

The Modern Jew — A Synthesis

THERE was an exceedingly large attendance at the residence of Mrs. H. Hillman, Jubilee Road, Parktown, on Tuesday, May 14th, when Rabbi M. C. Weiler spoke on "The Modern Jew—A Synthesis." Dr. Deborah Katzen was in the chair. The vote of thanks was proposed by Miss E. Taylor.

Rabbi Weiler stated that in the interplay of historic forces it is difficult to determine the dynamic factors in the advancement and evolution of social movements and intellectual ideas. He was inclined, however, to accept the doctrine which taught that the evolution of society, its ideas and institutions, is the result of the development of material conditions under which men live. Such doctrine applies to modern Jewish life which can be interpreted by means of the Hegelian dialectical method of contradiction and solution, that of thesis, antithesis and synthesis.

The thesis in modern Jewish life was *diaspora*. The modern Jew, after many centuries of isolation, suddenly emerged from the Ghetto, and therefore had an intense desire for emancipation and equality of opportunity amidst the nations of the Western world. But when the high hopes of emancipation failed to fulfil completely the ardent hopes of the modern Jew, there took place a reaction in Jewish life which advocated the antithesis: Palestine. Emancipation was a failure, was the cry, and the only salvation lay in Palestine. All Jewish endeavours in the diaspora were worthless because Judaism had no chance of life in the diaspora.

Palestine presented difficulties due to the well-known "labour schedules" and the term "absorptive capacity." Therefore, a new formula came into existence, that of the synthesis: *Diaspora plus Palestine*. Since under the most favourable circumstances only a portion of Jewry would find a home in Palestine, no one dare abandon to its fate the enormous majority of the Jewish people.

"The task of the modern Jew," said Rabbi Weiler, "is a double one: as a citizen, he must participate to the full in the cultural, political, economic and civic life of the country; while as part of Universal Israel, he must keep up contact with World Jewry and labour with them for the realisation of the common Jewish hope of establishing a Commonwealth of Justice in the historic land of Judaism, which shall be a spiritual and cultural centre for World-Israel."

WEMBLEY
GREYHOUND RACING

EVERY

WEDNESDAY

at 8 p.m.

THE ALL ELECTRIC TRACK

WEDNESDAY NIGHT

WEMBLEY NIGHT

The Association of Jewish Groups

An interesting paper was read by Mr. Abe Lipschitz to the Sarah Aronson group at the residence of Mrs. Kaplan, Francis Street, on the 8th inst. It was a resumé and criticism of Dr. Sach's "Intelligent Man's Guide to Jew-Baiting."

Mr. Lipschitz re-read his paper to the Israel Zangwill group the following Monday at the home of Miss Norah Lipson in Parkview. A lively discussion followed.

On the 14th inst., the Bar Kochba group met at the residence of Miss Cohen, Lower Houghton. At this meeting an interesting programme of study was drawn up, and Mr. Hersh, of this group, is to read a paper on the Talmud at the next meeting which will be held shortly.

At the next meeting of the Sarah Aronson group, Mr. Phillips is reading a paper on Biro-Bidjan.

The A. Z. Idelsohn group continues to hold excellent meetings and on June 5 a novel evening will be given at the Elgin Hotel, at which Professor Kirby and Rabbi M. C. Weiler will deliver addresses on the work of A. Z. Idelsohn, with musical illustrations by the group. This meeting is open to the general public and everyone is cordially invited to attend.

The Symphony Orchestra

There was another fine attendance at the Wanderers Hall on Tuesday evening to listen to the concert of the recently formed Johannesburg Symphony Orchestra. There was an excellent programme which included Brahms's exacting work, Symphony No. 1 in C. Minor. Mr. Joseph Traunek conducted the orchestra with great precision and the work was rendered in a satisfying manner which gave much pleasure. To accomplish so much was a credit to the conductor and to the players. One hopes, however, that in future the players may have further opportunity for rehearsal, when even more complete performances can be anticipated.

The soloist was Madame Xenia Belmas, who is the possessor of a remarkably fine voice of clear volume and power. Her rendering of Beethoven's aria, "Ah! Perfido," made a deep impression. Madame Belmas has a flexible voice and the added advantage of dramatic power and a fine platform presence. She was encored continually and it was some time before the audience would finally release her. The overture, "Iphigenia in Aulide," by Ch. Gluck, was beautifully rendered by the orchestra.

Altogether an excellent and satisfying evening of fine music well rendered under the baton of a good conductor.

D.

Johannesburg Women's Zionist League

Belgravia Branch.—The usual fortnightly literary afternoon took place at the residence of Mrs. H. Schlapobersky, on the 25th inst., when an interesting paper was read on "The Rambam." There was a fair gathering present. The next literary meeting takes place on June 22, at 3 p.m., at the residence of Mrs. J. Gaffen, Park Street, Belgravia.

Maccabiah Wrestlers to Appear

Rand patrons of wrestling will have an opportunity of seeing the progress made by the amateur wrestlers who were so successful at the recent Maccabiah Games, as some of them will appear at the Drill Hall on Saturday night.

Lew Korsen, who won the light-weight title, has been matched against P. Willer, of the Y.M.C.A., the winner of the Transvaal title.

Jack McLauchlan, the brilliant Canadian champion, who recently put up a splendid battle against Bob "Bullet" Myers, has sportingly offered to appear in a special bout against the South African amateur champion.

In addition to the above, there will be eight more contests under a slight relaxation of the rules, so a very entertaining evening should be witnessed.

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Port Elizabeth

The first monthly social of this year's session of the Women's Zionist League was held at the residence of Mrs. Theo. Dubb on the 14th inst. Mrs. R. H. Friedman presided.

Mrs. Friedman gave a resumé of the activities of the Women's Zionist Council. She also spoke about the forthcoming Zionist Conference in Bloemfontein which Mrs. B. Weinronk would attend.

The chairlady read an extract from Dr. Chaim Weizmann's speech to the recent W.I.Z.O. Conference in connection with the National Fund, and made an appeal for support of the forthcoming National Fund Campaign in Port Elizabeth.

During the afternoon an appeal was made to those who were not subscribers to the "Zionist Record" to become subscribers.

Two recitations were well rendered by Miss Lilian Goldman, while Mrs. H. Katz read current news-items of Jewish and Zionist interest. Mrs. M. Bennun thanked the hostess and all those who helped to make the afternoon a success.

Youth.—The local Zionist Youth organisation (formerly the Jewish Guild) which is affiliated to the Youth Council in Port Elizabeth, is carrying out a programme of varied activities. Recently it held an annual "Seder" meeting, which attracted a large gathering. Lately, the society has had the pleasure of listening to several interesting lectures on Jews and Judaism by Mr. Infeld, of the local Hebrew School. A study circle has also been formed. It meets on Sunday evenings when discussions take place on several aspects of Jewish history.

The local Young Israel will be directly represented at the forthcoming Youth Conference in Bloemfontein. Messrs. Fisher, Udwin, Kerbel and Friedman have been elected as delegates.

Southern Suburbs Ladies' Zionist League

A meeting of the members of the Southern Suburbs Ladies' Zionist League was held at the residence of Mrs. R. Sack, Turfontein, on the 22nd inst. An interesting address was delivered by Rabbi I. M. Gervis on the Zionist Movement. During the course of the afternoon refreshments were served and a sum of money raised towards the Fund for Building a Talmud Torah in the Southern Suburbs. Mrs. Lewis presided. Miss E. Sack was proposed as the treasurer of the Fund.

CUTHBERT'S FOR BOYS AND GIRLS SCHOOL SHOES