

Farewell to Three Chalutzim

Pleasant Hechalutz Function

SATURDAY evening, the 17th inst., was a red letter day in the annals of the Johannesburg Hechalutz Organisation. Their unassuming hall, decorated for the occasion, presented a gay appearance when over 200 members and their friends gathered to bid farewell to three of their number who were leaving for Eretz Israel.

I have met many people who are sceptical of the fact that Palestine yields a tremendous influence upon South African Youth. Their scepticism would evaporate if they could pay a visit to the Hechalutz Hall. Every evening is dedicated to one or other form of enthusiastic Zionist work, but this particular evening was a Yomtov, and all members were agog with excitement, for two of the three Chalutzim had rendered conspicuous service to the society, and all were extremely popular members. The spirit of Eretz Israel would not be denied, and the Hebrew tongue was freely used.

First Mr. I. Dunsky, Chairman of the evening, opened the proceedings in Hebrew, and expressed the hope that Hebrew would be the sole language at future functions. Then Rabbi I. M. Gervis bade the guests of honour farewell in Hebrew, and Miss V. Levin, Vice-Chairman of the Hechalutz, also spoke in the national tongue.

Mr. A. Abrahamson, in the unavoidable absence of the Chairman and the Vice-Chairman of the S.A. Zionist Youth Council, conveyed greetings on behalf of the Zionist Youth, and reminded the Chalutzim that they bore the dual responsibility of making good in Palestine to their own credit, and to the credit of South African Zionism.

The Chairman of Hechalutz, Mr. Z. Segal, paid striking tribute to his fellow-workers for what they had done, and in bidding them farewell presented each with gifts on behalf of the Organisation. He was supported by Messrs. G. Berkal, S. Drucker, and J. Rostovsky. Speaking in Hebrew, Yiddish and English respectively, the three Chalutzim promised to do their duty to Eretz Israel, and thanked the gathering for their gifts and good wishes.

The speeches were interspersed by songs. In fact when the guests were not indulging

in refreshments, they gave vent to community singing of Hebrew and national songs. The Chairman was in his element, for his was the power to call upon many present to render solos. None dared refuse, and all added much to the pleasantries of a really delightful and memorable evening full of song and dance. I was struck by the thought that the prayer: "Conduct us unto Zion Thy City with Joyful Song" was indeed granted the Chalutzim that evening.

Enthusiastic Send-Off at Park Station

A GREAT send-off was accorded by the local Zionist Youth to three of their colleagues who left to settle in Eretz Israel on Monday evening. Not only were they bidden farewell by a large gathering at Park Station, but they were cheered on their way by some fifty members travelling in cars and on the train to Krugersdorp and Randfontein. By far the most wonderful tribute, however, was paid at Park Station, where the enthusiasm of the Zionist Youth was strikingly demonstrated when a crowd of between four and five hundred strong assembled on the platform to bid the Chalutzim farewell.

All three Chalutzim were prominent members of Zionist Youth organisations in Johannesburg, and devoted workers in every sphere of Zionist activity. One of them had undergone Hachsharah on the S.A. Chalutz Farm. At Capetown they will be joined by four others, and the seven will travel together to Eretz Israel.

Habonim Activities

Durban.—Habonim in this area is making fine progress. Members are enthusiastic and active. Owing to the rapid increase in its membership, Gedud Gamal has been obliged to split up into two Gedudim. Additional officers have been appointed to deal with the new Gedud.

An excellent concert was staged by Gedud Daganina in connection with the Durban Young Israel Society's Barmitzvah celebration. Habonim (Durban) will assist the Zionist Youth effort in a special drive to raise money for Zionist funds.

Port Elizabeth.—Mr. Donen, the organiser-secretary, is at present in Port Elizabeth. Reports received from him indicate Habonim activities in this Province are on a sound footing.

On the 13th of this month, the combined Gedudim held a most successful concert. The various items produced were of special Habonim interest, and the concert did much to convey to the large and enthusiastic audience present, the nature of the work that is being done in Habonim to-day.

KATHERINE HEPBURN AT THE COLOSSEUM

The admirers of the acting of Katherine Hepburn are growing into millions. Her next picture is due to be shown at the Colosseum Theatre and is entitled "Break of Hearts." In this Hepburn gives another great performance of her career. The Colosseum Symphony Orchestra continues to attract and give patrons some delightful music.

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Cantor Israel Alter

DUE IN JOHANNESBURG ON SEPTEMBER 10.

The United Hebrew Congregation of Johannesburg has received a cable that the newly-appointed chief cantor of the congregation, is sailing with his wife and children from Southampton on the "Winchester Castle" to-day, and is due to arrive in Johannesburg on September 10.

Cantor Alter will conduct the Holy Festival services at the Wolmarans Street Synagogue.

An Art Theatre Production

"Love on the Dole" at the Jewish Guild.

IT was an act of courage on the part of Mr. Kurt Baum, the director of the Johannesburg Art Theatre, to produce a play of the type of "Love on the Dole." The players move in a dreary atmosphere throughout. Their performance on Tuesday night created considerable interest. The play is one of heavy despair, for poverty reigns as king in the lives of all the characters. Unemployment is rife and is eating out their very vitals. It is all so hopeless.

In his production, Mr. Baum was able to inject this heavy depression and yet at the same time give an artistic twinge to every scene and incident in the play. The whole production was a credit to the Art Theatre and to the players. Mr. Baum has unconventional ideas in the art of play-producing. These are welcome at a period when the professional theatre is in a state of duress and amateur societies are apt to follow along hackneyed lines of play-producing.

It was pleasant to note the large audience at the opening performance of "Love on the Dole." It is obvious that the productions of the Art Theatre are beginning to arouse attention. Their first performances attracted sparse audiences. The increased public support must act as an encouragement to Mr. Baum and his colleagues. The critic trusts, however, that the performances of the Art Theatre may never become "fashionable," for that is the beginning of the death of genuine creative effort.



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