

Is Johannesburg to Have a Rav?

BETH HAMEDRASH HAGODEL REPORT OF ACTIVITIES.

THE second annual meeting of the Beth Hamedrash Hagodel in Johannesburg will be held on Sunday at 10 a.m., in the vestibule of the synagogue. The annual report and balance sheet has now been submitted to the members. The financial statement shows that during the period ending October 25, 1932, there was an excess of revenue over expenditure of £1,755 17s. 9d. The actual amount of cash donations received towards the building funds amounts to £1,521 18s. 1d. The subscription and seats brought in a total of £3,260 17s., and donations, £632 17s. 6d.

The report, after dealing with the general development of the congregation in its new synagogue building, indicates that negotiations are almost completed for the bringing out of a suitable Rav for Johannesburg.

In a few weeks' time there will be called together representatives from Johannesburg and Reef synagogues to confirm the appointment and bringing out of the Rav.

Rabbi Gervis on the Mizrachi.

Lecture at Hebrew Speaking Circle.

ON Saturday, the 12th inst., Rabbi I. Gervis lectured to the members of the Hebrew Speaking Circle on the "Ideology of the Mizrachi." Mr. I. Levitan presided.

In the course of his address, Rabbi Gervis elucidated the various aspects and conceptions of Zionism and dealt exhaustively with the controversy which took place between Herzl and *Achad Ha'am*. He showed that the various conceptions had been due to the different environments. At the time when Herzl had stressed the political aspect, the other leader had stressed the cultural. The lecturer added that the conception of the Mizrachi was still a deeper and wider one—for it is not satisfied either with politics or with culture. The Mizrachi aims at a future which shall be distinctly Jewish—a continuation of the glorious past. The Mizrachi desires to redeem the *Galuth*, not only the Jewish economic life, but also the *Schechina*.

Rabbi Gervis declared that religion and Judaism for the Mizrachi was not a matter for demonstration as was recently seen in Palestine. Sabbath, however, was the soul of Judaism. If a Zionist could not imagine a national home without immigration or the right of buying land, so the Mizrachi adherent could not conceive a Palestine without an acknowledgement of the sacredness of the Jewish Sabbath and of Judaism. The Mizrachi was not antagonistic towards any party that helped in the up-building of Palestine. Those engaged in this great undertaking, however, should realise the historic continuation of our race which had been kept up by adherents to Judaism.

A keen discussion followed the address.

Cantor Berele Chagy.

REFERENCE is made to the engagement of Cantor Berele Chagy as Chazan to the Synagogue and to the initial criticism which the announcements of the engagement had aroused in certain quarters. The report states that it is admitted on all sides that the engagement of the famous cantor has justified itself. This is proved by the fact that the income from seats for the recent High Festivals shows an increase of £2,000 over last year. The financial consideration, however, is a minor one, as attention is called to the fact that Cantor Chagy, by his fine rendering of the services, is bringing to the synagogue a large portion of the Jewish youth who have hitherto found the synagogue services unattractive. Each Sabbath on which the cantor conducts the services, the synagogue is crowded not only with elderly people but with young men and women.

Mayoral Service at Pretoria Synagogue.

THE Mayor and Mayoress of Pretoria (Mr. and Mrs. Ivan Solomon), will attend service at the Pretoria Synagogue, on Sunday, November 27, at 4.30 p.m.

Will of Mr. S. Hilson.

THE will of Mr. Simon Hilson, of Johannesburg, who died on October 22, has been filed. Mr. Hilson, whose estate was valued at £53,565 12s. 9d., left £25 each to the Jewish Ladies' Benevolent Association, the United Hebrew Talmud Torahs, the Jewish Orphanage, the Rand Aid Association, the Chassidic Hebrew Congregation, and £50 to the Witwatersrand Jewish Helping Hand and Burial Society.

Other clauses in the will made provision for the family and other relatives.

LON CHANEY'S RETURN AT THE PALLADIUM.

Owing to insistent requests, the M.G.M. super mystery thriller, "The Unholy Three"—the only talkie Lon Chaney ever made—is to be re-screened at the Palladium next week. Chaney plays the part of a ventriloquist involved in a sinister plot with a Giant and a Midget, whose amazing and uncanny powers are united in a career of fantastic crime. "There was only one Chaney, and no artist has come near equalling his capacity for kaleidoscopic changes of character."

In Honour of a "Simchah."

Fine Action by Mr. and Mrs. Kirschner.

ON Tuesday, October, 5th, the marriage took place in London of Miss Mary Kirschner, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. N. Kirschner of Benoni, to Mr. Raphael Joseph Feivel, son of Dr. B. Feivel.

An action—which will arouse interest amongst Zionist and National Fund workers throughout the country—has been performed to mark the occasion. As neither Mr. and Mrs. Kirschner could be present at their daughter's marriage, they have written to Mr. J. Janower, Chairman of the Jewish National Fund, stating that they felt the most fitting way in which the happy event could be celebrated by them, was to contribute the sum of £25 towards Redeeming the Sharon.

In making this contribution, Mr. and Mrs. Kirschner express the sincere wish that with the help of Messrs. Baratz and Harzfeld—who have now reached these shores—it might soon be possible for South African Jews to say that "The Sharon is Redeemed."

"Philosophy and Spinoza."

OWING to a printer's error, the following paragraph appeared in a report of Mrs. Amelia Levv's lecture last week before the Palestine Club:

"Spinoza was no mean philosopher and when he came into conflict with his congregation for asserting the identity of nature with God, he availed himself of the distinction between particular natural things and nature in general and showed scriptural authority for this distinction."

It should have read:

"The fact that the excommunication was a political rather than a religious move, can be further substantiated by reference to the case of David Nieto, a Rabbi of the Spanish Jewish Community in London about 1700. He was no mean philosopher and when he came into conflict with his congregation for asserting the identity of nature with God, he availed himself of the distinction between particular natural things and nature in general and showed scriptural authority for this distinction."

WOMEN'S ZIONIST LEAGUE.

A special general meeting of all members will be held on Tuesday, 29th inst., at 3 p.m., at the Langham Hotel. The business before the meeting will be the adoption of the altered constitution. This will be followed by the monthly "At Home," in the form of a musical afternoon. Mrs. Emanuel Jacobson will speak on current news items in Zionism.