



ROUND THE SYNAGOGUES

THE humdrum activities of the Jewish population in Johannesburg received a welcome break last Wednesday eve when the deepening shadows heralded in the period of Rosh Hashonah. Before dusk had settled, the numerous synagogues in the different parts of the city and suburbs were filled to capacity. In all these houses of worship, a solemn atmosphere prevailed. Perhaps the bitter news of Jewish calamities the world over had the effect of casting a sadness over the various assemblies of Jewish worshippers.

THE PARK SYNAGOGUE.

THE stately edifice of the Wolmarans Street Synagogue stood out in relief from the surrounding shadows. Its large portals seemed to extend a welcome to the stream of men, women and children that filed through. Every seat had been taken and many people stood in the doorways. Cantor I. Alter intoned the services throughout. His beautiful tenor voice vibrated through the building, and the well-trained choir, conducted by the choir-master, Rev. G. Grosberg, chanted the responses. A profound impression was created by the philosophic remarks by Chief Rabbi Dr. J. L. Landau in the course of his eloquent sermons.

BETH HAMEDRASH HAGODEL.

AT the Beth Hamedrash Hagodel, the worshipper found himself in an atmosphere of deep traditional significance. The beauty of the traditional service preserved intact throughout the ages here again manifested itself.

Cantor Berele Chagy's beautiful tenor voice captured the hearts of the congregation. Every available space was filled by worshippers anxious to participate in the service and to hear this artist of chazanoth. The choir too, under Mr. N. Ichilcik, displayed a fine understanding of their responses. The Rabbi of the Federation of Synagogues of the Transvaal, Rabbi Isaac Kossowski, preached a sermon during the first morning, on "Repentance." The sermon was delivered in Yiddish and absorbed the interest and attention of the gathering.

YEOVILLE SYNAGOGUE.

THIS synagogue in common with the others was filled to capacity. The services were conducted by Cantor C. Goldwasser, and the responses were chanted by an able choir, under the charge of Cantor N. Lopato. Rev. Dr. A. T. Shrock chose as the subject of his sermon during the first morning of Rosh Hashonah, "The Power of Prayer," and on the second day he spoke on "The Barmitzvah Rite."

BEREA SYNAGOGUE.

THE large congregation had taken up all available room long before the commencement of the service. Chief Cantor S. Steinberg officiated. Many of his melodies were self-composed, one of which being his "Adon Olom," set to a new and delightful tune. The choir sang under the baton of the cantor's son, Mr. Solly Steinberg.

REFORM CONGREGATION.

THE dignified Temple Israel — the new centre of the Johannesburg Jewish Reform Congregation—was well filled during the first evening and the first morning of Rosh Hashonah. No services took place on the second day.

A spirit of seriousness and deep contemplation could be felt. Here the ancient customs of Israel had been somewhat adjusted to conform with new outlooks upon life. Under the direction of Mr. J. Idelson, a choir of four ladies and four gentlemen rendered the psalms to the accompaniment of violin, 'cello and organ.

Rabbi M. C. Weiler spoke eloquently during the morning of the first day on "A Call to Peace," in which he dwelt upon the Jewish and religious aspect as well as the international.

JEPPE CONGREGATION.

RABBI SOLOWEITZIK chose the importance of Hebrew as the subject of his sermon during the first morning of Rosh Hashonah, the large congregation being greatly impressed with his remarks. Cantor Badash intoned, and the choir in this centre was conducted by Mr. J. Kantor.

SUBURBAN SERVICES.

THE many synagogues in the Johannesburg suburbs were well filled by their respective congregations. The Poswohl Hebrew Congregation in Mooi Street, and the First Johannesburg Orthodox Hebrew Congregation in Fox Street were perhaps the most outstanding examples in this regard. Services were also conducted in different parts of the city in halls, and a general feature, it can be said, of this year's High Festivals was the gratifying response made by the members of the Jewish community to religious service, many thousands coming together to pray for a brighter and more hopeful future.

A SIMCHAS TORAH EVENING.

The Hatechiya and Guild of Israel Sections of the Jewish Guild are arranging a Simchas Torah evening at the Guild on Saturday, October 10, at 8.15 p.m. An excellent programme will be provided. Among the speakers will be Dr. A. Birnbaum and Mr. W. Rybko. Dancing will follow. Admission will be free to members.

Service at Jewish Guild

Jewish-German Refugees

A SERVICE of particular interest and noteworthy for its singular character took place at the Jewish Guild Memorial Hall where 450 Jewish-German refugees gathered together to participate.

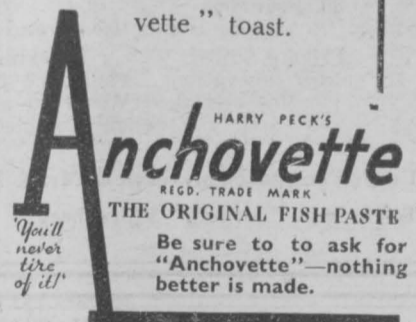
A sadness and depth of intense feeling was experienced on entering the hall which had been transformed into a house of worship. Mr. K. Hirsch and his helpers must be complimented on the dignified *Oran Kodesh* and the sacred appearance which the hall had assumed. No doubt the thoughts of the worshippers were reviewing the past, thinking of broken homes, uprooted lives and parted friends.

The services on the two days of Rosh Hashonah were simple, yet dignified. Rev. Sali Silberman delivered eloquent sermons on the conception of brotherhood in Israel and the necessity of returning back to the Torah. The burden of the first sermon consisted of the doctrine of the one for the many, the unit and the whole, the national and the universal, and made a stirring impression.

Mr. Hammerschlag intoned *schachris* and blew the *shofar*. The awe-inspiring sound of the ram's horn, the call to repentance, and the warning of impending judgment, moved the assembly deeply. The congregants left the service with hopes for a new and happy existence in a new land, in which they had made their home.

Cocktail Parties

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