

## IN AND AROUND THE PENINSULA

### The Zionist Conversazione.

Mr. D. Getz, who acted as host at the Zionist Conversazione on Tuesday night, in his opening remarks stated that they had hoped to be able to welcome that evening a number of distinguished visitors at present in Cape Town. Among these were Mr. and Mrs. Jacob Gesundheit, who arrived from Palestine on Monday, Colonel J. H. Patterson, D.S.O., and Mr. Jacob Landau. Unfortunately, owing to the indisposition of Mr. Gesundheit who had been ordered by his physician to stay indoors, he and his wife were unable to be present; Colonel Patterson had also found it impossible to attend. But he was glad, said Mr. Getz, that Mr. Landau was with them, and would later in the evening address the large gathering which was present. Mr. Landau was the managing director of the Jewish Telegraphic Agency, a body which had rendered tremendous services to the Jewish press throughout the world, and of which he was the founder.

Before calling on Miss Gitlin to read the news, Mr. Getz read letters of apology for their inattendance from Mr. Gesundheit and from the Mayor, Mr. Gradner.

Mr. Landau spoke on the present position of Jewry. Before doing so, however, he paid a tribute to South African Jewry who, he said, had always made it a pleasure for the J.T.A. to report on conditions in this country. South African Jewry had to their credit constructive achievements in regard to the building up of Palestine. They showed an intense interest in Eretz Israel and in the Jewish National movement generally. In this connection he referred to the Zionist Hall. He had been in many cities but he had never seen such a magnificent Zionist building. The community here had set an example which he trusted would be followed by many others.

In dealing with the Jewish position to-day, Mr. Landau drew attention first of all to Germany. About a year ago Hitler, when the question of the Jewish problem was raised, had behaved like a maniac. Several who had in interviews with him attempted to draw him out on the subject had found this to be true.

Last summer, said Mr. Landau, he had interviewed any number of Jewish leaders in Germany and had found them all unanimous in the opinion that there was no improvement in the Jewish position in Germany nor that any improvement could be expected even if the Hitler regime were to break down. He emphasised this, said Mr. Landau, not because he shared this pessimistic viewpoint but because it was of tremendous importance to the Jewish community everywhere. He would not have taken the same point of view if the events in Germany had taken place in Poland. In Germany we were only one per cent. of

the population, and we had to ask ourselves what would become of us when we were more than one per cent., if, as this small percentage, we were a serious problem. In Poland we might have consoled ourselves by saying there were too many Jews, but we could not say the same of Germany where we were face to face with the *real* Jewish problem.

What had happened in Germany was important for two other reasons. The first was that German Jewry had assimilated as had no other Jewish community in the world. Yet in no other country had anti-Semitism developed to such a terrific degree as in Germany. The truth was that the assimilated Jew acquired economic power much more easily than others, and this economic power caused the envy on which anti-Semitism was largely based. Germany had exploded the belief that assimilation was a solution to the Jewish problem.

The second reason was that Germany was not a half-civilised country—she was regarded as one of the most civilised countries in the world. For this reason it had been considered impossible that a demagogue like Hitler could ever become leader of Germany. Mr. Landau referred to an interview he had had before the Hitler regime with Herr Ullstein, a director in one of Germany's biggest publishing houses. It had been this gentleman's conviction that anti-Semitism really played no important part in German affairs. It was a subject that could be easily dispensed with. He did not dream that one day his own business might suffer on account of anti-Semitism.

One of the greatest weaknesses in Germany was the fact that there was no Jewish aristocracy. In England there were powerful Jews who never failed to emphasise that they were Jews. But in Germany most of them drifted away from their people and weakened the Jewish position to a tremendous extent.

At the same time Hitler had done more for Judaism than hundreds of Rabbis and Zionist agitators together. Jewish consciousness had become intensified and there was a new Jewish solidarity. In Berlin there was a new interest in Jewish cultural activity. The circulation of a Zionist paper like the "Judische Randschau" had increased till it was to-day some 40,000. Many in Germany wanted to go to Palestine.

The position in the Jewish world to-day cried out for unity. Of Germany he had spoken. In Poland the position was even more precarious; in Austria the situation was menacing; in Roumania we could expect further anti-Semitic sentiment, and so on. At such a moment we Jews required nothing so much as unity.

Referring to Palestine, Mr. Landau touched on the question of absorptive capacity. In New York, he said, there were

to-day two million Jews, the larger part of whom had entered the country within the last forty years. If forty years ago experts and High Commissioners had been asked if there was room for this number in New York they would have said the idea was preposterous. No one could figure out what Jewish resourcefulness, Jewish brains and Jewish energy could do.

Last summer, concluded Mr. Landau, he had had an interview with President Masaryk of Czecho Slovakia who had given him a most reassuring statement. "Do tell your people," he said, "not to despair. Go on building Palestine and refute the accusation that you have no state-building power, show that you are one of the greatest constructive forces which the world possesses."

During the course of the evening musical items were rendered by Miss Kesler who gave a pianoforte solo, and Miss H. Oblowitz who recited.

### Brith Trumpeldor.

The first youth Oneg Shabbos organised by the Woodstock Brith Trumpeldor was held last Saturday at the Woodstock Talmud Torah Hall. A Mincha service was conducted in the Synagogue.

Mr. Gordon, Chairman of the Woodstock and Salt River Hebrew Congregation, presided over an exceptionally large gathering composed of Betarim and their parents and many friends and sympathisers of the Betar.

During the course of the afternoon Misses Milner and Denclowitz and Mrs. Lipshitz rendered several Hebrew and Yiddish songs. A Palestinian spirit prevailed throughout the afternoon.

Miss J. Bercowitz, leader of the Woodstock Betar, welcomed the guests on behalf of her Mifkadah. Rev. Kassel also made an appeal to the children and parents.

After Dr. H. W. Altschul delivered an address a very enjoyable afternoon was concluded by the singing of Hatikvah.

The Cape Town Betar are holding a dance in aid of the Keren Tel-Chai Fund on Wednesday, 19th September, at the Hotel Edward. The committee are busy with the arrangements for the affair which promises to be a great success. Tickets can be obtained from members of the Society or from the Secretary, P.O. Box 1960, Cape Town.

### Cape Town Maccabee Organisation.

The bi-annual general meeting takes place in the Zionist Minor Hall on Tuesday, the 21st instant, at 8.15 p.m. All members are requested to attend.

Dr. A. Rosenfeld was an interested spectator at a soccer match played over the week-end between Maccabee and Woolworths. Maccabee won by 7 goals to 1.

While Dr. Rosenfeld was in Cape Town last week, he was entertained by the Executive, who are now pushing forward the preparations for his campaign for funds for the second Maccabiah to be held at Tel-Aviv in April, 1935, in anticipation of his return from Johannesburg in about five or six weeks' time.

**Oneg Shabbos.**

"A. D. Gordon, the Apostle of Youth" was the subject of an interesting lecture given by Mr. S. Futeran at the Oneg Shabbos last Saturday.

After giving a biographical account of A. D. Gordon, Mr. Futeran dwelt largely on his influence on Modern Palestine. He was one of the outstanding philosophers of our generation, he said.

Mr. Futeran skilfully analysed Gordon's theory of raising the functions of labour to the highest ethical standards.

According to Gordon the salvation of humanity lay in a closer approach to nature and the satisfaction that lay in creative work.

During the course of the afternoon Mr. Padowich introduced Dr. Alexander Rosenfeld, who suitably responded in Hebrew. Cantor Konvisser rendered several folk songs which were greatly appreciated.

Mr. I. Fine presided.

**Bialik Memorial Meeting at Woodstock.**

Under the auspices of the Woodstock and Salt River Jewish Cultural Circle a memorial meeting for the late Chaim Nachman Bialik was held on Thursday night last at the Talmud Torah Hall, Woodstock. There was a large attendance.

Dr. C. Resnekov, the Chairman, presided and in his opening remarks said that Bialik had been thinking of coming to South Africa. He had known well and appreciated the financial contributions of local Jewry towards the upbuilding of Eretz Israel and had wanted them to contribute in an equal measure to the spiritual development.

But unfortunately we would never be able to receive him here and he would not be able to realise the wishes and ideals to which he had devoted his life.

Rabbi S. Gravitzy said it was very difficult to assess the greatness of Bialik. He spoke of Bialik as one who had been loved and respected by the whole Jewish people irrespective of party.

Mr. B. Padowich spoke on the life and work of Bialik. Bialik, he said, saw the intrinsic beauty and strength of our culture and traditions. It was therefore natural that we looked upon him as our national poet. Bialik inspired many to respect, and love our history, language and traditions and also to answer the call of our people. He was the poet of joy and sorrow and touched on all aspects of Jewish life. The whole of the Jewish people were therefore his orphans. His name would remain dear to us and his work would be continued.

The Hasokrah was impressively intoned by Rev. S. Kassel.

**Charity Concert at Woodstock.**

The concert held last Sunday night was an unprecedented success.

It is difficult to single out any particular item, but the beautiful rendering of Jewish and English songs by Miss Edith Richman, and the poem "On the Massacre," by Bialik, powerfully delivered by Miss Rae Gross, require special mention.

"Just a Homely Quarrel," an original one-act play by Morrie Lazarow was very ably acted by Miss T. Ruskin, Miss P. Lazarow, Mr. M. Weintraub and by the author himself. A very amusing sketch, "The Result," with only two characters, taken by Messrs. N. Kopelowitz and A. Kapelus, received generous applause.

"The First Chalutz," a sketch in four scenes, acted by Messrs. A. Kapelus, M.

Weintraub, D. Meyerowitz, G. Baigel, M. Lazarow and L. Meyerowitz was the outstanding feature of the evening's entertainment.

The Snappy Boys, pupils of the Betty Brown Studio, in Tap Dancing, and the Man of Mystery were just a few of the many varied items of the long and excellent programme arranged by the Woodstock and Salt River Junior Zionist Society. The stage settings and arrangements, too, were very well carried out, considering the absence of the necessary material so essential for any stage.

**B.Z.A. Branch at Sea Point.**

A meeting of the Green and Sea Point Branch of the Bnoth Zion Association will take place at the residence of Mrs. L. Segal, "Clonbrook," Avenue Disandt, Sea Point, on Tuesday, 21st August, at 3.15 p.m. The speaker will be Dr. C. Resnekov. All are welcome.

**S.J.A.**

A meeting of the above Association took place on Tuesday night at Groote Schuur. Mr. S. N. Herman was in the chair.

Adv. H. M. Bloch, the speaker, delivered a lecture entitled "Frozen and Chosen." He gave a vivid description of the Jewish position to-day, expressing his opinion as to various facets of it and discussing at some length the future of Jewry.

A short discussion followed after which Mr. J. Friedman proposed a vote of thanks on behalf of the Society.

**Boys' Own Zionist Society.**

A meeting of the Boys' Own Zionist Society took place on Friday night last at Mrs. Tarshish's residence.

The meeting took the form of a living newspaper.

The news was read by Chaver Levine, and the editorial by Chaver Caplan, the Chairman, followed by "imaginary wires" by Chaver Schwartz.

Interesting articles on the "J.N.F.," "Moses Mendelsohn," "Leo Motzkin" and the "Types of Colonies in Palestine" by Chaverim Benson, Kaganson, Hurwitz and Rodsell respectively, were read.

Two Hebrew lectures on "The Benefits of being a member of a Zionist Society like B.O.Z.S." and "Antiochus and his cruel deeds" by Chaverim Hurwitz and Caplan, respectively, were features of the evening.

**Siyum Hatorah at Wynberg.**

A Siyum Hatorah Ceremony and Banquet took place in the Masonic Hall, Wynberg, on the 7th inst., when the local Chevrah Mishnayis Society made a presentation of a new Sefer Torah to the Synagogue.

Under a beautifully decorated canopy the Sefer Torah was carried amidst great rejoicing to the Shool, where it was accepted by Mr. P. Maisel, the President of the Congregation, on behalf of the committee.

The procession of about 150 guests then returned to the magnificently laid tables and enjoyed themselves till a late hour.

Speeches were delivered during the evening by the Gabai of the Chevrah Mishnayes, Mr. M. Goldsmith, and by Messrs. P. Maisel, S. M. Kaplan, J. Freedman, A. Anziska and Rabbi Schwartz, to which Rev. Ch. Gordon suitably responded on behalf of the Society.

The pleasant function was concluded with several beautiful cantations rendered by Oberkantor M. Katzin.

**Union of Jewish Women.**

The monthly meeting of the Union of Jewish Women took place at the Zionist Hall on Tuesday afternoon. Mrs. B. Berzowski was in the chair, and, in spite of the inclement weather, presided over a representative gathering.

Amongst other important items, a most informative paper on various aspects of the Educational Conference was read by Mrs. R. Friedlander, and a discussion followed. In addition to this, Mr. H. V. Meyerowitz's address on art, delivered in his usual excellent style, was greatly appreciated by all those present. A vote of thanks was proposed by Mrs. L. Burman, and the meeting then adjourned.

**C.T. Jewish Girls' Association.**

On Monday night the Cape Town Jewish Girls' Association staged two one-act plays and gave a physical culture display.

Miss Hannah Oblowitz, who instructs the members in elocution and dramatic art, deserves to be congratulated on the production of the plays. The cast, consisting of members of the Association, was as follows: Misses F. Dickman and F. Karoo in "A Glimpse into Home Life," and the Misses J. Charnass, S. and D. Lipshitz, S. Hurwitz, F. Dickman, B. Friedgood, L. Symons and Dirmeik in "Play-goers."

The physical culture display was given by the Misses F. Ash, D. Cohen, B. Martin, S. Katzen, E. Matrin and A. Tepper. They were instructed by Miss Gertie Gerber who conducts the physical culture class of the Association.

A delightful evening was spent by members and their guests.

**In Brief.**

Colonel J. H. Patterson, D.S.O., who was commander of the Jewish Legion in Palestine during the Great War, arrived in Cape Town during the week-end from Johannesburg.

Mr. Jacob Landau, Managing Director of the Jewish Telegraphic Agency, arrived in Cape Town from Johannesburg on Tuesday evening.

Dr. E. Bernstein, the Headmaster of the Jews' Free School in London, who has been on a visit to South Africa, left on Friday last by the "Windsor Castle."

Mrs. Hirsch Hillman, accompanied by her daughter, is leaving to-day by the "Warwick Castle" on a trip to Europe.

Dr. C. Kaufman and Mr. B. Nell, who have been on a holiday trip up the Coast, returned to Cape Town on Monday.

Mrs. G. Kagan returned to Cape Town last week from a trip to Europe and Palestine.

Benzion (Bennie), second son of Mr. and Mrs. A. Aronson, will read a portion of the Law at the Great Synagogue, Gardens, to-morrow, 18th inst. "At Home," Sunday, 19th inst., from 3 to 6 p.m., at "Ben-Aaron House," Buxton Avenue, Oranjezicht. Relatives and friends cordially invited. No cards.

Mrs. M. Smollan returned this week from a holiday trip to Durban and Johannesburg.

Rabbi Joseph Kahane man arrives in Cape Town to-day from Johannesburg.