

SOUTH HACKNEY RELIGION CLASSES.

On Sunday last, the prizes were distributed to the pupils of the Religion Classes in connection with the South Hackney Synagogue. Mr. HERMANN LANDAU presided at the function, which was held at the Hackney Conservative Club, Mare Street, kindly lent for the occasion, and the prizes were handed to the pupils by a niece of the Chairman.

The choir, under the direction of Mrs. Cooper, having sung Psalm xxix., Mr. A. B. SALMEN read the reports of the Examiner and Committee. In his report, the Rev. H. Gollancz, the Hebrew Examiner, stated: "The classes maintain the high standard of excellence, to which for many years in succession it has been my privilege to testify. The secret of the success seems to me to be in the fact that there is, in this instance, an exemplary co-operation between the various teachers, all qualified and inspired with zeal for their work, and a Head Master who throws himself heart and soul into the duties of his important vocation. While no Standard passed below 75 per cent., some of the classes attained the excellent mark. Under these circumstances, I would at this turning-point in the history of your synagogue, volunteer the statement that no better plea can be adduced for the necessity of communal support to enable you speedily and without delay to erect your new House of Prayer and more commodious Classrooms, than the uniform excellence of the results achieved at the annual examination held in connection with the classes for Hebrew and Religious instruction." The Committee of the Classes, in their report, stated that the classes have greatly increased, inasmuch as it has been found most essential to procure an additional classroom at the Wilton Road Board School, where the classes are held, and they are now in urgent want of an assistant teacher, but they regret their funds will not admit this, and trust that those interested in Jewish education will help them by annual donations, or subscriptions. They also beg to thank the new Jewish Education Board for their promised annual grant of £10. The teachers continue to do their arduous work most efficiently, with a sense of duty that the Committee greatly appreciate, and they also earnestly thank the assistant voluntary teachers, Miss Friedeberg, who has for so many years kindly given her services, and Miss Harriet Cohen. The discipline and progress of the classes is fully maintained, as will be seen by the Rev. H. Gollancz's report.

The CHAIRMAN said that some time ago Mr. A. B. Salmen had made him promise either to preside at that distribution or to find another who would undertake the duty. He had accordingly asked Mr. Leopold de Rothschild to take the chair. That gentleman could not do so this year, and he accompanied his explanation with the offer of the Evelina Prize of £10. (Applause.) He was glad to say that the Committee had already selected the boy and girl who were to be the fortunate recipients of a £5 note each, and those prizes were to be given for the first time that day, and he hoped would be given annually for many years to come.

The prizes were then distributed, and Mr. HERMANN LANDAU delivered an address. He said that he wished, if possible, to impress upon all Jewish parents the importance of sending their children to religious classes. They, as Jews, were without a doubt the Salvation Army of the world—not marching about with timbrels and bands, and wearing uniforms of various colours, but scattered in all parts of the world in order to spread the knowledge of God. That had always been his view of the mission of Israel, and in his opinion those parents who neglected to send their children to classes where the religion and history of their race were imparted, were practically deserters from the army of God. Jews could not thrust their religion down the throats of others, all that they could do was to lead lives that would command admiration. Into the question of secular education he did not propose to enter, but it was imperatively necessary that parents should see that their children grow up in the knowledge and of faith in which they were born. He hoped, if there were any Christian friends present, that they would not take offence at what he was about to say. There were certain so-called Christians who thought that Jews were blind. They maintained that the Christian ideal was higher than that of the Jews. Well, Jews certainly did not keep asylums for inebriates, neither had they established for themselves Societies for the protection of women and children. Jews as a people were not given to drunkenness nor yet to ill-treating their wives and children. But with regard to the ideal he thought that the Jewish ideal was far higher than that of Christians. The Jews lived their lives without thought of future reward. Their mission was upon this earth, and they were satisfied with the exclamation made by Jacob on his deathbed: "For Thy salvation O Lord I hope." But, as a foreigner, he could honestly say that England as a Christian nation approached nearer to perfection than any other country in the world, and it should be the pride of every Jew to be a loyal Englishman. (Cheers.) In conclusion, Mr. Landau said that he could only trust that the fact of his having exerted himself to induce Mr. Leopold de Rothschild to preside at their distribution next year would compensate them for the loss they had sustained on that occasion. (Loud cheers.)

Mr. DELISSA JOSEPH, in proposing a vote of thanks to Mr. Hermann Landau for presiding, said that the Committee had made a fortunate selection. Mr. Landau was one of the most earnest and disinterested workers in the community. As the architect of the new synagogue and schoolrooms, he reported what progress was being made with the building fund. Notwithstanding the altogether inadequate contribution proposed to be made by the United Synagogue, the energy of the local board had brought them very near to the goal they had in view, and as far as he could see by that time next year they should be meeting in their own rooms. (Cheers.) He was convinced that but a short time would elapse before the balance of the amount required will have been contributed by the Jewish community. The vote of thanks was carried amidst cheers.

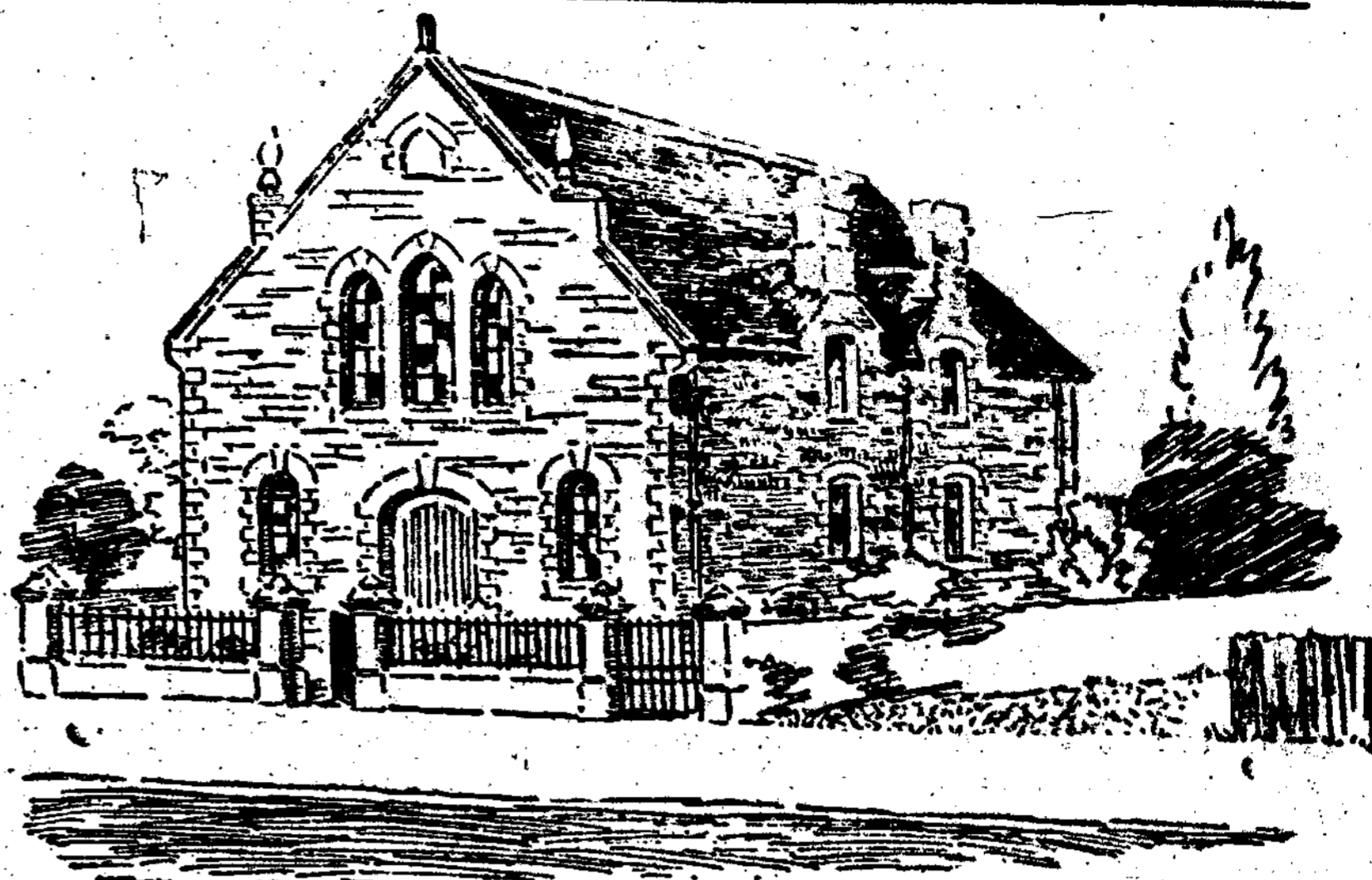
Mr. MARCUS ADLER proposed a vote of thanks to the teachers, who, he said, were indefatigable in their work.

Mr. M. J. HEILBRON responded. On the motion of Mr. H. BARNETT, a vote of thanks was passed to the Rev. H. Gollancz, the Examiner. On the proposition of Mr. M. SIEGENBERG a vote of thanks was passed to Mr. Walter Johnson for the loan of the room in which the meeting was held.

Mr. JOHNSON said that the vote had been made a personal matter to himself, whereas he was but the representative of the Governing Committee of the Hackney Conservative Club, who recognised that their Jewish fellow citizens occupied positions of importance and popularity in Hackney, and they were pleased to extend hospitality to them.

Prizes were awarded to the following: Celia Isaacs and Arthur Barnett (Evelina Prize); Theresa Pizer; Harry Woolf; Lily Konigsberg; Esther Pizer; Ralph Raphael; Fanny Barnett; E. De Lange; Joseph Barnett; John Harris; Isidore Friedman; Gerson Freeman; Lawrence Freeman; Alexander Harris; M. Sugarbread; George Van Cleef; A. De Lange; Ada Lyons; Sydney Frank; A. Gluckstein; L. Philips; Rebecca Levy; Abraham Silverstone; L. Barnett; Fanny Isaacs; Annie Isaacs; Rose Konigsberg; Mabel Jacobs; Louis Pizer; Rose Barczinsky; Esther Sugarbread; Julia Stephany; Leonard Lion; Stella Rosenberg; Reuben Raphael; Rose Sugarman; Rachel Goldstein; Jenny Cohen; Leopold Barnett; Rebecca Leibovitch; Leopold Frank; Isidore De Lange; Lionel Levy; Harry Barczinsky; Frank Barczinsky; Celia Prager; Morris Shalk and Harry Cooper. Prizes were given by Lady Simon, Lady Magnus, Miss Salmen, Sir Samuel Montagu, M.P., Messrs. F. D. Mocatta, Henry Lucas, N. L. Cohen, Herbert Buntwith, H. Barnett, Claude G. Montefiore, A. B. Salmen, Mr. and Mrs. J. Lion and the Proprietors of *The Bazaar*.

JUDITH MONTEFIORE COLLEGE.—The conferment of degrees on students of this College will be held on Sunday the 10th prox.



NEW SYNAGOGUE AT PONTYPRIDD.

The Chief Rabbi visited Pontypridd on Wednesday the 16th for the purpose of consecrating the new synagogue which has been erected in Wood Road. The Jews inhabiting the mining districts of the Rhondda Valley are not numerous, as those who settle in South Wales are chiefly to be found in Cardiff, Newport and Swansea. The congregation at Pontypridd numbers between 60 and 70, but when, about 30 years ago, a small building was found for the purposes of worship behind the old local board offices there were but a few in the town. Some time last year Mr. M. Freedman, to whose untiring efforts the erection of the synagogue is mainly due, leased a piece of ground in Wood Road, and the erection of the synagogue was at once proceeded with. A few months ago the foundation stones were laid by Colonel Goldamid and others. The synagogue will cost about £1,000, about £550 of which has been raised, several Christian residents being among the contributors. The synagogue is of Gothic style, and is situated immediately above the Taff Vale Railway. On the basement are nine rooms. It is 40ft. by 30ft., and provides accommodation for nearly 200. The interior is pleasing and tastefully ornamented. The ark is a handsome structure of pitch pine, and the silk plush curtain is the gift of Mrs. Freedman. Above it are the Ten Commandments, whilst tablets on each side of the ark contain a prayer for the Queen. The reading-desk is in Gothic style, occupying the centre of the synagogue. The contractor was Mr. James Snelling, Pontypridd, and the architect Mr. Lloyd, Wood Road.

The Chief Rabbi's arrival at Pontypridd was witnessed by a large number of persons and there was also a great crowd in front of the Synagogue. The building was formally opened by Mr. M. Makower, of London, (who represents the Pontypridd Congregation at the Board of Deputies) with a gold key, which was handed to him by Mr. Freedman, and bore a suitable inscription. The service, in which a noted local string quartette took part, was conducted by the resident minister, the Rev. M. Rosenberg, and the sermon was preached by the Chief Rabbi. During the usual circuits, the Scrolls of the Law were borne by the Chief Rabbi, the Revs. Dr. Berlin and J. B. Levy, of Newport, Messrs. M. Lorie (Pentre), Dight (Birmingham), Mr. Phillips (Newport), Mr. P. Freedman (Newport), Mr. Goodman (Birmingham).

Immediately after the consecration ceremony, Dr. Adler solemnised the marriages of Miss Dina Freedman and Mr. Saul Bloom, of Newport, and Miss Edith Freedman and Mr. D. Dight, of Birmingham. The brides are the daughters of Mr. Freedman, the President of the Congregation. Before the marriage ceremony the Chief Rabbi presented the brides with handsome prayer-books. Similar gifts were also made to them on behalf of the congregation. A reception was held in the evening at the New Town Hall, and a large number of guests responded to the invitation of Mr. Freedman. During the evening a beautifully-framed and illuminated address was presented to Dr. Adler, in which his abilities and services to the Jewish cause were highly eulogised. The arrangements were carried out by Mr. Lorie of Pentre, and his sons. Mr. J. Freedgoot, of Porth, acted as Secretary of the Ceremonies.

On Thursday morning Dr. Adler inspected the Mikvah, and expressed satisfaction with the arrangements.

CONCERT NOTES.

On Tuesday last the winter season at Steinway Hall was opened by a piano-forte recital of Mrs. Esperanza Kisch-Schorr. The young lady, a native of Liverpool, daughter of a celebrated Hungarian physician, has perfected her musical education at Vienna and Berlin under the best masters, such as Leschetizky, Rudoff, Prückner, Moszkowski and Busoni, and she has gained a great reputation as pianist in Germany. The programme on Tuesday was very varied, comprising works by Bach, Beethoven, Moszkowski, Chopin, Taubert, Rubinstein, Mendelssohn-Liszt, and Liszt. The artist's execution of the various pieces was brilliant, neat and delightful. Her touch is exquisite, and her play full of soul.

Among the first general concerts in the coming autumn season will be one of considerable artistic interest, given at Queen's Hall on Monday, under the auspices of Concert Director Ernest Cavour. A young French violinist, M. Albert Rieu, and his wife, a soprano, are to make their first appearance in England, and several well-known artistes will also take part. M. Rieu took the first prize for violin playing at the Paris Conservatoire in 1886. Madame Rieu is an excellent light soprano.

THE COVENT GARDEN OPERA.—At the English Opera, Covent Garden, Mr. Philip Brozel has been very successful this week in the part of Don José in "Carmen," and Mdle. Olitzka has again shone brilliantly as Ortruda, Fricka and Siebel. Mr. Hedmond's operatic venture is to all appearances a success.

"FLEETING SHADOWS" (London: Robert Cocks and Co.) is a song, the words of which are written by the well-known painter, Mr. B. S. Marks, and his daughter, Miss F. Helena Marks, the excellent pianist, has composed the music. The song is very beautiful, and the words convey the lesson that although life may sometimes have its dreary moments, the warm sunshine of summer is sure to follow.

NUMBER of inmates in the Jewish Seaside Convalescent Home, Brighton, week ending Wednesday, October 23rd, 1895: Men, 7; Women, 8; Children, 7.