

IN AND AROUND THE PENINSULA

The Zionist Conversazione.

Dr. A. Birnbaum was the speaker at the Conversazione held at the Zionist Hall on Tuesday evening. The subject of the lecture was "Spiritual Ideas among the Jews at the end of the 19th Century," and Dr. Birnbaum dealt with it in a very interesting and able manner.

Two essentials, said Dr. Birnbaum, go to make up every nation—the material welfare of each individual and the culture of the nation, and therefore there are material and spiritual leaders. This duplicity is specially noticeable in a nation that lives an abnormal life, like the Jews. While the Jews lived in the Ghetto they could live their own cultural and spiritual life, but by the end of the 18th century the spiritual side began to be sacrificed, and assimilation set in. The assimilators were of two types—those who like Mendelssohn wanted to assimilate with the people in whose midst they lived, and those like Karl Marx who wanted all other nations to become cosmopolitan. Had assimilation proved a success, the problem of each and every Jew would have been solved, but not that of the Jewish nation. But it failed. The nations in whose midst we lived opposed this and suspected us.

Peretz Smolenskin was the first who tried to prove that we are a peculiar nation who need no state or language. According to him we are a spiritual nation and need only study our culture. The individual problem does not interfere with the existence of the nation. These ideas were developed by Achad Ha'am. Dubnow was also a follower of Smolenskin. Judaism survived, he thought, because always in one country the Jews had autonomy. Therefore we had only to fight for autonomy because it would give us the possibility of manifesting our spirit. The language should be Yiddish as it was absorbed in the spirit of the people.

Another group which considered Dubnow as leader was the "Bund." They went further and wanted to break the chain binding us to Moses. They added Socialism to the ideas of Dubnow. Then came Herzl who wanted a solution of the problem for each individual Jew. His followers—the Zionists—realised that this was a Utopia—that Palestine could not solve this problem, and therefore they combined the ideas of Herzl with those of Achad Ha'am. Synthetic nationalism looks for the solution of the national problem and of that of each and every Jew. The problem of the Jews in the Diaspora is as important as that of those in Palestine.

Dr. Birnbaum concluded by stating that the position of Hebrew education in this country, although showing some improvement, was far from satisfactory, and that it was the duty of Zionists to keep up Judaism in the Diaspora and to realise that they must devote as much time and money

to their own country for cultural purposes, as for Palestine.

A discussion followed in which Messrs. B. Mirvish, C. Resnekov, D. Getz and M. Wolozinsky took part.

Dr. S. E. Kark acted as host, and the news-sheet was read by Mrs. I. M. Hurwitz. Miss R. Kantor rendered a pianoforte solo.

Zionist Socialist Party.

Two very successful functions recently took place under the auspices of the above Party. On Thursday, 23rd inst., a Chaverim meeting was held. Mr. B. Pado-wich delivered an address dealing with the present situation in Zionism and the tasks of the Labour wing. A lively discussion followed in which many present took part.

On Sunday, 26th inst., a very successful concert took place.

The programme consisted of various musical, dancing and dramatic items, which were ably rendered.

Those who participated were Miss R. Kessel (piano solo), Misses R. Trakman and A. Radowsky (recitations), Miss Pearl Lazarus and her Pupils (exhibition dances), Mr. H. Bloom (songs), Mr. M. Kreitzer (violin solo), Mr. G. Laden (humorous reading) and Miss R. Reading, Messrs. P. Dobowitz and A. Natas (sketch by Sholom Aleichem).

A Bialik Evening.

Under the auspices of the Zionist Socialist Party a Bialik evening will be held on Sunday, 2nd September, at 8.15 p.m. in the Zionist Hall.

Mr. M. Natas will deliver a lecture in Yiddish on the "Life and Work of Ch. N. Bialik." All are welcome.

Consecration of Sea Point Synagogue.

It will be of interest to many to learn that the Sea Point Synagogue will be officially opened on Sunday, 2nd inst., at 3 p.m. Rev. A. P. Bender will consecrate the building.

A cordial invitation is extended by the committee to all desirous of attending. Individual invitations are not being issued.

Jewish Girls' Association.

Members of the Cape Town Jewish Girls' Association are extremely grateful to Dr. Louis Herrman for a most interesting and instructive lecture on "Early Jewish Settlers in South Africa," delivered to them on Monday evening.

In the absence of the President, Mrs. Weinreich, Miss F. Charnass, Vice-President, took the chair. A vote of thanks was proposed by Miss Minnie Cohen, Secretary of the Association.

Meeting at Woodstock.

The monthly meeting of the Woodstock and Salt River Jewish Cultural Circle will be held at the residence of Mr. and Mrs. M. N. Marks, "Rosdene," Milner Road, Woodstock, on Tuesday, September 4th, at 8 p.m.

Mr. M. Wolozinsky will speak on "Jewish Festivals and their significance."

Members and friends are kindly invited to attend.

Boys' Own Zionist Society.

A meeting of the Boys' Own Zionist Society was held at Mrs. Tarshish's residence on Saturday last.

Due to the absence of the Chairman, Chaver Kaganson, the Vice-Chairman, presided.

The news was read by Chaver Sacks.

Chaver Berret spoke on the late Chaim Nachman Bialik. A discussion afterwards took place on the subject: "Whether Palestine should ultimately become a spiritual or Political Centre."

Union of Jewish Women.

The next meeting of the Union of Jewish Women will take place in the Zionist Hall on Thursday, 6th September, at 3.15 p.m. Miss R. Van Gelderen will speak on "The Ultimate Result of the Educational Conference."

A Palestinian Visitor.

There arrived in Cape Town on Monday, by the "Winchester Castle," Mr. A. I. Rappaport, a well-known colonist of Eretz Israel, who is farming at Kfar Saba.

Mr. Rappaport has come to South Africa on private business, but he will be pleased during his short stay here to give information and advice to those interested in settling in Palestine. His address is 12, Kloof Street, Cape Town. (Telephone 2-0876).

J.N.F. Activities at Woodstock.

Members of the Woodstock and Salt River Junior Zionist Society are requested to note the following functions arranged for J.N.F. week:—

Thursday, 30th August.—Mass meeting in Zionist Hall.

Saturday, 1st September.—Oneg Shabbos in Talmud Torah Hall, Woodstock.

Sunday, 2nd September.—Mystery Hike and Mock Trial followed by Hobo dance in the evening.

Monday, 3rd September.—Games evening and treasure hunt.

Tuesday, 4th September.—Lantern slide lecture at the residence of Mr. A. J. Basker, 51, Roodebloem Road, Woodstock.

Wednesday, 5th September.—Dr. Hurwitz and Mr. C. K. Friedlander will speak in the Talmud Torah Hall, at 8.15.

Thursday, 6th September.—Social and dance at the residence of Miss T. Ruskin, 21, Milner Road, Woodstock.

Bnoth Zion Meeting at Woodstock.

A meeting of the Woodstock and Salt River branch of the Bnoth Zion Association took place on Thursday last at the residence of Dr. and Mrs. C. Resnekov. There was a large gathering present over whom Mrs. S. Marks presided.

The speaker was Mrs. J. Mibashan who chose as her subject "Jewish History." It was necessary for us, she said, in order to understand the times in which we were living and the tidal wave of persecution which threatened to destroy us, to know our own history. She then proceeded to deal with certain aspects of Jewish history, pointing out that the Jewish civilisation had remained whilst others such as the Egyptian, Babylonian, Greek and Roman had passed. The Jews had always fought against tremendous odds, but had managed to produce some of the greatest characters in world history, as well as to contribute in an exceedingly valuable measure to world thought.

After the lecture nominations were called for the position of Vice-Chairlady. Mrs. B. Bloch was elected to this position and Miss P. Furman was elected Hon. Secretary.

After tea had been served the news-sheet was read by Mrs. S. Marks. The meeting closed with a vote of thanks to Mrs. Mibashan, proposed by Mrs. B. Bloch and seconded by Mrs. Marks, who also tendered the thanks of all to Mrs. Resnekov for her kind hospitality.

Bnoth Zion Meeting at Tamboers Kloof.

An experiment was tried by the Tamboers Kloof branch of the Bnoth Zion in having an evening meeting to enable the all-day workers to attend.

There were close on fifty ladies present at the social evening held at the residence of Mrs. A. Salber on Monday night. After the news-sheet had been read by Miss Rabkin, a musical programme was carried out. A pianoforte solo by Miss Berks, a song by Mrs. Taubes, accompanied by Miss and Master Berks, a violin solo by Miss Lazarus, gave the audience great pleasure.

Mrs. Ch. Maissel then read a most instructive paper on "The Youth Movements in South Africa." She mentioned the Habonim, the Jewish Youth Council, the Maccabee, the Herzlia, Chalutz Farm, the Kindergartens, showing what each movement was accomplishing, and pleaded for greater interest on the part of parents and other adults.

Mrs. Kleinman presided, and moved a vote of thanks to the hostess, the artists and speakers.

C.T. Maccabee Organisation.

The programme for the J.N.F. week which commenced last night, is as follows:—

Sunday, 2nd. September.—Table tennis knock-out tournament at Roeland Street Synagogue Hall, 8 p.m. Entry fee 6d. A prize will be awarded to the winner. Non-members may also enter.

Tuesday, 4th September. — Cultural meeting, 8.15. Meet at Zionist Hall.

Wednesday, 5th September. — "At Home" at the Zionist Miner Hall. 8.15 p.m.

Thursday, 6th September.—Surprise Party. Meet at Zionist Hall, 7.45 p.m.

Bnoth Zion at Muizenberg.

A meeting of the Muizenberg branch of the Bnoth Zion Association will be held at the Balmoral Hotel on Tuesday, September 4th, at 3.30 p.m.

An address will be delivered by Mr. M. Comay.

Bequests to Charity.

The Cape Jewish Orphanage, the Hebrew Helping Hand Association and the Cape Jewish Aged Home will each benefit to the extent of £50 as a result of a bequest by the late Mr. D. Gordon.

Mr. Gordon, it will be remembered, died about a fortnight ago. He always manifested a keen interest in communal affairs.

Students' Jewish Association.

Mr. Jacob Landau delivered an address at the University, Rondebosch, on Tuesday evening, 28th August. Mr. S. N. Herman was in the chair.

Mr. Landau gave an interesting account of his extensive observations of the Jewish position generally, stressing the significance of the German situation to world Jewry. He specially emphasised the important role played by students in Europe and exhorted his listeners to accept the responsibility that fell to them.

Mr. Landau replied to innumerable questions put to him by members of the audience. A vote of thanks was proposed by Mr. S. M. Levin.

Conversazione at Muizenberg.

About two hundred people attended the first conversazione which was held at Muizenberg on Sunday evening, August 26th, under the combined auspices of the local Zionist Society, Bnoth Zion, Jewish Club and Young Israel Society, at the Talmud Torah Hall.

Mr. D. L. Davidowitz presided and extended a hearty welcome to those present. The guest of the evening was Dr. H. W. Altschul who, at the outset, congratulated the local bodies on their enterprise in arranging such a gathering. He then went on with his main subject, describing the position of world Jewry and attempting to picture what Jewish conditions would be five years' hence.

He considered that Polish Jewry would reflect the Jewish character, that Zionism would have a slight revival in Russia, although tempered with communism, and that anti-Semitism would increase greatly in South Africa. The only optimistic outlook was in Palestine where, although he expected further conflict with the Arabs, he anticipated that much political progress would be made.

After refreshments were served, some discussion took place to which Dr. Altschul responded. During the evening, Mr. M. Canin rendered a violin solo, Master Barney Fisher sang, accompanied by Cantor Katzin, while Hebrew songs were indulged in by members of the Young Israel Society. The meeting concluded with Hatikvah.

Owing to the success of this function, there will probably be a regular series of conversaciones in the future.

In Brief.

Mr. M. Sonnenberg, M.P.C., and Mrs. Sonnenberg, accompanied by their daughter, Mrs. H. L. Stern, returned to South Africa on Monday by the "Winchester Castle" from a trip to Europe.

Mr. and Mrs. J. Weinreich are being congratulated on the birth of a daughter.

Mr. and Mrs. E. Silverman, of Saldanha, returned on Monday from a visit to Palestine and the Continent.

Rev. M. J. Cohen, who recently met with a serious accident, is now making satisfactory progress.

The many friends of Mr. Isaac Ochberg, who is at present in New York, will be glad to learn that he has recovered from the operation he was recently compelled to undergo for appendicitis.

Mrs. L. Policansky returned to Cape Town on Monday from Johannesburg.

Mrs. Betty Susman, of Johannesburg, is at present in the Cape on a visit to her parents, Mr. and Mrs. M. Sonnenberg.

Adv. and Mrs. Dave Cohen, of Kimberley, paid a brief visit to Cape Town last week. They left on Wednesday afternoon, accompanied by Miss J. Cohen.

Adv. Maggie Oblowitz left on Wednesday evening for Upington.

WOODSTOCK & SALT RIVER SYNAGOGUE & TALMUD

TORAH HALL.

Seating accommodation for the High Festivals may be obtained at above hall every Sunday from 11 a.m. to 12.45 noon.

Admittance to Hall will be strictly on production of card only.

Remember to reserve your seats early.

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BARMITZVAH.

TOCKAR.—Hyman, eldest son of Mr. and Mrs. A. Tockar, Main Road, Mowbray, will read a portion of the Law and Mafzir at the Mowbray and Observatory Synagogue on Saturday, September 1st. Reception at the Mowbray Town Hall from 7.30 p.m. to 12 midnight.