

A South African Youth Council

To Re-Vitalise Youth Movement

DURING the last few months there has been a growing feeling among the S.A. Zionist Federation and the Youth Organisations that a concerted and special effort ought to be made to revitalise the Youth movement in this country and place it on a sound footing. The result was the Bloemfontein Conference where representatives of the Senior Zionist Federation met representatives of the S.A. Jewish Youth and took the momentous decision to establish a permanent Youth Bureau and appoint a special organising secretary whose duty will be to serve the interests of the Jewish Youth in S.A. in every possible way.

By a remarkable stroke of good fortune, Dr. A. Goldstein happens to be present in S.A., and the Zionist Federation was able to obtain his co-operation in working out the details of the scheme for creating a special department for Youth work and of the lines along which the problems of propaganda and organisation among the youth must be solved. Anxious to spare no effort to assist the Youth in its national aspirations, the Zionist Federation requested Dr. A. Goldstein to prolong his stay in this country by three months in order to initiate and direct in its early stages the work of the S.A. Zionist Youth Council and give it the benefit of his wide experience and knowledge of the theory and practice of Zionism.

The S.A. Zionist Youth Council (which replaces the S.A. Young Israel Federation) begins to function on Sunday, September 4th, when Dr. A. Goldstein, three representatives of the Zionist Federation, one of the Hebrew Board

of Education, five of the Cape, four of the Transvaal, two of the Free State, one of Natal and the newly appointed organising Secretary of the Youth Bureau (Mr. I. Dunsky), will meet for the first time at the Board Room of the S.A. Zionist Federation.

The Council will be faced with many important problems of organisation and propaganda, not only among the existing Youth organisations but also among the Jewish Youth in general. In this connection a solution will have to be found to the difficult question of training and preparing a sufficient number of suitable leaders for the various Youth societies.

Among other things, the new Council will also have to consider the questions of reorganising and revitalising existing societies and forming new ones where none exist as yet, the compilation of a regular programme of work for societies and the circulation of lectures, the study of Hebrew and Jewish history, the establishment of a circulating library and the compilation of a S.A. Jewish Handbook.

These are by no means all the matters which will have to be dealt with by the S.A.Z.Y. Council. But they serve as an indication of the extent and scope of its activities.

S.A. Zionists have embarked on an extremely important and necessary undertaking which will succeed if it receives the support it deserves from old and young, and if all future work is done in that spirit of broad-minded understanding, sympathy and desire for co-operation which was so much in evidence at Bloemfontein.

Cantor Chagy's first Service

ON Sabbath last the newly erected *Beth Hamedrash Hagodel* was crowded with members and visitors, who had assembled to listen to the first service conducted in this country by Cantor Berele Chagy—lately engaged as cantor of the Congregation. Not only were all the seats occupied, but all the aisles and passages in the synagogue were filled to overflowing. It was noticeable, too, that the women's gallery was also crowded. Cantor Chagy conducted the *schachrith*, and the *musaph* services and was only slightly assisted by a choir, which had had but four days' practice.

The large congregation was well compensated by the magnificent rendering of the service by Cantor Chagy. He possesses a beautiful tenor voice, which he controls in a remarkable manner. This control helps him to portray all the nuance and pathos of synagogal music and enables him to reach not only the minds of the congregants, but their hearts. His rendition of the services was a demonstration of *chasonuth*, which has probably never been equalled in South Africa.

The service began at 8.30 a.m. and ended at 1 p.m. During this whole period—except for the usual interval for the reading of the Torah—the *chazan* sang on without a pause, yet he seemed to be as fresh at the end of the long service, as he had been when he began.

It was interesting to observe that whilst Chagy proved himself on Saturday to be one of the outstanding modern cantors of the day, he is also a fine *Baal Tefillah*. Besides being well equipped with a knowledge of the most modern synagogue music, he is well versed in the *nigunim* of the old *shul*. D.



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