members of the Society and the play, well acted and well produced, proved a great success.

The proceeds of the concert are in aid of the Rainbow Fete.

Oneg Shabbos.

Despite the unfavourable weather the Oneg Shabbos last Saturday afternoon was attended by a representative gathering. Mr. I. Fine presided.

Mr. M. Natas delivered an instructive lecture on "Chassidism." He traced the history of Chassidism and dwelt upon the causes and origin of this mystic movement. The speaker then elucidated the essential elements of Chassidism and the significance of Baal Shem Tov.

Oratorical Contest.

On Saturday, 26th inst., at 8 p.m., a fixture in the Judean Central Council Oratorical Contest will take place between the C.T. Young Judeans and Wynberg Jewish Youth Circle in the Wynberg Synagogue Hall. All are welcome. Members are requested to meet under the clock at Cape Town Station at 7.30 p.m. sharp.

C.T. Hebrew Circle (Talmide Ezra).

On Sunday, 27th inst., at 8.30 p.m., a meeting of the above Society will be held in the Zionist Hall. Mrs. J. Mibashan will lecture on "The Period of Ezra and Nechemiah."

Meeting at Muizenberg.

On Sunday, August 27th, at 8.15 p.m., the Muizenberg Young Israel Society are holding a meeting in connection with the Chalutz Campaign of the South African Jewish Youth. The public is cordially invited to attend.

Woodstock Cultural Circle.

The monthly meeting of the Woodstock and Salt River Jewish Cultural Circle was held on Thursday, 17th inst., at the residence of Mr. and Mrs. P. Marks. There was a large gathering present.

Mr. Max Ben Arie spoke on "A Bi-National State." A long and interesting discussion followed in which many members participated. The meeting was presided over by Dr. C. Resnekov and a vote of thanks to the speaker was proposed by Mr. A. J. Basker.

Yiddish Play on Sunday Night.

A Yiddish play in six scenes, "Dos Yidische Hartz," is being staged on Sunday evening, 27th inst., at the Opera House. It has been produced by Mr. Jacob Levinsohn under the auspices of the Stellenbosch Young Israel Society and a large number of artists are included in its cast. From all accounts the play promises to be a great success and should draw large numbers to see it.

Sunday night's performance will be in aid of the Hospital Kosher Kitchen.

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