

"Lighter Aspects of Palestine."

Mr. Harry Levin Addresses the Women's League.

A fine gathering of members of the Johannesburg Women's Zionist League attended the monthly Literary Meeting held at the Langham Hotel on Tuesday afternoon, 25th inst. Mrs. B. Patley, Chairlady of the League, presided. After a dainty tea had been served, Miss Pearl Maisels gave an account of items of news interest in the Zionist world; this was well received.

The speaker of the afternoon was Mr. Harry Levin and his subject was "Lighter Aspects of Palestine." Mr. Levin's lecture was remarkably lucid and closely held the interest of the audience throughout. The fascinating word picture he painted of different types of Jews and Arabs met in Palestine and the physical aspects of the country itself were so realistic and lifelike, that the audience was transported to Palestine for the afternoon as on a magic carpet.

Mr. Levin gave his audience glimpses of the little things in Palestine, which make the country and its life so human and colourful and fascinating. He described the human interest of Tel Aviv, so cosmopolitan yet wholly Jewish, and introduced his hearers to the different types of Jews to be met in the cafes and streets there. He spoke of the busy Friday with everyone preparing for the Sabbath, of the bustle in the streets and in the shops, of the shoe shiners busy cleaning Tel Aviv's dusty shoes for the Sabbath.

The lecturer then went on to describe the quiet happiness of the atmosphere on Friday night with the whole town flocking to the sea, the singing and dancing in the streets. The Saturday atmosphere of Tel Aviv was described as a combination of the cloistered peace of an English cathedral town and the light-hearted ease of Muizenberg.

Mr. Levin then took his audience on a visit to the Yemenite quarter, where a typical celebration was in progress. While there was poverty in Tel Aviv, there was none of the spiritual degradation of poverty so characteristic a feature of other towns of the world. The lecturer gave a wonderful description of the Old Jerusalem and the New, picturing the amazing variety of types of human beings there.

In proposing a vote of thanks, Mrs. S. B. Asher enthusiastically thanked the Jewish youth, represented by Miss Maisels and Mr. Levin for the most enjoyable afternoon, and stated that the pictures of everyday life in Palestine which were so finely described by Mr. Levin, intensified her longing to visit the National Homeland. Mrs. Pauline Jacobson seconded the vote of thanks.

Pretoria Zionist News

Special Palestine Evening.

ON Sunday, the 30th inst., a special Palestine evening will be held at the Memorial Hall. An address will be delivered by Mr. L. Braudo (President of the S.A. Zionist Federation), who will give an account of his recent visit to Palestine, where he made thorough investigations on many spheres of activity.

A popular lecture on "Sport and Culture in Eretz Israel" will be delivered. Mrs. E. Rostovsky will render Jewish songs and the Young Israel Orchestra will play a number of Jewish folk tunes. Rabbi and Mrs. Hirsch will act as host and hostess and refreshments will be provided.

The Simchat Torah Ball.

A Grand Ball in aid of the Jewish National Fund will be held in the Memorial Hall, on Wednesday, November 2nd. This is the season's greatest event and a feature of the function will be the first exhibition in South Africa of the latest Argentine tango by Miss Poppins Salomon and partner. There will also be a unique attraction in the dancing display by Miss Salomons' troupe of dancers.

Simchas Torah at the Yeoville Synagogue.

AFTER the morning service on *Simchat Torah*, the Committee of the above Synagogue was "At Home" in the *Succah* for the purpose of entertaining the *Choson Torah* (Rev. A. T. Shrock) and the *Chosan Bereishes* (Mr. A. Ullman). Mr. A. R. Bradlow, the senior Warden, was in the chair and made reference to the development of the congregational life in Yeoville and sounded an earnest appeal to parents to take a greater interest in the synagogue and in Jewish orthodox practices.

The Rev. A. T. Shrock delivered an eloquent address in which he outlined his work during the past year. He did not despair of Judaism, although he realised that much more could be done to interest the Jewish youth.

Mr. Hirsch Hillman (President of the S.A. Jewish Board of Deputies) congratulated the congregation upon its progress. In the course of a much appreciated address, Mr. Hillman referred to the heavy responsibility resting upon the community to support the Board of Deputies.

Mr. B. Guinsberg, Chairman of the United Hebrew Congregation, then spoke, after which Dr. S. Mallinick gave an illuminating short address in which he advocated the closer study of the Talmud by members of the congregation.

In closing the proceedings, Mr. Bradlow expressed the thanks of the honorary officers of the synagogue to the officials.

South African Cantor Publishes Book of Synagogue Music.

THERE is a considerable development noted lately in South Africa in connection with *Chazonuth*. All the larger synagogues in the country have really good cantors and the recent arrival of Cantor Berele Chagy will undoubtedly influence further development in the finer rendition of synagogal melodies.

Some time ago the *Zionist Record* reviewed the original musical work of *Chazonuth* written by Cantor S. Steinberg, the talented *Chazan* of the Berea Synagogue in Johannesburg. We now have pleasure in reviewing a new publication of synagogal music, the work of Cantor S. Spektor, *chazan* of the New Hebrew Congregation in Capetown.

It has been a custom in years past for gifted *Chazonim* in Europe to publish their own compositions and as a result we came into possession of the fine works of men like Lewandowsky, Minkowsky and others, whose compositions are heard in many South African synagogues. The publication of their own compositions would now appear to become the custom also of South African cantors.

The present work is of considerable merit and shows that Cantor Spektor has a fine musical sense. It is a pity, however, that all the items are written for solo singing or with instrumental accompaniment. Such work is naturally useful in Reform synagogues, which have an organ as a complement to the service. In this country, however, there are only orthodox synagogues and cantors will not be able to make use of all the items with their choirs, certainly not the better ones. Mr. Spektor would be well advised in future to arrange his songs for a choir, instead of for the organ or orchestra.

The harmonic dressings by Professor I. Gottbeter are most artistically done and adds in no small measure to the success of the publication.

J. I.

Shirei Tefilah — Synagogal recitatives for Cantors, by Cantor S. Spektor, Capetown. Price £1 1s. Copies can be secured at M. Bein-kinstadt, 38 Canterbury Street, Capetown.

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