

## Fine Debate at Women's Zionist League

### Presentation to the Mayoress

THE crowds of ladies who filled the large ballroom of the Langham Hotel to capacity on Monday afternoon, were eloquent testimony to the popularity of the Mayoress of Johannesburg (Mrs. Maurice Freeman) and the Women's Zionist League, whose monthly literary afternoons have grown to be such a prominent feature in the social and cultural life of Johannesburg Jewesses. The occasion was the holding of a most interesting debate, and the function was further illuminated by a presentation made to the Mayoress on the occasion of her silver wedding.

Mrs. B. Reinhold presided.

In welcoming the Mayoress, she mentioned how much members appreciated Mrs. Freeman's sustained interest in their work.

"We Zionists," she continued, "honour our fellow-Zionists with National Fund honours. In this way, we not only bestow an honour upon them, but our Homeland benefits. In the Herzl Forest twenty-five trees are going to be planted in the names of the Mayor and Mayoress—one tree for every year of their married life."

Amid the spontaneous applause which greeted the announcement of this beautiful tribute, Mrs. Reinhold presented Mrs. Freeman with the certificate for these trees.

The Mayoress expressed her deep sense of appreciation.

#### The Debate.

THE subject chosen for the debate that followed was of considerable topical interest, being, "That the Fall of the Ghetto Walls Was Harmful to Judaism."

Advocate L. Pincus, seconded by Mrs. Dora Sowden, supported the motion, and Dr. Deborah Katzen, seconded by Adv. Felix Landau, was the opposer.

Mr. Pincus eloquently contended that the forcible confinement of Jews within Ghettos after their expulsion from Palestine had been their salvation and enabled them to preserve their entity and identity. Within the Ghetto walls we acquired our own culture, code of laws, our love of learning. When we were liberated, we cultivated Aryan culture and neglected our own. Had we been given complete freedom there would have been no Jews alive to-day . . . Zionism was no more than a form of Ghetto life with the exception that the abnor-

malities and irregularities of Ghetto life are going to be swept aside.

Mrs. Dora Sowden ably seconded this asseveration and declared that Palestine was merely a super Ghetto. She was in humorous vein and her witty sallies were much appreciated.

Dr. Deborah Katzen, in the course of a brilliant and fluent address, agreed that the Ghetto had been a potent instrument, originally, for the survival of the Jewish race, but long before its walls were mercifully shattered, it had outlived its usefulness. Life in the Ghetto during the last two and a half centuries of its existence was decaying. "If persecution had not killed off the Jews, then a process of internal decay would have exterminated them." Without emancipation we should never have had Zionism. The Jews would have waited for the Messiah and still be waiting.

Mr. Felix Landau, in seconding Dr. Katzen, asked if the Jews had still been penned in Ghettos, could Herzl have interviewed Emperors and rulers of Europe on behalf of Jewry? To-day in Palestine we were developing our own culture to an even greater extent than formerly.

The addresses were all of a high standard and made a deep impression on the large and interested audience.

No discussion followed from the floor, and the motion was put to the vote and carried by a small majority.

Mrs. I. Marks, in thanking the speakers, declared that she had found it most difficult to reach a decision having been swayed to sympathy with each successive speaker. A sentiment with which the audience which had been thoroughly interested, was fully in accord.

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## Fine Symphony Concert

THE fortnightly concerts of the A.B.C. Symphony Orchestra are fast becoming enjoyable social as well as fine musical events. The fifteenth concert, held at the Jewish Guild on Tuesday, saw the presence of a large and distinguished gathering, which included representatives of the Consular services in the Golden City.

The guest conductor was Mr. Andersen Tyrer, the well-known English musician and solo-pianist. Under his baton, the orchestra took on resilience of a new order; at the same time the conductor was able to get the right nuance in all those sensitive portions of the evening's musical interpretations.

The soloist was Miss Nanette Andersen Tyrer, who gave a capable performance of the intricate Wieniawski violin concerto in D minor. The overture in "The Magic Flute" was given the right interpretation by Mr. Andersen Tyrer and his orchestra, and a splendid performance of Elgar's "Enigma" variations was rendered. To have a gifted English musician conduct another Englishman's brilliant composition was a rare experience for us in Johannesburg. The performance was keenly enjoyed. The Elgar work is full of beauty and temperament, and these qualities may well be used in connection with the conducting of Mr. Andersen Tyrer.

D.



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