

## Zionist Conversazione. Zionism and the War.

Dr. J. FRIEDMAN ON  
"SCIENCE AND THE MODERN  
MIND."

The fortnightly Conversazione took place at the Zionist Hall on Tuesday night. Mr. M. Joffe was in the chair.

Dr. Jack Friedman gave an interesting lecture on "Science and the Modern Mind." Science, he said, was the greatest determining factor of the modern mind for good as well as evil and had far-reaching effects.

The spirit and moral life of Europe was derived from three great civilisations: the Roman, Greek and Jewish. Till quite recently Europe had been religious in outlook, with the Bible as the keystone: Darwin's "Origin of Species" had a tremendous effect on the minds of the people and brought about a revolution in human thought. Darwin showed that the appearance of man was due to natural factors—that man was not created independently of other animals, but was evolved through the agency of natural forces. Darwin's theories came into irreconcilable conflict with the Bible, which is concerned with the relation of man to God. The crux of the Biblical message is the "Fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom," the word "fear" being allied not to terror but to humility and "knowledge" being not scientific knowledge, but the knowledge of good and evil.

### Radical Error.

The men who produced the Bible, said Dr. Friedman, saw the possibility of stemming the tide of ferocity which man inherits from his animal ancestors. The Bible has created in man's mind the machinery to check evil and turn man's mind to good. The irreligious man is he who does not humble himself before the moral law and makes his own desires and lusts the motive power to action. The ideas of Thomas Huxley and his followers were the logical outcome of Darwin's theories; a new term "agnosticism" was coined and a breach was made in the dam which for centuries had stemmed the tide of evil in human nature. Huxley was followed by those who wished to found a new world order on a scientific basis. The radical error was that they failed to realise that scientific values were derivative not primary. Since Darwin man had begun to draw on the moral capital of the past and had ceased to create moral capital of his own. This is seen in the futuristic novels of H. G. Wells.

### Limitations of Science.

The products of science are so tremendous, continued Dr. Friedman, as to blind us to

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ADDRESS BY  
Adv. H. M. BLOCH.

At the Annual General Meeting of the Dorshei Zion Association on Sunday night, Adv. H. M. Bloch delivered a lecture on "Zionism and the War."

Mr. Bloch said that the world had shrunk greatly as far as Zionism was concerned; almost daily countries were lopped off from the Zionist tree; about half the Jewish world were by force of circumstances outside Zionism to-day. There remained, in fact, only the Jewries of the British Empire, the United States and South America. In numbers these still represented about 40 per cent. of the world Jewish population. There was not only the temporary eclipse of large Jewish communities in Europe who had fallen under the Nazi yoke and who it was hoped would be restored after the war, but there were also the Jewries of those countries which had been incorporated in the Soviet Union and which might be regarded as permanently eclipsed.

### Increased Burden.

It was obvious, continued Mr. Bloch, that the burden on other Jewries of the world had increased tremendously. This burden must take the form of protecting the World Zionist Organisation which occupied a certain sphere in the comity of nations and of buttressing what had been created in Palestine. The political, economic and social assets built up in Palestine, must be safeguarded. Our ordinary Zionist work must not be diminished, but must be increased.

### Man-Power.

The Zionist membership in free countries must be enlarged so as to make up for those who through force of circumstances had fallen away. But such numerical increase would not be sufficient if it did not provide for the possibility of taking advantage of every opportunity. We must have resources of money and of man-power—both were of equal importance.

Formerly man-power had been drawn from Eastern Europe and this source might be closed for some time. But man-power must be drawn not only from persecuted countries; the whole psychological approach to the human material problem was wrong. The upbuilding of Palestine was as much the function of Jewry where there was not the whip to drive them out. Even in South Africa preparations should be made for the transportation of substantial elements; there must be *Hachshara* on a large scale.

### Jewish Units.

Dealing with the impact of the war on the Yishuv, Mr. Bloch touched on the ques-

tion of Jewish units and said that he was convinced that the Government would ultimately have to accept the offer of the Jews to form a Jewish army. This would be an important gain from the Zionist standpoint. It should be as much a democratic aim for the Jews to be restored to the dignity of a nation as for the other nations who had fallen under the Nazi heel. The first step was the raising of a Jewish army in Palestine and of Jewish units in other countries.

Continuing, Mr. Bloch said the Yishuv had to develop some form of national self-sufficiency. The whole economy must be remoulded on this basis; it must be one of the major policies of world Zionism.

It was also necessary for Palestine to become integrated in a substantial degree in the life of the Near East. It could not remain isolated and cut-off from the social and political life of the Near East. The war had shown that isolated entities were a danger. Palestine must broaden out in its relations and contacts with other countries.

### Mass Transportation.

The most important matter, said Mr. Bloch, arose out of the need for creating conditions where opportunities could be utilised. The war had produced a revolution of technique in the question of mass transportation of peoples, which had to-day become a vast political concept in dealing with minority problems. At the end of the war the problem of minorities was likely to be treated in a drastically different way from the way it was treated at the end of the last war. The only way friction caused by minorities can be removed is by transportation of minorities so as to procure settlements uniform in character and race. If other minorities would have to be transported, Jews would also have to be transported. Even if not, we should be living at a time when mass-transportation was the order of the day and should have to avail ourselves of the new technique.

Small nations had shown themselves to be factors of instability in world problems. At the end of the war there may be tendency to incorporate them in federations. This, with regard to Palestine, would be a great danger to the National Home, and it was the policy of Zionism to fight against this. We must see that what is given us is not taken away. In order to give effect to anything we may gain, we must make the country strong and self-supporting. The population must be of five or six millions—it was only a delusion to think that another 100,000 or so could give us the claim to being an independent nation.

If we were to continue we must do it on a totally different scale. The establishment of a small country would not be accepted unless with mass transportation we could put in within five years ten times as many as we put in since the Balfour Declaration.

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# Jewish Chaplains to the Jewish Guild Soldiers' Rest Room. Forces.

## TWO APPOINTMENTS.

In addition to Rabbi W. Hirsch (Minister of the Pretoria Hebrew Congregation), who is the Jewish Chaplain to the Forces at Roberts Heights, two other Jewish chaplains to the Forces have been appointed.

The first is Mr. Israel Levinson, who becomes Chaplain to the Forces in the Transvaal and who is shortly leaving for Premier Mine. The second is Mr. Simeon Weinstein, who has been appointed Chaplain to the units on the fighting front.

Mr. Levinson is well-known as the Principal of Hillel College in Johannesburg. He came to this country in 1906 from London, where he received his education at Westminster Jews' Free School and later at Jews' College. He was for a time headmaster of the Hebrew High School in Johannesburg. During the last war Mr. Levinson was Jewish Chaplain to the Forces in East Africa, holding the rank of captain.

Mr. Weinstein, who hails from Oudtshoorn, is a leader of the Young Mizrachi movement. He is equally at home in both official languages and in addition is a keen Hebrew scholar. He joined the forces soon after the outbreak of war as a member of the Ambulance Corps and has already gone up North with the fighting forces.

## ZIONIST CONVERSAZIONE.

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its limitations; the spiritual values which make life worth living are produced not by scientists but by artists, poets, musicians, etc. With the rise of science a vast wave of scepticism swept over the world, and materialism became the ruling creed. The works of Aldous Huxley, grandson of Thomas Huxley, show a cynicism and disgust with life, which is reflected in the feelings of a vast number of his own generation, but Huxley came to reconsider his own views and his later works show a reaction and a realisation that "man does not live by bread alone."

In modern life, said Dr. Friedman, we see the effects of making materialism supreme. Hitler, Mussolini, Stalin are all men of one breed—materialists who have discarded all moral values and who do not refrain from any form of political criminality in order to achieve their ends. The present war is being fought against this evil, and victory will mean the ascendancy of spiritual values once again.

Science had also beneficial effects, Dr. Friedman admitted. It had freed man's minds from superstition, and made him a more rational being. But it had destroyed too much and had blinded men to true values. The time had arrived for a new re-valuation; a return to the older culture and ethics was wanted. Science must cease to appear all-sufficient and respect for moral and spiritual values must become the controlling factor in life.

Dr. Felix Gross and Mr. M. Joffe took part in the discussion.

Miss M. Voloshen rendered a pianoforte solo.

## Appeal from Capt. J. H. Stodel.

The "S.A. Jewish Chronicle" has received a special appeal from Captain J. H. Stodel on behalf of the Soldiers' Rest Room in the Jewish Guild Memorial Hall, Johannesburg.

A few kind sympathisers in Cape Town have been good enough to contribute approximately £30 already and this has been sent up. Included in this amount is £10 from the M.O.T.H.S., Cape Town. At first glance, Jewish readers will be grateful to the fine example set by the M.O.T.H.S. whose members are composed mainly of Gentile ex-Servicemen, but a few details are necessary to show that the Soldiers' Rest Room at the Jewish Guild, Johannesburg, is undenominational. Originally, it was intended to serve the purpose of providing rest and comfort, food and sleep to Jewish soldiers on leave in the Transvaal. Jewish boys from all parts of South Africa began to frequent this Rest Room immediately it was opened and the treatment received was so positively overwhelming that it was not long before they advertised this fact and began to introduce their Gentile colleagues to the amenities of the place. The result is that from a small beginning when teas and meals were served at the rate of perhaps, thirty to sixty a day respectively, the figures for the month of July reveal that 6,912 meals and 2,997 teas were served in this domicile. Naturally, a very large proportion of this was Gentile soldier patronage and this has been most pleasing to the Committee and all helpers as well as to the Jewish community of Johannesburg because it has resulted in undoubted valuable propaganda for Jewry.

It should be known that in addition to meals and teas, entertainments in the Guild Hall, dancing, motor drives, hot baths, comforts, cigarettes, etc., are provided, and even accommodation in hotels is arranged for when numbers prove too large for the capacity of the Guild.

The help and all administrative work is free of all expense. The young ladies who serve the teas and meals are composed of members of the finest Jewish families in Johannesburg. Prominent Jewish women take their turn in the kitchens and preparation of the sandwiches, tea, or coffee, etc., daily, and in addition bring down from their

own homes, items of superlative comfort, such as roast turkeys, ducks, chickens, etc. One might say that with such hospitality it is not a wonder that the patronage is so high, but in the same breath one must say that nothing is too good for those who go out to fight our battles, and is it not a fact that these feasts come before the fast which is almost certain to come when these boys are in the field.

The obligations of such an undertaking are naturally, not inconsiderable and consequently funds must be found to meet the deficit with which the Committee is faced each month. Those who have sons on active service must have received glamorous reports of the good work which this Rest Room is doing, and Captain Jack Stodel has shown us details in black and white which convince us that Cape Town must do something towards helping with this financial responsibility.

Cape Town has no Jewish Soldiers' Rest Room of its own, nor is there any necessity at the present time for one—but the Transvaal is to-day virtually speaking, the most important military training centre for South Africa and with Jewish boys arriving from all parts it is hoped that a general appeal which the South African Jewish ex-Service League is making in conjunction with the Jewish Guild in Johannesburg for funds will be generously responded to.

It is felt that Cape Town's contribution to this Rest Room should be assessed at £25 per month, which is not a very big sum, and a campaign is to be launched with this purpose in view. The sum of £300 is required to take care of Cape Town's responsibility for twelve months. Here is a golden opportunity to help a good cause right on our own doorstep.

Contributions should be sent to Captain J. H. Stodel, P.O. Box 705, Cape Town, who is acting as Hon. Treasurer on behalf of the appeal. Cheques should be made out to the "Jewish Guild Rest Room" and crossed. A banking account has been opened for this purpose in Cape Town.

It is to be hoped that the ladies of the Peninsula will specially organise card evenings, raffles, etc., to amplify other forms of revenue.

## "The S.A. Jewish Chronicle" for Soldiers.

### AN OFFER TO MEN ON ACTIVE SERVICE.

Jewish soldiers who desire to keep in touch with Jewish events in South Africa (particularly in the Cape) and throughout the world, can secure the regular receipt of "The S.A. Jewish Chronicle" without any charge upon request to:—

The Manager,

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## BAR-MITZVAH.

ISAACSON.—Robert, third son of Rabbi and Mrs. B. Isaacson will read a Portion of the Law and Maftir at the Observatory and Mowbray Synagogue on Saturday, 17th August. Brocho after Service.