

"JEWS AND GENTILES"

From Mr. B. FAERBER

(Willowdene)

To the Editor of the "Zionist Record"

Sir,—Recently a plaque was unveiled at the Presbyterian Church, Fairview, in memory of the late Rev. Dr. James Gray. This gentleman had been popular among citizens and much respected by members of the Jewish community; he certainly must have had friends and acquaintances among the latter. I was, therefore, sorry to see so few Jews present on this occasion when his memory was being honoured.

The Society of Jews and Christians is doing good work not only in Johannesburg, but also in Kimberley and in Capetown, in promoting friendship between Jews and Gentiles and in furthering mutual feelings of respect and interest. But an obligation also devolves upon individuals in the community to help attain these ends, and one way in which this can be done is by attending services in honour of departed citizens of other denominations.

Some time ago I received an invitation as a resident in a particular district for many years to attend the Jubilee Service of a church built there (25 years previously). I attended the service and presented the clergyman of the church with the "Book of Jewish Thoughts," compiled during

the Great War by Dr. J. H. Hertz, Chief Rabbi of the British Empire. This book was very well received by the recipient as could be seen from his letter of acknowledgment.

Perhaps it would not be out of place to mention here that my letter accompanying the presentation contained the following passage: "I am born a Jew and in my own deeper introspection and study in matters of religious beliefs I remain convinced according to our teaching in the oneness of the Almighty God. As such, I can enter any House of Prayer of any denomination and join with the congregation in the prayers to the Almighty."

There is no need for any Jew, to my mind, to shun entrance into a church if the good sense of citizenship and fellowship demands it.

Incidentally, it may be mentioned here that the difference between the fundamental beliefs in the Jewish and Christian faiths were greatly reduced by the findings of the Anglican Church Commission which were reported in the daily press some time ago.

Yours, etc.,

B. Faerber.

PRETORIA ACTIVITIES

Address by Mr. L. A. Pincus

An outstanding address on "Jewry and Palestine To-day" was delivered by Mr. L. A. Pincus, a member of the S.A. Zionist Federation, at a mass meeting of Pretoria Jewry, held under the auspices of the Men's Zionist Society, on Sunday, the 28th ult. Mr. J. E. Wilsker was in the chair.

In the course of his thorough and concise survey of the Zionist situation to-day, Mr. Pincus said that the four fronts on which the Zionist battle was to-day being waged were the internal front, the Palestinian, Central Europe and in the Democracies. Mr. Pincus also stressed the South African aspect of his subject and urged his audience, notwithstanding the war situation, to intensify their Zionist activities wherein lay the only permanent solution to the Jewish problem.

Mr. Len Kaplan, in expressing the thanks of the audience to the speaker, stated that he had seldom heard so clear and logical an exposition of the Jewish problem in relation to the present situation as he had that evening, and expressed the hope that Jewry would adopt the positive attitude outlined by the speaker.

Honoar.—The first annual ball of the society, which was held on Saturday, the 20th ult., proved an outstanding success. The Benoni Zionist Youth were guests of the society and were entertained in Pretoria over the week-end.

Honoar commenced its cultural activities this year early in January, and the three weekly meetings have been addressed by Messrs. A. Roberts, E. Riese and S. Ogus respectively.

Yeoville Hebrew Kindergarten

The annual general meeting of the Yeoville Hebrew Kindergarten will take place on Thursday, 8th February, at 10.30 a.m. at the Yeoville Synagogue.

The Kindergarten has re-opened this year in spacious new premises, boasting up-to-date equipment and a piano. A delightful lawn adjoining the premises provides gardening opportunities for the little pupils. Generally, the Kindergarten's educational methods are concerned with all aspects of the child's development. Above all the children are learning the Hebrew language by the simplest and most direct methods and also acquiring a rudimentary knowledge of modern Palestine and of the traditions of Judaism, so that it is hoped that the Kindergarten will represent a corner of Eretz Israel in the Galuth.

The committee, under the able chairmanship of Mrs. Wolpert, has spared no effort in re-organising the Kindergarten on its new basis and parents and members of the public are invited to visit the little pupils at work.

Miss Glazer, formerly of Capetown, is now in charge of the Hebrew section, and Mrs. Feldt who has qualified in nursery school work is responsible for the English section of the teaching. Children between the ages of three to six years are accepted as pupils—those of six years and over being prepared for entrance to Government primary schools. All enquiries can be made at the Kindergarten or addressed to the Secretary, Mrs. D. Polnay, 35 Pretoria Street, 'phone 44-1359.

TRANSVAAL ZIONIST YOUTH ACTIVITIES

Eastern Districts.—The semi-annual general meeting of the Eastern Districts Zionist Youth Society took place at the Eastern Districts Communal Hall on Sunday, the 14th ult. Miss J. Morris and Mr. B. Shmuelson represented the Transvaal Zionist Youth Executive and approximately 30 members attended.

The following were elected office-bearers: Chairman, Mr. H. L. Shindler; vice-chairman, Mr. J. Furman; treasurer, Mr. I. Aronovitz; joint hon. secretaries, Misses L. Aronovitz and S. Price. Committee: Misses E. Price and Q. Shindler, Messrs. D. Bloch, S. Lipschitz, M. Menachemson and A. Roberts.

Germiston.—At the general meeting held on the 14th January, the following new office-bearers were elected: Chairman, Mr. A. Schapkaitz; vice-chairman, Mr. Z. Dunsky; treasurer, Mr. B. Cohen; secretaries, Misses F. Gavronsky and G. Melnick. Committee: Misses B. Rosenthal, O. Grud, A. Dinner, Messrs. N. Tanchum, M. Serebro and B. Kramer.

After an animated discussion, various resolutions were passed, one of which was that intensive re-organisation should be undertaken, with a view to strengthening the society both numerically and qualitatively.

"Histadruth Ivriith"

A musical evening, under the auspices of the "Histadruth Ivriith," will take place on Sunday, the 4th February, at 8.15 p.m., at the Coronation Hall.

Rabbi J. L. Zlotnik will preside. Mr. H. Lazar will deliver an address on "A. D. Gordon," and extracts from Gordon's works will be read by Mrs. C. Laks. The programme will include songs and dancing, and refreshments will be served. The Hebrew speaking community of Johannesburg is cordially invited to attend.

A Study-Group at Germiston

Rev. Dr. A. Lichtigfeld (Minister, Germiston Hebrew Congregation) is now conducting a study-group on Talmudics for the Jewish youth in Germiston. Boys of over thirteen years will be cordially welcomed.

Dr. Lichtigfeld assures prospective pupils that they will be able to follow the course, at his endeavouring to make the study as easy and simple as possible. No fees will be expected.

To Appear in "Private Lives"

Two distinguished artists from the London West End stage have arrived in South Africa. They are Mr. Henry Mollison and Miss Lina Basquette. They have also a considerable reputation as Hollywood and British film players.

Mr. Mollison and Miss Basquette and an English company will open a season at the Standard Theatre on Monday, February 19th, with Noel Coward's intriguing play, "Private Lives."

Springs Zionist Youth Society.

THIRD ANNUAL BALL

SPRINGS TOWN HALL

On Saturday, March 2nd.

Tickets 10/6 double, 7/6 single. Reservations: 'Phone Miss A. Morris 56-4171 (Office), 56-2438 (Residence) Miss J. Lipman 56-4001.

THE BRITISH AND FOREIGN BIBLE SOCIETY

The ceremony of the LAYING OF FOUNDATION STONES at the Cor. Bree and Hoek Streets, Johannesburg, will take place on SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 10th, at 3.30 p.m. A cordial invitation is extended to the public to attend.

Transvaal Hebrew Teachers

The semi-annual general meeting of the Transvaal Hebrew Teachers' Association was held on Thursday, the 25th ult. in the Talmud Torah of the Beth Hamidrash Hagavao. The outgoing chairman, Mr. W. Rybko, presided, and reviewed the activities of the last six months. He expressed the hope that in the future Hebrew teachers would play a greater part in the cultural life of the community.

The following new office-bearers were elected: Chairman, Mr. R. Laks; vice-chairman, Mr. W. Rybko; treasurer, Mr. B. Melamed; secretary, Miss G. Greenberg. Committee: Mr. Ben-Moshe, Mr. I. Per, and Rabbi I. Romm.

The new session will be inaugurated by a series of novel functions, of which the public will be notified in due course.

Johannesburg Women's Zionist League

Hillbrow Branch.—The death occurred in Johannesburg recently of Mrs. Rachel Uday. Mrs. Uday was a member of the committee of the Hillbrow branch, and was a most popular as well as a willing and enthusiastic Zionist worker. The branch feels their loss greatly and their deep sympathy goes out to all the members of the bereaved family.

A Cot

The Jewish Women's Benevolent Society, Krugersdorp, has endowed a cot in the Krugersdorp Hospital.

Friends of the Jewish Blind

The Society of S.A. Friends of the Jewish Blind Children wishes to thank the following friends for functions arranged for the benefit of this fund: Miss Stella Malkin, Mrs. D. Rapp, Mesdames Rothschild and Maisels, and Miss B. Nathan, Volksrust.

Thanks are due to Mesdames Wolly Levy and Jack Davis for the able assistance they gave to Miss R. Klugman in arranging functions.

Combined Orchestral Concerts

On Sunday evening, the 4th February, the second of the series of grand orchestral concerts by the combined symphony orchestras of Johannesburg will take place.

Mr. Theo Wendt, who will conduct, will have charge of 78 musicians, and a fine programme of classical music will be presented. The music-loving public of Johannesburg should crowd the Colosseum Theatre for this performance.