

First Organised Tour to Palestine

A Unique Event in South African Zionism.

(From Our Capetown Correspondent.)

FRIDAY last saw the occurrence of a significant event in Jewish life in Capetown. It was the departure on a trip to Eretz Israel of the first organised party of Jews from South Africa.

The tour to Palestine was organised some time back by the body that was the S.A. Young Israel Federation. It had been hoped that a large number would join—and, indeed, the expectation was hardly unjustified since the amount which it was estimated the tour would cost was by no means excessive—but as conditions generally grew worse, the numbers fell off, and on Friday only six left by the "Edinburgh Castle."

It is a small number, but it is a beginning and, it is hoped, this year's tour is a forerunner of similar tours in the future with a large membership. This fact was stressed by various speakers on Thursday night at a reception given to the tourists by the Judean Central Council. Mr. H. Zuckerman pre-

sided and the speakers were Rev. A. P. Bender, Mr. J. Herbstein, Dr. S. E. Kark (on behalf of the Dorshai Zion Society), Mrs. S. Gordon (on behalf of the Bnoth Zion) and Mr. M. Horwitz (on behalf of the S.A. Young Israel Federation), Mr. Bobrov replied on behalf of the tourists.

All emphasised the uniqueness of the occasion and trusted that the tourists would return to South Africa inspired with zeal and enthusiasm for the national cause on behalf of which their labours would be increased.

The party will be away in all ninety-two days. They will visit, en route to Palestine, England, France, Italy and Switzerland, and in Palestine itself will spend over three weeks. The Jewish Agency, the Hebrew University and the Maccabee Sports Organisation are collaborating to ensure the success of the tour and are placing their members at the disposal of the party as guides and advisers.

S.A. Jewish Orphanage

THE number of children in the South African Jewish Orphanage keeps on mounting up, and according to this month's Orphanage Bulletin, there is a total of 319 children in the care of this institution, two more than the previous month.

The revenue for November showed a distinct improvement. This was chiefly due to the collection of the synagogue holy day offerings and the proceeds of the functions held by the country branches on "Orphanage Day," November 1. It is anticipated, however, that the revenue in December and January, being holiday months when many people go to the coast and elsewhere, may suffer in consequence therefrom, although the expenditure will not decrease. The hope is therefore expressed that the friends of the Orphanage, although away, will not forget the institution and its 140 Jewish orphan and destitute children.

There are quite a number of boys and girls of 15 years and upwards who are leaving school and for whom billets will be required. Some of the boys would make useful mechanics and would be suitable for motor and electrical work or any other good trade. Some of the girls would make able shop assistants, others who are good needlewomen would do well at dressmaking or any nice, suitable trade. The Orphanage would be grateful for enquiries from prospective employers or others who could help in this matter. These should be addressed to the Superintendent.

S.A. Talmudical College

Annual Meeting Held.

THERE was a small but representative gathering present at the general meeting of the S.A. Talmudical College held on Sunday morning at the Beth Hamedrash Hagodel.

Rabbi S. Rosenzweig presided, and maintained that the Jewish child was the same here as overseas. They had excellent human material here for making rabbis and teachers, and the only trouble was one of finance. They found here a coolness towards Jewish learning and scholarship simply because their parents and elders were sceptical as to their children's interest in Jewish things. He assured them that there were young men here who were keenly interested in Hebrew studies and could qualify as rabbis or teachers.

Mr. M. Gordon proposed, and Mr. L. Cohen seconded, the adoption of the report and balance sheet.

The adoption of the report and balance sheet was carried unanimously. The following honorary officers were elected: Rabbi S. Rosenzweig, Chairman; Messrs. L. Ratus and Ch. P. Goodman, Vice-Chairmen; Mr. A. Kirson, Hon. Treasurer; Messrs. L. Cohen, and J. Rabinowitz, Trustees; Mr. B. Beira, Hon. Secretary; Messrs. W. Cohen, J. Liknaitzky, H. Friedland, S. Gering, S. Herman, Finger, S. Swirsky, Friedman, Rakusin and Kramer, Committee.

Special Chanukah Services in Johannesburg.

A number of Chanukah Services will be held in Johannesburg on Sunday next.

At 3.30 p.m. Cantor Berele Chagy, assisted by a choir and orchestra, will conduct *Minchah* Service at the Beth Hamedrash Hagodel. The famous cantor will be heard in a series of interpretations of new Synagogue melodies.

At 5 p.m. a Chanukah Service will be held at the Berea Synagogue at Tudhope Avenue. The service will be conducted by Chief Cantor S. Steinberg, assisted by his well-trained choir. Messrs. J. Baratz and A. Harzfeld—the two Chalutzim leaders—will be present and also a large number of the officers and members of the Habonim movement.

At 5.45 p.m. the annual Chanukah Service will be held at the Park Synagogue in Wolmarans Street. The Service will be conducted by Chief Cantor Inspektor and Cantor N. Lopato, assisted by the combined choirs of the Park and Yeoville synagogues. Chief Rabbi Dr. J. L. Landau will officiate and the Rev. A. T. Shrock, B.A., will deliver a sermon. Members of the Jewish ex-Service League will attend, and the Jewish public is cordially invited.

Women's Western Suburbs—Mizrachi Organisation

Chanukah Function.

Under the auspices of the above Organisation a successful Chanukah function was held at the residence of Mrs. B. Meyerowitz, 5 Clare Road, Mayfair. Mrs. L. A. Kaplan delivered a lecture on the significance of Chanukah to a fair gathering of children. A number of the Committee members were also present. After the lecture refreshments were served to the children.

Grand Chanukah Concert

The Hatechiya Organisation and Hebrew Speaking Circle are holding a Chanukah Concert and Dance on Wednesday, December 28, at the H.O.D. Hall. Rev. S. Steinberg, and his choir, by kind permission of the Berea Hebrew Congregation, will kindle the Chanukah Lights, after which there will be various other items in Hebrew and Yiddish.

Tickets are 2s. 6d. single and 4s. double, and can be obtained from members of either of these organisations. It is hoped that the public will attend.