

IN AND AROUND THE PENINSULA

Bnoth Zion Association.

At the last "At Home" held at the Zionist Hall on 29th October, Mr. P. M. Clouts spoke on the "Invasions of Palestine." He traced the history of the Jews throughout the Biblical period, the Middle Ages and modern times, emphasising their connection with their Homeland. Wherever the Near East was historically important Palestine had been important. When the Near East was the cradle of Western civilisation, Palestine was the central land of interest. Later on the Mediterranean became the busy ocean and Palestine loomed large. The trade routes from the East to Europe passed through Palestine. Then the centre of gravity moved to Europe and the Far East become relatively unimportant until Napoleon's time. To-day Palestine is an important strategic base, and in proportion to its size, is assuming an enormous position in the world of politics.

Mrs. Movsovic, the President, welcomed to the meeting Mrs. Machanick, who was an ex-President of the Pretoria Women's Zionist League. Miss Maggie Oblowitz read extracts from a Council meeting of the Wizo and spoke of the importance of the work done by the women in Eretz Israel in establishing a Council of its own.

Miss Rachel Rabinowitz rendered a piano solo. Mrs. M. Epstein proposed a hearty vote of thanks to the speakers and the artist.

A combined "At Home" of the Oranjezicht, Tamboers Kloof, Gardens Branches took place at the Zionist Hall on Tuesday night.

Mr. Laden's humorous sketches were, as always, very much appreciated. Miss Rabinowitz rendered a pianoforte solo and Mr. Rabinowitz sang.

Dr. Altschul exhibited a series of lantern slides depicting women's work in the up-building of Eretz Israel, which proved both interesting and instructive and was much appreciated by all.

Mrs. Kanty proposed a vote of thanks to Dr. Altschul and the artists.

The competition organised by the Gardens Branch in aid of the Bnoth Zion Hebrew Kindergartens was won by Mrs. A. Ospovat, Virginia Avenue.

Union of Jewish Women.

A meeting of the Union of Jewish Women took place on Tuesday afternoon at the Zionist Hall. Mrs. Lewis presided.

Mrs. F. Sloman gave a comprehensive report on the last Congress of the Union of Jewish Women held in Johannesburg. Her remarks were supplemented by Mrs. Lewis, Mrs. Clouts and Mrs. Epstein.

Dr. Syngalowski gave a very interesting address on the "Economic Position of the Jewish Woman."

The Jewish woman, he said, was the weakest part of an economically unhealthy people, and emancipation for her meant essentially economic self-defence and with it economic relief for the people. In ancient times, the Jewish woman in addition to having all the virtues usually associated with the "Jewish mother," bore the brunt of earning

a living. She often replaced the man altogether and took upon her shoulders the whole economic burden, showing remarkable strength and capability.

Gradually the Jewish woman began to demolish the fence that stood between her and the outer world from which her husband in the Synagogue was excluded. In that way there finally came the recognition that a woman must have secular education. It was by way of her mundane economic activity that she once more discovered the Tree of Knowledge and found access to the cultural world around. While there were always individual women who rose to considerable heights of mental attainment, the first real change occurred at the beginning of the sixteenth century with the appearance of the "Ivri Taitch," written for the Jewish woman. Originally it was purely religious; then it became also secular. This meant a new epoch in the history of the Jewish woman; the development of literature in Yiddish and other factors affected her outlook and economic position.

In the course of the nineteenth century, and especially the latter half, great changes took place in the economic life of the Jews and with them the economic role of the woman lost much of its importance since man more and more took the burden upon himself. This led to the economic dependence of the woman on the man, and to a large extent intensified the economic crisis amongst East European Jewry. The Jewish woman was not mentally prepared for modern business methods and felt strongly the disgrace of "manual" work. The number of Jewish dressmakers and factory-girls never reached that of the former women shopkeepers, traders and market dealers. Tools, except for the needle, were considered man's special prerogative. In short, in the process of going over from trading to trades, the Jewish woman remained behind the march of the times.

To-day the demand of the Jewish woman in all East European countries for work in the workshop and field was becoming ever greater. Unfortunately the prevailing economic inactivity could not disappear of its own accord. For that enlightenment and organised technical and material aid was required and it was here that the Ort did such great work in training the Jewish woman in the trade schools and workshops.

Mrs. A. Lieberman proposed a vote of thanks to Dr. Syngalowski.

Brith Trumpeldor.

Gdud Tel Hai held a successful Mock Trial on Wednesday, 4th November. The acting was exceptionally good, and a large audience was present. The thanks of the organisers are due to all concerned for their co-operation.

Gdud Yehuda held its weekly meeting on Thursday, 5th November. Mefaked B. Krawchuk delivered a lecture on "Max Nordau." He pointed out that Nordau had disagreed entirely with the policy of the official Zionist Organisation since the Balfour Declaration.

Gdud Benjamin held a successful meeting on Saturday, 7th November, under the chair-

manship of Mefaked B. Zuck. The official opening of the Gdud will take place on Saturday, 14th November.

Owing to the increase of Betar membership in the past few weeks, the Mifkadah has decided to add another Gdud to the Cape Town Ken. The inaugural meeting will be held within the next two weeks.

Applications for participation in the great annual Betar Camp are coming in rapidly. All interested should write immediately to the Secretary, Ken Betar, P.O. Box 1960, Cape Town, for further details.

A few copies of "The Ideology of Betar" by Vladimir Jabotinsky are still in hand. A copy will be sent for 7d., post free, on application to the above address.

Kowno Hebrew Friendly Society.

An interesting lecture was given by the Rev. H. Michelson on "The Earliest Days in South African History, and the part played by the Jews in that period."

Referring to the statement made by Herodotus (the Grecian historian who lived 500 B.C.) that Pharaoh Necho, King of Egypt, had sent a fleet manned by Phoenicians to travel round Africa, the lecturer proved that it is a mistaken conclusion that that ancient fleet was led by Phoenicians. From several places in the Bible he showed that the expedition was of a political and military nature, and not a commercial venture as it is claimed by Professor Holland-Rose, Lecturer of Marine History at the Cambridge University, and that it was led by the fleet of Judah.

The chief aim was to gain contact with the remnants of the ten lost tribes, as well as with the merchant Jewish colonies which had been established ever since the days of King Solomon. Such an alliance would probably have checked the power and onslaught of Babylon which was the dread of all the nations. The expedition is supposed to have taken place 610 B.C. and definitely corresponds with the time of the death of King Josiah at Megiddo, when Judah came under Egypt.

Numerous other interesting points leading up to the time of Spain and Portugal were also mentioned which threw an entirely new light on the subject.

The Rev. Nathan Cohen was in the chair. Mr. M. Kuperman proposed a vote of thanks.

Zionist Conversazione.

The next fortnightly Conversazione will take place at the Zionist Hall on Tuesday, 17th November, at 8.15 p.m.

Mr. Myer Joffe will lecture on "Individualism and Judaism." All welcome.

Omission.

The name of Mrs. S. Wendel, 10s. 6d., was inadvertently omitted from the J.N.F. Box Collection Lists published last week.

Oneg Shabbos at Claremont.

Rabbi A. R. Abrahamson will lecture on "The Nation's Struggles and its Remedy," to-morrow (Saturday) at 4 p.m., at the Talmud Torah Hall, Grove Avenue, Claremont.

(Continued on Page 824).

WILL IT BE MUIZENBERG OR SEA POINT THIS SEASON?

Why not Sea Point, with its manifold attractions, AND it's one-third less cost, at

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Plant Trees in the Dizengoff
Forest—House-to-House Collec-
tion, Sunday, November 15th.

OUR CHILDREN'S CIRCLE

Conducted by **COUSIN HELEN.**

Our Motto:

"Do not unto others, what you would not have others do unto you."

"A little child shall lead them."—Isaiah xi., 6.

My Dear Little Cousins,

Many amusing stories are told about the "wise" men of the legendary city of Helm, and this week I shall tell you a few of them. The following legend is told with regard to the origin of the town:—

In Heaven's nurseries there is an angel who is entrusted with the care and distribution of all newly-born souls. One day the Holy On sent this angel to scatter two bags filled with souls in all parts of the earth. One bag contained the souls of wise men; the other, the souls of fools. So the angel flew over the face of the earth and scattered the souls in equal measure; first, a handful of the wise souls, then a handful of the others. Throughout the world, therefore there were an equal number of wise men and fools.

When the angel was passing over that district upon which was later built the renowned city of Helm, he met with a mishap. His huge wings were caught in a very high mountain covered with trees and brush. As he attempted to loosen himself he fell and the bagful of wise souls fell out. In the course of time these souls became men. And they said:—

"Come, let us build ourselves a city, and let us call it Helm." That is the name of the city to-day and those pioneer builders were the ancestors of all the Helmites, famed for their wisdom throughout the world.

How They Built Their Homes.

The Helmites began the task of building their city. Off they went to the forest to cut down trees for wood. They climbed the mountain on which the forest stood, cut down a number of trees and sawed them into beams. Now they had to get the beams to the bottom of the mountain. The beams were thick and long and heavy; ten men were required to carry one beam from the top of the mountain to the plain below. They worked for some months.

During the third month a Lithuanian Jew passed by the mountain and saw the Helmites carrying the beams on their backs to the bottom of the mountain. He said to them: "Why do you work so hard to get the beams down to the plain? It would be easier simply to roll down the beams and they will themselves reach the plain below."

The Helmites held a meeting to discuss this advice; they deliberated seven days and

seven night and made two important decisions; first, that there must be wise men also among the Lithuanian Jews; secondly, that they would follow the advice of this clever fellow. For, why, after all, should they labour so hard to carry the beams on their shoulders when it was possible to get them to the bottom of the mountain with a mere kick of the foot?

They immediately went to the plain, took all those beams which they had brought down, carried them straightway to the top of the mountain, and then rolled them down with a mere kick of the foot.

How Large Should a Cemetery Be?

After the Helmites had completed their houses, they began to consider the problem of a cemetery. There was some suitable land on the outskirts of the city, but they did not know exactly how large the cemetery should be. They didn't want it to be too large or too small. No, it must be exactly right.

They held a meeting for several days and discussed and argued the problem. Finally they reached a decision: let the whole community—men, women and children—leave the city and gather on the chosen site. Let every person lie down next to his neighbour row by row, according to one's station and lineage; the most honoured in the best part of the site, the common people in the less desirable parts, the women in separate rows, and the children in the corner. Then a fence should be built all round. This they did. So the cemetery of Helm was neither too large nor too small but exactly the right size.

Correspondence.

Archie Bloch.—Thank you very much for your letter. I hope you will do well in the exams and that the concert will be a success.

Abie Goldenbaum.—Many thanks for your letter. I hope you will do well in the examinations. Please write again soon.

Joyce Volks.—Thank you very much for your letter. Best of luck for the examinations. I hope the Hebrew concert will be a success. Congratulations on your sister's wedding.

Zorah Brand.—Thank you very much for your letter. I hope you will enjoy your holiday at Paarl. Please write again soon.

Your loving,

COUSIN HELEN.

In Memory of the late Meir Dizengoff—plant trees in the Dizengoff Forest.

IN AND AROUND THE PENINSULA

(Continued from page 819).

Green and Sea Point Hebrew Congregation.

The Induction Ceremony of Rev. I. H. Levine as Minister will take place at the Synagogue on Sunday, 15th November, 1936, at 5.30 p.m.

Rev. A. P. Bender, M.A., will perform the ceremony.

Oneg Shabbos at Woodstock.

Oneg Shabbos under the auspices of the Woodstock and Salt River Jewish Cultural Circle was held on Saturday afternoon at the Talmud Torah Hall, Woodstock. There was a large attendance of members and friends over which Mr. A. J. Basker presided.

The lecturer was Mr. M. Wolozinsky, M.A., who spoke on "Literature and Life." In the discussion which followed a number of members participated. Communal singing was led by Rev. S. Kassel and an enjoyable afternoon was spent.

A Literary Evening.

There was a good attendance at the Zionist Hall on Monday night when a Literary Evening was held under the auspices of the Zionist Hall Library Committee.

Adv. M. S. Comay was in the chair.

Dr. H. W. Altschul gave a very comprehensive review of "Thy Neighbour" by Lord Melchett. An interesting discussion followed.

Adv. G. Gordon, who was to have reviewed "Palestine on the Eve" by Ladislav Farago, was unfortunately unable to attend owing to indisposition.

The Committee hopes to hold similar evenings regularly, and announcements as to these will be published in these columns.

Oneg Shabbos.

There was a very large gathering in the Zionist Hall on Saturday afternoon when Miss S. F. Flaum gave a very interesting lecture on "Pioneer Life in Palestine." She gave a graphic account of her experiences in the country during the last twenty-five years, dwelling particularly on the educational aspect in which she is specially interested.

Mrs. S. Gordon was in the chair and introduced Miss Flaum, with whom she was associated in kindergarten work in Palestine.

Dr. Rabinowitz commented shortly on Miss Flaum's address.

Mr. J. Gitlin proposed a vote of thanks to the lecturer, which was carried with acclamation.

Cape Jewish Orphanage. Annual Cabaret.

The Grand Annual Cabaret (Tombola) Dance in aid of the Cape Jewish Orphanage will be held in the City Hall on Wednesday, November 18th.

Tickets may be obtained from the Secretary, Room 107, Boston House, Strand Street. Tables may be reserved by phoning 2-6876.

A hundred magnificent prizes will be awarded. Felix de Cola will present Al Roberts and his Orchestra.

Observatory and Mowbray Hebrew Congregation.

In the report published last week it was omitted to mention amongst the departed members the late Messrs. I. Rubin and A. Miller. The former was the principal founder and the first elected President of the Congregation; his work will be long remembered by the community.

The late Mr. Miller was also a faithful member and is sadly missed.



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