

# BNOth ZION ASSOCIATION.

## Informal Women's Zionist Conference.

The second informal Women's Zionist Conference took place at the Talmud Torah Hall, Muizenberg, on Wednesday morning, 3rd January. Amongst the delegates were active Zionist workers from all over the country and the S.A. Women's Zionist Council was well represented.

Mrs. Mary Segal, President of the Bnoth Zion Association, Cape Town, was in the chair, and in opening Conference dealt with the present position and problems that Zionists have to face. She pointed out that in this time of world crisis the work must not only not stop but must be intensified. There was only one way of settling the Jewish problem and that was by establishing a virile national home in Eretz Israel. It was the duty of active Zionist workers to acquaint the women with the aims of Zionism. There should be no vagueness as to what Palestine means. It was not necessary always to rely upon external stimuli. No doubt the Council could assist country societies by sending them lecturers from time to time. She appealed to all present to bring their problems to this informal conference.

Dr. Deborah Katzen introduced a discussion on the W.I.Z.O., the Youth Aliyah and Keren Hayesod activities. She said that the Zionist Council was grateful to the Bnoth Zion for having arranged last year's conference. She knew that all active Zionists now realised the seriousness of the situation and the added and increased responsibility that was theirs. The women of South Africa had done excellent work in the past year. The Council was a body that co-ordinated activities and every additional worker was an encouragement to the Zionist activities throughout the world. She praised the work the women had done for the Youth Aliyah and urged them to participate in the motor car competition in aid of that fund.

Speaking of the forthcoming Keren Hayesod campaign, Dr. Katzen said that the war had brought to Palestine an economic crisis that was easy to under-

stand. In the citrus industry alone some 6,000-7,000 men had been thrown out of employment. Some 40,000 immigrants had recently entered the country and the Jewish Agency had to make itself responsible for them. The Keren Hayesod was the support of the Jewish Agency. Unfortunately country after country had been taken out of the field of useful Zionist activity. Therefore those in the favoured countries had to more than double their efforts.

In South Africa, Zionists were faced with serious external and internal situations, and the work required intensification. The women should recognise the fact that war activities must be recognised as an additional burden and not be allowed to take the place of Zionist work. She urged the women to maintain the fine record they had established for themselves.

Amongst those who participated in the discussion were: Mrs. T. Gordon (Springbok), Mrs. Movsovic (Cape Town); Mrs. Marks (Woodstock), Mrs. Chames (Benoni), Mrs. Saphra (Johannesburg), Mrs. M. Zuckerman (Tel-Aviv), Mrs. S. Katzen (Pretoria), Mrs. D. Kay (Johannesburg), Mrs. M. Segal (Cape Town), Mrs. P. Herstein (Cape Town), Mrs. Jowell (Port Nolloth), and Mrs. M. Cohen (Cape Town).

Greetings to Conference were received from Mrs. Greenberg, the Women's Zionist Council, and Mrs. Kate Gluckmann.

There was an interval when tea was served by the Muizenberg Branch of the Bnoth Zion Association.

Mrs. Freda Winokur led the discussion on the Jewish National Fund. She said that the J.N.F. formed the major portion

of the work of women throughout the country. The women contributed about 90 per cent. of the revenue of the National Fund, not including campaigns and legacies. There was still much land that could be obtained in Eretz Israel, and there were not many countries now that could provide the wherewithal. It was most important that land be nationally owned by Jews. The scope and activity of the Keren Kayemeth were enormous.

Mrs. T. Saphra pointed out that there were aspects of Zionism quite apart from fund raising. The cultural aspect of Zionism dared not be neglected if one desired to bring up a generation of Zionists. The J.N.F. provided much scope for cultural activity.

Amongst those who participated in the discussion were: Dr. D. Katzen, Mrs. Abrahams, Mrs. Schapiro and Mrs. Chaskelson.

Mrs. D. Kay introduced a discussion on Propaganda and Organisation. She declared that owing to the prevalence of a great deal of false propaganda nowadays, the term propaganda had acquired a special distasteful meaning. It was the duty of Zionist workers to spread correct propaganda, and it was not difficult as ideas spread quickly. Active Zionists should read in order to prepare themselves with the necessary information. The shekel, she pointed out, entitled one to membership of the World Zionist Organisation and the purchase of the shekel should be made compulsory for all active Zionists. She emphasised the need for correct procedure in society organisations.

Mrs. S. P. Jacobson spoke on the significance of Sewing Circles. The importance of sending garments to Palestine was twofold—it had propaganda value and was of practical value. In November some 2,000 garments were sent off from Durban and a large parcel had also been dispatched from Cape Town. No second-hand or ready-made garments were desired, but those who had not the leisure to sew or knit could contribute materials and wool for others to work.

Amongst those who participated in the discussion were Mesdames N. Philips, H. Wolff, Chaskelson, S. Marks and H. Lieberman.

## At Home to Visiting Zionists.

The Executive and Central Committee of the Bnoth Zion Association were At Home to visiting women Zionists and members at the Pavilion Hall, Muizenberg, on Wednesday afternoon, 3rd January. Mrs. Mary Segal, who presided, extended a warm welcome to all present and particularly to representatives of the Zionist Council, Dr. Deborah Katzen, Mrs. Jacobson and Mrs. D. Kay. She said that fellow Zionists always considered themselves as members of the same large family. They were all working for the furtherance of the Zionist ideal—the upbuilding of Eretz Israel. Jews all over the world were fighting for democracy—liberty and fraternity. It was the duty of Zionists now to make the position in Palestine so strong that the Jewish claim at the peace conference would be a strong one.

Miss Valerie Cassel rendered two piano-forte solos that were much appreciated.

### Address by Dr. W. J. Fischel.

Dr. Walter Fischel gave an address on "Cultural Life in Eretz Israel." At the outset he said that he had occasion to appreciate the work of the Zionist women in South Africa. One task had to be faced by Jewry all over the world, how best to build up the Jewish nation. Zionists wished to build a culture of their own. They had to deal with practical colonisation and cultural activity at the same time.

Who were the bearers of cultural life in Eretz Israel to-day? Sephardic and Ashkenazic Jews were building up a combined culture. Since the end of the last century the Ashkenazi Jews became the majority and there was a remarkable change in cultural activity. There was not yet a static culture in Eretz Israel. There was, however, a revival of language, religion, art and music, a revival of interest in the

Jewish past and a new interest in science. One of the most remarkable things was that culture in Palestine was Hebrew culture. There were thousands of families who spoke only Hebrew. The revival of Hebrew was a remarkable miracle and expressed itself in many ways: children played and cried in Hebrew and scholars expressed their thoughts also in Hebrew. The Hebrew radio had its educative value. The Hebrew language was a unifying power among the dispersed Jewish communities. In Palestine there was great interest in the Jewish past and subjects like archaeology, sociology and anthropology were studied with earnestness. Jerusalem was favoured to be a living museum. Another feature in the cultural life of Eretz Israel was the different attitude towards religious life—festivals have new significance. There is also a new interest in art, music and literature. The orchestra, conducted by Hubermann and Toscanini was for those who lived in Palestine a source of great strength. Now the Jewish people had become a nation with

(Continued on page 16)

# OUR CHILDREN'S CIRCLE

Conducted by COUSIN HELEN

## OUR MOTTO:

"Do not unto others, what you would not have others do unto you."

"A little child shall lead them."—Isaiah xi., 6.

My Dear Little Cousins,

In Galicia there lived long ago a man and his wife, who wished very much for a child. An old story tells that one day an angel of God came to them, promising them a child in their old age who should be named "Israel" since he would bring light to the eyes of all Israel. When the boy was born the parents named him Israel and waited anxiously to see whether he would indeed become a great and wise man in Israel. But they died while he was still very young.

Little Israel who was cared for by some kind people, did not care very much for books. When his teacher tried to explain the Torah to him, he used to steal away by himself and sit under a tree in the woods, thinking of many things. As he grew older, he was given the work of taking some little children through the woods to their Hebrew school every day. As they walked through the woods he used to teach them beautiful songs about God and sing with them.

One day on their way through the forest they met a wolf. When the fathers of the children heard of their danger, they said they would not allow them to go through the woods any more until the wolf was killed. But Israel told them not be afraid. He remembered the story his father had told him just before his death, of the coming of the angel and God's promise that He would always protect and guide the helpless child. "I am not afraid of the wolf," said Israel.

The next day when he took the children to school and reached the middle of the forest they saw a wolf again, standing in the path, bristling and snarling. Israel raised the club he had brought with him and went fearlessly towards the beast. For a moment the wolf glared at the boy with his wicked, hungry eyes; then his tail drooped between his legs and he ran away howling in fear. Israel and the other children continued on their way to school. Nobody ever saw the wolf again and many people believed it was no wolf but some evil spirit sent to prove Israel's courage and teach him to trust in God.

When Israel grew older he became a great leader of the Jewish people, especially in Galicia. Although he had never studied with the other children, but always alone and in secret, he showed great wisdom in all he said and did. But Israel

always said that learning was not as important as the Jews had always believed. Up to that time, the rabbis there had taught that an ignorant man who does not understand the Torah, cannot know God. But Israel said that loving God was worth more than all the wisdom a man could learn in all the Jewish schools.

Because he could heal the sick through his prayers and seemed to possess such wonderful power, Israel was called *Baal Shem—Tov* (the master of the Good [Divine] name). People came to him from all parts of the country; they were happy if they were allowed even to look upon him. They went back to their own homes to tell the many wonders he had performed.

Perhaps the greatest thing the Baal Shem did for the Jewish people of his day was to teach them that God was not only in the Holy Books but that he is everywhere and always lives close to his children. He taught them also that if we really know God we are gay and happy. That is why the Chassidim, Israel's followers, still worship God by dancing and singing happy, merry songs just as they used to do at the feasts of the Great Master of the Name many years ago.

Your loving,

COUSIN HELEN.

## AT HOME TO VISITING ZIONISTS.

(Continued from page 14)

new modern expressions of thought. The University on Mount Scopus was the pride of world Jewry. Jerusalem was now the centre of Hebrew culture with the largest library in the Near East, collections of value, laboratories, students and great international professors. The University was the centre of Jewish tradition and Jewish science. Jewry could now be proud of being able to serve the Allies in their efforts to win the war. No Zionist was a real Zionist if he belittled cultural activity. Mount Scopus was the greatest pride of all Jewry. In the work of the Hebrew University one could witness the renaissance of the Hebrew culture.

Mrs. T. Gordon (Springbok), speaking on behalf of the country visitors, thanked the B'nai Zion Association for their hospitality and said how glad visitors from outlying districts were to meet fellow Zionists from all over the Union.

Mrs. Israel Abrahams thanked Dr. Fischel for his most interesting address.

Mrs. L. Segal thanked the artist, Miss Cassel.

## Zionist Youth Activities.

### CAPE ZIONIST YOUTH EXECUTIVE.

*Camp.* The 15th Annual Y.I. Camp at the Strand was officially opened by Rabbi Israel Abrahams on Monday, 1st January, 1940. A very large crowd consisting of campers, their relations and friends and many visitors from practically every province in South Africa attended. The Totzeret Ha-aretz Stall was popular and brisk business was done throughout the afternoon. The visitors were entertained to a lively sing-song of Hebrew and Jewish songs by the campers, after which tea was served.

A full report of the camp-fire welcome by the Mayor of the Strand, Mr. De Jongh details of the official opening and the various functions will be published next week.

Societies are reminded of the special Council meeting which takes place at Camp at the Strand on Sunday morning, 7th January. All societies are urgently requested to send their representatives to this important meeting. Mr. Israel Dunsky will deliver an address.

*Camp Ball.* A Grand Camp Ball will be held at the White House Hotel, Strand, to-morrow night (Saturday, 6th January, 1940). Full orchestra in attendance.

### WORCESTER.

Mr. Michael Schochat conducted a successful Tree Fund Canvass for the Jewish National Fund, the amount of £3 15s. 6d. being collected.

The following contributed towards the Fund: Mr. Hertzberg, Schochat family, M. Rabinowitz, I. Green family, B. Lipman family, M. Donnen, P. Zackon family, R. Shandling family, I. Jaffe family, W. Heller, R. E. Shandling family, R. Sackinofsky, Mr. Block, H. Abramowitz and T. Wurwand.

### GREEN & S.P. JEWISH GUILD.

The guild held a very successful meeting on Monday evening, 18th ult., a very large crowd being present.

During the earlier part of the evening a Chanukah play-reading produced by Miss R. Woolf took place. Those taking part were Miss N. Woolf, Mr. Henry Newman, Mr. S. Horwitz, Mr. M. Robinson. After this the crowd indulged in heckling for a little while.

Dancing then commenced, the music being supplied by Miss L. Kohn and her brother Mr. M. Kohn. During the evening tea was served.

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