

The Consecration of a Synagogue at Brynmawr.

As announced in our issue of last week, the New Synagogue at Brynmawr was consecrated on the 20th by the Chief Rabbi and opened by Mr. Osmond E. d'Avigdor-Goldsmid. Among those present were: Councillors M. J. S. Lyons (Ebbw Vale) and L. S. Abrahamson (Newport); Messrs. B. Jacobs (President of the Cardiff Congregation), S. Jacobs and L. Jacobs (Newport), G. Freedman (Dowlais), L. Bernstein and L. L. Harris (Tredegar), H. Harris and M. Ash. Besides these there was a good sprinkling of Christian gentlemen, among others the Vicars of Nantyglo, Brynmawr and Beaufort and the Ministers of the Wesleyan, Methodist and Welsh Baptist bodies.

The Service was conducted by the Rev. J. B. LEVY (of Newport) and the Sermon was preached by the Chief Rabbi. Dr. ADLER in his opening remarks said he remembered coming to Brynmawr not more than two years ago, when he felt grieved at the absence of proper accommodation for divine worship. He exhorted them on that occasion to that effect, and was glad to think that the words uttered by him then had met with the response and sympathetic feeling which he desired. The text he had selected to address them from on that occasion, "Acknowledge God in all thy ways," was a phrase which might be fitly described as the Bible in miniature. He proceeded to say there were many strange and erroneous opinions entertained with regard to religion. Some thought the performance of religious duties appertained merely to the Sabbath, and that the week-days were for business and the practical affairs of life. Others, again, thought that religion was merely concerned with the Synagogue, and that when they had attended there on the Sabbath they had acquitted themselves fully of all the obligations due from the Israelites. Others thought that all that was needful was to go to God's house and observe the Day of Atonement. Against all such doctrines and pernicious errors it was the duty of the pulpit to teach and to preach with all the earnestness and power at its command, to emphasise with all vigour against such perilous delusions. In order to remain truly religious man must not shut himself from the world, but must mix with the busy throng and remain proof against all its temptations. The sermon concluded with an eloquent appeal for funds, which are urgently needed to clear the building of debt. On this their day of rejoicing let them give out of the fulness of their hearts to prevent the necessity for raising a mortgage which might prove a burden too great for them to bear.

As a result of the appeal, no less a sum than £35 was raised in the building, and this, together with contributions since received, has reduced the debt to £120.

The religious ceremony over, the company adjourned to the Drill Hall, where a Reception was held. The arrangements were under the superintendence of Miss Isaacs, Miss Freedman and the Misses Roskin.

Mr. O. E. D'AVIGDOR-GOLDSMID presided, and, in giving the "Royal Toast," which was received with musical honours, alluded to the well known loyalty of our race as evidenced by the fact that a greater number of Jews had gone to the Front than was called for by their proportion to the general public.

The CHAIRMAN gave "The Jewish Clergy," coupled with the name of Dr. Adler. He said the community could hardly realise the amount of work the Chief Rabbi got through daily, nor the great demands made upon him.

In replying, Dr. ADLER drew attention to the great similarity that existed between the Principality of Wales and Palestine—the land of our history and our hope. In size they were almost equal: it was a land whose stones are iron and out of whose hills thou mayest dig, if not copper, what was more valuable, coal. He had already referred that day to the patriotism which distinguished the Jew and the Welshman alike: and besides their love for their country they were very similar in their attachment to their language, their literature and their music. He was always pleased to come in contact with the members of his clergy, whether in London or amid the bleak Welsh hills.

The Rev. B. N. MICHELSON, B.A., then proposed, Success to the Brynmawr Synagogue, Prosperity to the Brynmawr Congregation. Their efforts had been crowned with success, owing to the unity of purpose which had distinguished them: that same unity and goodwill would surely not be wanting now that there was the greater need for them.

Mr. A. D. ROSKIN (Vice-Chairman of the Building Committee) replied.

"The Visitors" was given by Councillor M. J. S. LYONS, and responded to by Mr. B. JACOBS and Councillor L. S. ABRAHAMSON.

"The Chairman" was proposed by Dr. ADLER. The toast was received with great enthusiasm, and Mr. GOLDSMID's reply brought the proceedings to a conclusion.

The Stafford House Fete.—It is a well-known fact that Jews are always to the front in any charitable movement, and when added to philanthropy there is a chance of seeing a magnificent mansion like Stafford House with all its treasures of pictures and art on view, as well as taking part in a function of unique brilliancy it is not surprising that so many familiar Jewish faces were to be seen in the picture gallery where the concert was held, down in the grounds illuminated with hundreds of coloured lamps and lanterns, and thronging the stately staircase. The fete numbered among its many patronesses several Jewish society leaders, amongst these were Mrs. Leopold de Rothschild, who wore a wonderful gown of fine silver thread and diamonds, Lady Faudel-Phillips in white with insertions of black lace and jet and diamond tiara and necklace. With Lady Faudel-Phillips was her daughter, Miss Faudel-Phillips, whilst Miss Stella Faudel-Phillips was one of the prettiest of the souvenir sellers, in white, spotted with silver, and the Navy blue ribbons worn by all those who held office. The attractive concert, with the youthful Kubelik to play, and Madame Melba amongst the vocalists, was arranged by Mr. Landon Ronald, and it was his song, "An April Birthday," that Madame Melba gave as an encore. Mr. Langflier, of Bond Street and Glasgow, presented the photographic coupon bestowed in each souvenir, which gives the purchaser the right to one sitting and three copies gratis, either at Mr. Langflier's studio, in London, or other photographers in all towns in the United Kingdom, available till July, 1902. The beautifully "got up" souvenir, is still to be had for half-a-guinea, from the Secretary of the Lifeboat Saturday Fund, 71 and 72, Adelphi Street, Strand, and it is hoped that a great many copies will be applied for, so that the funds can be still further increased.

Holiday Homes.—A drawing room meeting was held on Friday last at the residence of Mrs. Ernest L. Franklin, 50, Portchester Terrace, in furtherance of the movement to provide suitable holiday homes for working girls, especially those connected with the London Girls' Clubs. The Chief Rabbi was among the speakers who supported the scheme explained by Miss Mary Neal and heartily commended by Sir William Broadbent. We are requested by Miss Lily Montagu to mention that the manager's will be grateful for any gifts of games, books, etc., for the amusement of visitors to the Green Lady Hostel.

Jewish Labour News.

[FROM A CORRESPONDENT.]

One of the decisions of the Leeds Conference in connection with the Jewish Organising Council, was that each town be asked to form a local Committee. In order to redeem London from its backwardness in the past, the respective Secretaries of the Boot and Shoe Workers' Union and the Independent Tailors' Union, have decided upon their own initiative to be first in the field in forming the London local Committee. Accordingly, a circular letter is to be addressed to the various Unions within the next fortnight, setting forth the necessity of the immediate formation of such a Committee, the nature of the work it will have to perform, and consequently, the need for every Society to elect one of its able and experienced members to serve on this collective body and take part in the solemn and important duties that will naturally devolve upon it. The circular will also fix the date and place for the first meeting. It is expected that the Committee will get into working form without much difficulty.

Speaking of the Leeds Conference, it might be mentioned by the way that the Official Report of its proceedings has just been issued in English and in Yiddish, containing several fresh items worth noting, of which the letter from Mr. Herbert Burrows, published in its entirety, is of considerable interest. Its contents show that there is at least one Gentile, who, owing to his sympathy with the Jewish workers, is able to understand and appreciate their attitude on the question of trades organisation.

Mr. Burrows says that he and other Gentile friends have always felt that what was chiefly needed was not so many scattered organisations as something which would pull all the Jewish workers together. He knew that each trade must have its union, but there ought to be some common bond uniting all the unions together. Therefore, he had advocated at meetings and in the press the formation of a Jewish Trades Council in London, which should not be in opposition to the Gentile Trades Council, but should work in harmony with it. Some of his Gentile Trades Council friends who have always helped the Jews, such as Mr. Ben Cooper, the Cigar Makers' Secretary, and others, were opposed to his idea, because they thought it would split up the Trade Union Movement. But that was not his meaning. He would be glad for every Hebrew to join the Gentile Union of his trade. But he knew this could not always be done, because customs, habits, modes of work, and unfortunately often language sometimes stood in the way. He was an Internationalist, and made no difference whatever between the workers of any nation. But he could not help seeing, that there were certain questions which peculiarly affected Jews with which a Jewish Trades' Council might deal, that could not be dealt with so well by Gentiles. He further knew that many of the Jewish Trade Unions would be glad to have meetings and lectures and make their trade unionism educational. This would have to be done mainly in Yiddish, and a Jewish Trades Council, by federating the different unions together could arrange a regular system in this way. Then there was the very important question of the "greeners." He had always advocated that a strong Jewish Trade Union Committee should be formed to meet the ships as they come into the docks, and take charge of the poor people and endeavour to lead them into Trade Unionism. This would be the best and most effective answer to the "pauper alien" cry which one day the Jews will have to consider and deal with, that could not possibly be dealt with by Gentiles. This would not in any way interfere with ordinary Trade Union questions, such as wages, hours, workshops, sweating, factory laws, &c., which could always be considered by the general Trades Council, on which both Jews and Gentiles would be represented.

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