

The Shekel Campaign.

To be Completed as Soon as Possible.

At the time of going to press, only a few reports have come in of the results of the Shekel collection which was due to be held throughout South Africa last Sunday. By the next week, however, a very large number of these will doubtless have been received. The few so far to hand indicate satisfactory results.

In many centres it has been found necessary to postpone the Shekel Day. Whilst this is by no means a desirable practice in itself, it has on occasion been found unavoidable in certain localities owing to their preoccupation with the Keren Hayesod Campaign. The most notable instance is Johannesburg, where the Zionist workers are still absorbed in the Keren Hayesod Campaign work both amongst the men and amongst the women, with the result that the Johannesburg Shekel Day as will be seen from an advertisement in this issue, has been fixed for Sunday, April 3rd. The same applies to Pretoria and Germiston, whose Campaign in the former case is still in progress and in the latter has only just been completed.

Whilst, however, recognising that circumstances have compelled a postponement in these cases and perhaps in a few others also, we desire at the same time to urge every centre which, for any reason, did not hold its Shekel collection last Sunday, to take immediate steps to arrange it for the earliest possible moment. The desirability of Shekel Day being uniform or as nearly uniform as possible throughout the country is self-evident; for it is a sort of national census of Jewry. Moreover, the serious financial plight of the World Zionist Headquarters overseas, which depend upon the Shekel proceeds as the main, if not the only, source of their income, renders it all the more incumbent upon Zionist Societies and workers everywhere to expedite the collection of the Shekel and the prompt remittance of the proceeds to headquarters in Johannesburg, so that the most substantial possible sum can be telegraphed to London without delay.

Rand Easter Show.

With every evidence of successful patronage from the public, the Twenty-sixth Annual Easter Show of the Witwatersrand Agricultural Society was officially opened at Milner Park on Wednesday by His Excellency the High Commissioner for South Africa, Sir Herbert J. Stanley.

The show itself is fully representative of the agricultural and industrial interests of the Union. There is a splendid cattle section and an elaborate exhibition of every angle of the industrial and agricultural life of South Africa. The motor exhibition this year has reached the zenith of its expansion and every conceivable type of motor car and truck is shown.

The organisation of this great effort is a mighty task and congratulations must be extended to the Witwatersrand Agricultural Society and to its brilliant secretary and organiser, Mr. J. G. Torrance, upon the great success of this year's Easter Show.

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Hatechiya Functions.

The "Hatechiya" Organisation held two most successful functions this week.

A Debate.

On Sunday evening, the 20th inst., a debate took place, which attracted a large audience. Mr. S. Katz moved, seconded by Mr. D. Tanne, that the position of the Jews in the world has not improved since the Great War. Mr. M. Cohen, supported by Miss B. Schmulian opposed the motion.

In the discussion which followed Miss S. Schmulian, Miss J. Kiel, and Messrs. M. Pelkowitz, L. Oschry, L. Rabinowitz, M. Sewitz, G. Behrman and I. Dumas participated.

A Purim Festival.

On Monday evening, the 21st inst., a festive atmosphere prevailed at the Purim Festival.

The evening was opened by the reading of a chapter from the "Megillah." This was followed by an article by Morris Sewitz entitled "Esther, Queen of Persia," in which was outlined the role which Esther played in frustrating the plans of "Haman." The next article dealt with the celebration of "Purim in Tel Aviv," which was read by Miss M. G. Wayburne. Refreshments were then served to an audience which numbered almost a hundred persons, all of whom were young people.

During the second part of the programme, Mr. M. Ginsberg, accompanied on the piano by Miss S. Malkin, rendered Hebrew songs, which the audience was quick to take up, and the airs of the beautiful Palestinian melodies were soon resounding throughout the whole of the H.O.D. Buildings, where the function took place. Miss J. Kiel also sang. In between the songs the audience was kept on the pitch of laughter by a variety of Jewish jokes. This continued till a late hour in the evening, when the singing of the "Hatikvah" concluded what will be remembered by those present as their first real Purim.

MR. ISADOR EPSTEIN.

The "Polish Fantasia" of Paderewski will be played on Tuesday evening next at the Symphony Concert at the Selborne Hall by Mr. Isador Epstein, the celebrated piano virtuoso. This is a brilliant work with which Mr. Epstein became identified overseas. He had considerable success with the interpretation of this magnificent work when he played it at the Queen's Hall (London) with Sir Henry Wood's orchestra.

The composition is brimming with big technical feats and in its interpretation Johannesburg music-lovers will be able to get a new light on Mr. Epstein's great talent as a brilliant piano performer.

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