

Zionist *Conversazione*.

INTERESTING SYMPOSIUM.

The fortnightly *Conversazione* at the Zionist Hall on Tuesday night took the form of a Symposium on "The Influence which certain periods of Jewish History have had on Jewish life."

Dr. A. BIRNBAUM was in the chair.

Mr. MYER KATOVSKY spoke on the Crusade period, and gave a graphic description of the various crusades and their effects on the Jews. Popes and princes, while blessing the name of their Saviour, vied with each other in creating new methods of terrorising and harassing their subject Jews. The centuries passed with a succession of hideous memories until ever country began to expel its Jews wholesale, first robbing them, and then driving them into exile. The speaker showed how the crusades were the turning point in Jewish history, marking the end of settled Jewish communal life in Europe and the beginning of intense race aversions. They ushered in the Jewish caricature, who stalked through Europe until the eighteenth century with bent back, hunted look and obsequious manner, bitter over his yesterdays and fearful of his to-morrows. Yet in spite of all his suffering the Jew remained spiritually unbroken, and survived the centuries of persecution because of his inner strength and faith in his God and people.

Miss LEILA ARENS spoke on the Spanish period, and said this was the brightest era in post-biblical Jewish history. She gave an intensely interesting survey from the beginning of the eighth century when the Moors conquered Spain and gave freedom to the Jews until the Inquisition and the expulsion of the Jews from Spain. She dealt with the golden age of Jewish learning in Spain—the eleventh and twelfth centuries—with their galaxy of poets, philosophers, scientists, etc., paying particular attention to Maimonides. She referred to the great struggle between science and religion and showed how it led to a split in Jewish life.

Miss Arens traced the events leading to the emergence of the Marranos and described the terrible position of the Jews at the time of the Inquisition. The era of Spain, one of great endeavour and achievement, ended when the darkness of mediaeval Europe descended over the country. She showed, however, that though Jews lived in peace and freedom for a long time in Spain, actually anti-Semitism was never eliminated and there were continually sporadic outbreaks. The Jews were always considered a homeless sect, and parallels could be drawn with the history of the present age. Anti-Semitism could only be defeated when the Jews had a home of their own.

Mr. B. GOLDIN, speaking on the Emancipation and Haskalah period, said that the growth of liberalism and nationalism in Europe, and the extension of political rights to every man, first raised the question of the emancipation of the Jews. The Jewish communities had been ruled by religious leaders who forbade them to have any intercourse with the outside world. The Haskalah movement was one of the movements which helped to

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Goodwill Week.

The observance of "Goodwill Week" in Cape Town during the week commencing Sunday, 17th May, will be the first occasion such a week has been observed in South Africa. A comprehensive programme has been drawn up by the Goodwill Council, which is a strictly non-political organisation and which aims at promoting a better spirit of mutual understanding, tolerance and goodwill among the various sections of the community.

Each day there will be national broadcasts to the school children, the speakers in turn being: The Administrators of the Cape and Transvaal, the Archbishop of Cape Town (Most Rev. J. R. Darbyshire), the Superintendent-General of Education (Dr. de Vos Malan), the President of the National Council of Women (Mrs. Spilhaus) and the President of the A.C.V.V. (Mrs. Roome).

School children in the Cape Peninsula will attend rallies each day in the cinemas, where they will be addressed by notable people and will see an appropriate programme.

A united public gathering of a religious nature will take place in the City Hall on the Sunday. Addresses will be delivered by Prof. A. C. Cilliers, Dr. S. H. Skaife and Rabbi I. Abrahams. The officiating clergy will be Bishop Lavis, Rev. F. S. Berning Malan and the Rev. G. Nicolson. Sir Herbert Stanley will preside and the service will be broadcast.

Other functions are a special goodwill meeting of women, and a public meeting with the Mayor in the chair to be addressed by leading citizens. At functions organised by the various luncheon clubs, goodwill addresses will be delivered.

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modernise the Jews and bring them into contact with other peoples. They were suddenly formed into a nation rather than a religious group. The Jew gained new self-respect. His education was no longer confined to the Talmud, but included secular subjects. Hebrew became a spoken and written language and the rabbis and religious leaders lost their paramount influence.

The Haskalah also led to the dispersion of the Jews all over the world and particularly America. It also stimulated Zionism. Young people went to Palestine because of the urge to possess political rights in a state of their own. The period of the Haskalah has made the Jews what they are to-day.

Dr. Birnbaum thanked the speakers for their most interesting addresses.

During the evening Miss Billie Jones, accompanied by Mrs. Maass, rendered several songs, which were very much appreciated.

Cape Town's Popular Rendezvous!

**THE STANDARD
LOUNGE**

72, Adderley Street, Cape Town.
(Opposite Standard Bank).

Social & Personal.

Mr. Arthur E. Abrahams, of Cape Town, who has been the special representative of the S.A. Red Cross Society for Occupied Enemy Territories' Administration, with headquarters in Asmara, Eritrea, has arrived in Cape Town on leave.

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Capt. Bennie Shapiro has been promoted to the rank of Major. He has been spending a week's leave in Cape Town from Maritzburg.

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The engagement is announced of Major Simon Michelson (S.A.M.C.), elder son of Mrs. B. Michelson and the late Mr. W. Michelson, of 99 Claim Street, Boksburg East, and Rose, second daughter of Mr. and Mrs. M. Rabie, of Sonrondom, The Glen, Sea Point.

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Mr. and Mrs. Louis Gradner left on Wednesday morning for Johannesburg and will be away about three weeks.

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The engagement is announced between Ellie, daughter of Mrs. S. and the late Mr. F. Fish, of Ceres, Cape, and Harry, son of Mr. L. and the late Mrs. Melmed, of Bay Beach Hotel, Three Anchor Bay (formerly Naauwpoort). Miss Fish is an ex-secretary of the Ceres Young Israel Society and is now a member of the Green and Sea Point Zionist Youth Guild. Mr. Melmed, who is treasurer of the Green and Sea Point Zionist Youth Guild, is a member of a well-known S.A. Zionist family and has done active Zionist work, both in town and previously in the country.

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Mr. and Mrs. I. Kaimowitz (nee Rita Kohn) are being congratulated on the birth of a son.

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Mr. and Mrs. M. Berman (nee Desirée Newman) are being congratulated on the birth of a daughter.

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Mr. and Mrs. Ch. Achron (nee Chanele Radowsky) are being congratulated on the birth of a daughter.

Forthcoming Events.

SOCIETY OF JEWS AND CHRISTIANS.

A Symposium will be held at the Metropolitan Hall, Burg Street, Cape Town, on Monday, 18th May, at 8.15 p.m. on the occasion of Goodwill Week. The speakers will be Dr. W. de Vos Malan, Mr. C. W. A. Coulter, M.P., Mr. A. Friedlander, M.P. His Worship the Mayor, Mr. W. James, will preside. All welcome.

JEWISH YOUNG WOMEN'S RESIDENCE.

The Annual General Meeting will take place at Astra, 18, Breda Street, on Wednesday, May 20th, at 5.30 p.m. Donors and subscribers are urged to attend.

C.T. SEWING CIRCLE FOR WAR RELIEF.

The next meeting will take place at the residence of Mrs. D. Goldberg, 12, Breda Street, Cape Town, on Tuesday, May 19th, at 2.30 p.m.