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**SOUTH AFRICAN
JEWISH BOARD OF DEPUTIES**

REPORT

JUNE 1953 to AUGUST 1955

*Submitted to the
Twentieth Congress
Johannesburg, September 2nd to 5th 1955*

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South African Jewish Board of Deputies

EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

President:

I. A. MAISELS, Q.C.

Vice-Presidents:

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A. SCHAUDER, J.P. (Eastern Province)
Dr. B. MOSHAL (Natal)
HENRY BRADLOW (O.F.S.)
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Rabbi Dr. M. C. WEILER
N. WINIK

General Secretary:

G. SARON

Secretary:

J. M. RICH

Assistant Secretary:

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FORM OF BEQUEST

I HEREBY GIVE AND BEQUEATH

free of all estate duty the sum of

.....

to the South African Jewish Board of Deputies, Johannesburg,
to be used by the said Board for the carrying out of the objects
for which it has been constituted and I hereby direct that the receipt
signed by the Secretary for the time being of the said Board shall
be a sufficient discharge for the payment of the legacy.

South African Jewish Board of Deputies

**Report of the Executive Council
for the period
JUNE, 1953, to AUGUST, 1955**

**To be submitted to the Twentieth Congress, Johannesburg,
September 2nd to 5th, 1955**

I N T R O D U C T I O N

The Executive Council submits to Congress the following report of its own activities as well as those of its provincial committees, for the period since the Jubilee Congress (at the beginning of June, 1953).

This has not been a period of spectacular changes. The basic pattern of the Board's work has continued as in previous years, and all departments have done effective work. In the nature of things, a compressed summary, like that contained in this report, can scarcely do justice to the variety and intensity of much of the Board's work. A project which may have extended over months and called for much thought and energy, may be reported in a couple of lines or in a paragraph. We therefore hope that this report will be read with imaginative eyes, and an effort be made to grasp the spirit which informs the various branches of the organization.

For the Board is more than the sum of its departments; it is not merely an organization which concerns itself with overseas matters, or represents the community to the authorities, or endeavours to cement goodwill between the Jewish community and all other sections, or sponsors certain cultural and educational projects, or conducts an extensive welfare department, or does many other things. It endeavours to be a live and dynamic institution, keeping abreast of current developments, reacting to new situations and seeking to interpret the needs and desires of South African Jewry.

In a word, the Board endeavours to measure up to its functions and responsibilities as the mouthpiece and central representative organ of South African Jewry.

We trust that this report will show that if we may not always have succeeded, we have, at least, kept that goal steadily in view.

THE BOARD AND OVERSEAS JEWRY

The Community takes pride in its functioning as an integral unit of the K'lal Yisrael. Movements and trends in the greater Jewish world are mirrored in Jewish life in South Africa. There is considerable inter-traffic in ideas, in which the Board plays its due part. Leading members of the Community pay frequent visits overseas, establish close contacts with the leaders of other Jewish communities, and study the workings of overseas Jewish communal organizations. Jewish communal workers from overseas often visit this country. The overseas Jewish press and Jewish books published in many countries find numerous readers here, and the South African Jewish press (including the Board's own periodical, *Jewish Affairs*) is read with close attention by, and frequently quoted in, Jewish periodicals abroad. In all these ways the Board endeavours to keep abreast of current Jewish developments in the world, and to make its own contribution, on behalf of South African Jews.

Israel

The South African Jewish Community continues to demonstrate its deep interest in the progress of the state of Israel. The Board, as the representative body of the community, has sought to discharge the mandate given it by successive Congresses to assist in this field to the best of its ability. The South African Zionist Federation is, of course, the communal organ set up with this special object, and the Board has closely collaborated with the Federation on many occasions.

The Chairman of the Board was a signatory of the joint manifesto issued at the commencement of the 1954-56 campaign of the Israeli United Appeal.

A joint statement was issued by the Board and the Federation in October, 1953, deeply regretting the loss of life arising out of the tension and strife on the frontiers of Israel and expressing the hope that appropriate steps would be taken to establish peace, so that future bloodshed of innocent people would be avoided and constructive work for all peoples of the Middle East initiated.

Unfortunately, in March, 1954, it was found necessary for the Board and the Federation to issue another joint statement, expressing the anxiety of the South African Jewish Community at the increasing aggressions by the Arab states against Israel, and calling upon the United Nations to adopt effective measures against the warlike attitude of the Arab states, and thus avert the danger of an upheaval.

In August, 1953, the Board sent a donation towards the Queen Elizabeth Coronation Forest planted in Israel by the Jewish communities of the Commonwealth countries.

The Executive Council of the Board had the pleasure of meeting Mr. Joseph Sapir, the Israel Minister of Communications, in September, 1954, and Mr. E. Dobkin, a member of the Executive of the Jewish Agency and Chairman of the Keren Hayesod, in November, 1954.

In December, 1954, the Board and the South African Zionist Federation jointly held a farewell function for Mr. Cecil Hyman, the Minister for Israel in the Union since February, 1952. A presentation was made to him and Mrs. Hyman, in token of the esteem they earned for themselves during their residence in this country.

In May, 1955, the President, on behalf of the Board, welcomed the new Israel Minister, Mr. I. Bavlly, on his arrival in Johannesburg.

Co-ordinating Board

The Board continues to be a member of the Co-ordinating Board of Jewish Organizations having Consultative Status with the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations. The other members of this body, which was established in 1947, are the Board of Deputies of British Jews and the B'nai B'rith of the United States.

The Co-ordinating Board sends representatives to meetings of ECOSOC and its Commissions and, as a recognized "non-Governmental" organization, periodically submits to ECOSOC written statements of its views on matters within the competence of that body.

The B'nai B'rith defrays the cost of the head office, in Washington, and the London office is maintained by the Board of Deputies of British Jews and the South African Board (through a subvention from the South African Jewish Appeal).

As opportunity offers, meetings of representatives of the three partner bodies in the Co-ordinating Board are held.

Among the subjects to which the Co-ordinating Board has directed its attention are the work of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, the status of "stateless persons," human rights, the eradication of prejudice and discrimination, the convention on the prevention and punishment of the crime of genocide, and the revision of the charter of the United Nations.

World Jewish Congress

For many years, cordial relations have subsisted between the Board and the World Jewish Congress. There has been constant exchange of information and the Congress has received financial assistance from the South African Jewish community, through the South African Jewish Appeal at the instance of the Board.

These relations have now been put on a firm basis as a result of an agreement between the World Jewish Congress and the Board, concluded at the end of 1954. While the Board did not enter into membership of the Congress, the agreement provided for the exchange by the two bodies of all appropriate material available to them on matters within their purview. The Congress undertook to keep the Board fully supplied with information relating to the Jewish situation throughout the world and to particular Jewish communities, as well as to the policies and activities of the Congress in relation to current Jewish problems. The Board would likewise keep Congress similarly informed on matters relating to its policies and activities.

It was specifically laid down that whenever it is advisable that action be taken in South Africa, including representations to the South African government or other public authorities or bodies, on any matter falling within the scope of this arrangement, such action shall be taken only by the Board, as the representative body of the South African Jewish community.

The Congress undertook to invite the Board to nominate as an observer a representative to attend meetings of its World Executive, the Board's representative to have full right to participate in discussions and to make proposals, but without the right to vote.

The Board was invited to send an observer to the meeting of the World Executive of the World Jewish Congress, held in Paris in January, 1955, and Mr. N. Philips, the Vice-Chairman of the Executive Council, attended.

Co-ordination of Overseas Work

While in Paris for this meeting, Mr. Philips attended a meeting of several of the Jewish organizations working in the international field, convened at the instance of Dr. Nahum Goldmann, the President of the World Jewish Congress, with the object of devising means for future co-operation between the organizations and the co-ordination of their work. The discussions thus begun have not yet reached fruition.

The Board has repeatedly expressed its regret that there should be so many Jewish bodies operating independently in the international sphere. Indeed, the preamble to the agreement with the World Jewish Congress recorded above, reaffirmed the Board's standpoint that it is essential that there should exist effective machinery for the safeguarding of the rights and common interests of the Jewish communities outside Israel, that such effective machinery could best be established through a unified organization representing all Jewish communities, and that the Board is anxious to make a contribution to such unification.

Jewish Material Claims Against Germany

The Board's representatives on the Board of Directors of the Conference on Jewish Material Claims against Germany are now Mr. Max Greenstein and Mr. N. Philips who replaced Mr. I. A. Maisels, Q.C. and Mr. B. A. Ettlinger, Q.C. (In terms of the constitution of the Conference, the Board, as a member body, is entitled to send one Director to the annual meeting of the Board of Directors at the expense of the Conference.)

Mr. Greenstein attended a meeting of the Conference in New York, in March, 1954. Mr. Philips attended the meeting held in Paris, in February, 1955. He was accompanied by Mr. Abel Shaban, a member of the Board's Executive Council, who was in Europe at the time attending other conferences.

The meeting of the Board of Directors approved the budget for 1955. (This excludes Israel's share of reparations) Out of the sums made available by the West German Government, allocations were made for basic relief and rehabilitation programmes, covering the Continent of Europe, Australia, and the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee's programme on behalf of victims of Nazi persecution.

There was also an allocation to the Central British Fund for the establishment of homes for aged victims of Nazi persecution in England. Sums were provided for assistance to refugee Rabbis; to outstanding former community leaders in Nazi occupied territory who are today in need; for legal assistance to individual claimants (United Restitution Office); for a programme of cultural and educational reconstruction; and for commemorative projects (Yad Vashem in Israel and the Memorial of the Martyrs in Paris). Allocations were also approved in connection with programmes within Israel.

Claims Against Austria

The Committee on Jewish Claims against Austria, of which the Board is a member, persevered with its negotiations with the Austrian Government, which had indicated its readiness to consider measures to meet the minimum needs of the victims of Nazi persecution. Agreement was reached in July 1955. Significant benefits were provided for a large number of victims of Nazi persecution from Austria. The agreement has still to receive the sanction of the Austrian Parliament.

Commonwealth Conference

In June, 1954, a second conference of Jewish representative bodies in the Commonwealth took place in London. Like the first such gathering, which took place in London in 1950, it was convened at the instance of the Board of Deputies of British Jews. It lasted five days and was attended by leading representatives of the Jewish communities of Aden, Australia, Canada, India, New Zealand, Rhodesia, South Africa and Great Britain.

Mr. E. J. Horwitz and Mr. G. Saron went to London to represent the Board, and Mr. Henry Bradlow, Mrs. Anna Franks, and Mrs. Mary Segal, who were on vacation in Europe, sacrificed part of their holiday to attend.

There were sessions on Israel, foreign affairs, public relations, and inter-group activities, religious questions, the shortage of ecclesiastical personnel, education and youth work, Shechita, and methods of promoting co-operation between the Commonwealth communities.

In preparation for the conference papers had been circulated giving background information regarding the various communities and highlighting some of their current problems.

The conference emphasised the value of establishing personal relationships between the representatives of the various communities and of the interchange of information and experience. It served to demonstrate the extent to which there are problems common to all Jewish communities and it showed that the solution of these problems can be facilitated through common approach and in some cases through joint action. This applies not only to Jewish religious, cultural and educational matters, but also to a number of matters in the field of foreign affairs on which there should be consultation between the Commonwealth communities.

Neighbourin Territories

The Board has maintained close relations with the Rhodesian

Jewish Board of Deputies. Information is exchanged; representatives of the Rhodesian Board are invited to the Congress of the South African Board and vice versa. The Congress of the Rhodesian Board in 1954 was attended by Mr. N. Philips, the Vice-Chairman of the Executive Council and Mr. Saron (General Secretary).

Overseas Visitors

We have mentioned above the distinguished visitors from Israel whom the Executive Council was pleased to meet. Among the personalities from other countries overseas for whom special meetings of the Executive Council took place, were Rabbi Kopul Rosen, Founder and Principal of Carmel College, who came to this country to lead the building fund campaign of the South African Board of Jewish Education, and Prof. Wm. Haber, President of the American Ort.

SOUTH AFRICAN JEWISH APPEAL

In 1942, the Board established the South African Jewish Appeal as the instrument of the South African Jewish Community for bringing relief, succour and rehabilitation to the victims of the war and of Nazi persecution and also for the rehabilitation of Jewish ex-servicemen. The latter branch of the work is conducted by the Ex-Servicemen's Committees of the Board in Johannesburg and the Provinces and is referred to elsewhere in this report.

The governing body of the South African Jewish Appeal is the National Council, the members of which are appointed by the Board. The National Chairman of the Appeal is a co-opted member of the Executive Council of the Board.

In 1948, an agreement was made with the South African Zionist Federation for the establishment of the Israeli United Appeal as the fund-raising body for the Federation and the South African Jewish Appeal. The funds collected by the I.U.A. are divided between the Federation and the Appeal in agreed proportions.

Ashkelon Council

With the effluxion of time, the major part of the Appeal's activities is now centred on Israel, where a new Garden City, Ashkelon, has been established to assist in the enormous problem of housing the newcomers to that country. The Ashkelon side of the work has since September, 1954 been managed by an Ashkelon Council, with equal numbers of representatives of the South African Zionist Federation and the South African Jewish Appeal. The Chairman of the Ashkelon Council is appointed by the South African Jewish Appeal.

The National Chairman of the Appeal and also the Chairman of the Ashkelon Council have been co-opted to membership of the Executive Council of the Zionist Federation.

The Ashkelon Council receives its funds from the South African Jewish Appeal. The management of the affairs of the Appeal in Israel, so far as Ashkelon is concerned, is in the hands of the Afridar Housing Corporation, Ltd. which is a non-profit utility company. The Directors are appointed by the Appeal and by the Government of Israel. The Chairman is Mr. Louis A. Pincus and the Managing Director is Dr. H. Sonnabend (who is also Mayor of Ashkelon). Both were formerly members of the Executive Council of the South African Jewish Board of Deputies. Up to now the work in Ashkelon has been confined to the "Afridar" neighbourhood, where 468 dwellings have been built, as well as a communal shopping centre, which houses the local town hall, a library, a museum, shops and offices, a restaurant, the family health centre, clinic, a post office and a savings bank.

The Ashkelon Council is participating in the building of an additional 200 dwellings for the workers of the neighbouring Yuval Gad Cement Pipe Factory and has also arranged for the Amidar Housing Corporation to build a further 100 houses in the "Afridar" neighbourhood for Yuval Gad workers.

Plans are now being prepared for the erection of further houses under the Government of Israel's scheme under which prospective owners of dwellings may register houses built by the Government and with the joint assistance of the housing corporations. The purchaser is required to deposit the sum of I.£1,000 to obtain possession of the house. The total cost varies from about I.£4,000 to about I.£5,700. The balance is payable in monthly instalments over a long period. This scheme will be put into operation all over Israel during 1957, but three localities have been chosen, viz.: Ashkelon, Beersheba and Eilat, for the immediate implementation of the scheme. The Ashkelon Council is considering participation in this building project.

Together with the Medical Committee of the Zionist Federation, the Council is planning the establishment of a hospital in a new neighbourhood, to serve not only the residents of Ashkelon but also the whole of the Lachish area, where the Government is now establishing a number of agricultural villages and settlements. The Ashkelon Council is also planning to build a sports arena and has very gratefully accepted the co-operation of the South African Maccabi Council, who are organizing a life-membership drive among

their own members for the Ashkelon sports club.

Subsidies

The South African Jewish Appeal continues to subsidize the following bodies:—

The World Ort Union.

The Union Ose.

The Alliance Israelite Universelle Schools.

The Co-ordinating Board of Jewish Organizations.

The World Jewish Congress.

Rabbis and Yeshivoth in Israel.

United Hias Service.

Jews' College, London.

The Wiener Library.

The Yiddish Cultural Centre in Israel.

The Comite d'Aide aux Intellectuels.

The S.A.J.A. Clothing Depot continues to ship about 125,000 items of used garments and household linen and about 15,000 pairs of used footwear to Israel every year. The necessary export permits for these items are readily provided by the Union Government.

The foreign currency regulations are still in force and impose a limit upon the amount of foreign exchange which may be transferred overseas. The Government's liberal attitude in this connection is very much appreciated. For the half year ending 30th June, 1954, the Treasury increased the normal allocation of foreign exchange which it has been putting at the disposal of the Jewish Appeal and Zionist Federation jointly. Apart from this the Union Government permits the transfer of the balance of the funds in the form of goods exported to Israel from South Africa. In this regard also the Union Government continues its helpful and co-operative policy.

As the Jewish communities of the Rhodesias and the Central African Federation participate in the Israeli United Appeal, it follows that they are also participants in the work of the South African Jewish Appeal.

THE JEWISH COMMUNITY IN THE SOUTH AFRICAN SCENE

Relations with the Government

During the period under review the Board has on all appropriate occasions acted as the spokesman of the Jewish community *vis-à-vis* the Government. When Dr. D. F. Malan retired from the office of Prime Minister, Mr. I. A. Maisels, Q.C., the President of the Board, wrote to him conveying "the warm appreciation of the Jewish community for the great services which you have rendered to South

Africa during your long period of public life." The letter also referred appreciatively to the "understanding and sympathy which has been shown by you personally, and under your leadership, by the Government, towards the reborn State of Israel."

When Mr. J. G. Strijdom assumed the premiership in succession to Dr. Malan, the Board wrote to him offering him "its warmest wishes . . . We pray that under your leadership our country may continue to prosper and all its people find contentment and happiness."

In February of this year a deputation consisting of the President (Mr. Maisels) the Chairman, (Mr. E. J. Horwitz) and the General Secretary (Mr. Saron), had an interview with the Prime Minister in Cape Town. The interview afforded the Board an opportunity of explaining to the Prime Minister the role of the Board of Deputies as the representative body of the South African Jewish community and the scope of its activities.

In the course of the interview, which was a cordial one, a number of matters of special interest to the Jewish community were touched upon.

The Prime Minister said that he believed that relations between the various sections of the European community had improved in recent years and he hoped that this position would continue.

In an interview with representatives of the Jewish press, Mr. Strijdom expounded the policy of the Government in relation to the Jewish community. In the course of it he said: "For us as Calvinists, it is a fundamental principle that there shall be freedom of religion. That was the basis on which Protestantism began. Nor will the Christian national character of our State affect the political or other rights of any of our citizens who are not Christians. The position in regard to State and other appointments will remain exactly as now, with all sections of the White population enjoying equal rights of qualification and advancement."

In regard to the Government's immigration policy as it affected Jews, Mr. Strijdom said: "It is the same now as in the past. Our principle is that we must have controlled immigration, in accordance with the country's requirements, and that we must not allow the immigration of any particular race to such extent as would create any problem in regard to that race. If there were, for example, a sudden great influx of any particular race, there could be such a problem. I won't give examples, because I don't want to name any particular race: the principle holds good for any race. We must

always be able to absorb our immigrants into our existing population without any racial problems arising."

The Political Scene

Despite the charged political atmosphere which has existed during most of the period, the public life of South African has been substantially free of any "Jewish issues." Jews have continued to play their part in political and civic matters. It is a satisfactory feature of the position that for the most part there is a realization that they act in these spheres as individual citizens, and not in any sense as spokesmen for the Jewish community.

There were, however, a few incidents of varying importance which reveal that there is still a tendency at times not to draw a clear distinction between the activities of the individual Jewish citizen and the position of the Jewish community as a group.

Similarly, though not quite so often as in the past, Nationalist commentators have reacted to the outspoken political speeches of certain Jewish members of Parliament, declaring that such speeches do harm to the good relations between the Jewish community and the Afrikaans-speaking section. On a number of occasions the political commentator of *Die Burger* has reverted to a stock theme of his, namely, that the Jewish community has not given due recognition in communal affairs to certain Jews who have outspoken Nationalist Party sympathies. He has asked why these have not been prominent in the councils of the Board of Deputies. On this subject, Mr. David Cohen, then Chairman of the Cape Committee of the Board, said at a meeting of the Cape Council that the Board "was not concerned with party politics or with any political organization . . . Deputies were elected by congregations or organizations or as additional Deputies, on their merits . . . The fact that a Deputy belonged to any particular party made no difference whatsoever." That, of course, is the position.

In general, there has been a welcome understanding of the relationship of the Jewish community to the State of Israel and of the interest displayed by South African Jewry in the welfare of the new Jewish State. This has been in line with Government policy which has shown practical sympathy towards Israel in many concrete forms. Nevertheless there have been one or two occasions when the bogey of so-called "dual loyalties" has been revived.

In February of this year, for instance, when our community held mourning services in synagogues following the executions of Jews

in Egypt for alleged espionage, the political commentator of *Die Transvaler* wrote:

"The question occurred to me whether the Jews are not abusing the safety of South Africa. They live well here and they do not complain. But do they always realize that they are living in South Africa and not in Israel? When one reads their newspapers, one sees that South Africa has virtually no place there. Everything is only Israel. If they cherish love for South Africa and have ideas about South Africa, as befits South African citizens, they show it very seldom indeed.

"With their direct intervention in the conflict between Egypt and Israel they scarcely perform the country of their residence a service . . . I am not entering into the merits of the Egyptian sentences at all. I only want to know whether the South African Jews always realize where they are living and where their first loyalty is due."

Comments of this nature are exceptional. In general, the South African press of all political parties shows a lively interest in developments in Israel and frequently publishes news items and articles.

We have found it necessary on a number of occasions to take note of overseas comments and reactions to events in South Africa. Overseas newspapers of some standing have published articles charging the present government with pursuing policies unfriendly to the Jewish community, and some of these articles were reproduced in this country. We deemed it our duty to controvert these false reports. We have also found that Jewish communities abroad often fail to understand the position of South African Jewry *vis-à-vis* the complex racial and political problems of the country. We have accordingly sent a number of reports abroad dealing with this subject, and leaders of South African Jewry when overseas have also spoken or written on it.

A significant statement on the position of the Jew in South Africa was made by the former Prime Minister, Dr. D. F. Malan, on the occasion of his being inscribed in the Golden Book by a number of Jewish political supporters. He said that in a "multi-racial" country like South Africa, the desire of each group to maintain its own integrity should be recognized as a fact, and that unity therefore should not be sought "along a path of racial assimilation."

Jews, because of their qualities and experiences, he asserted, have a specific contribution to make towards national unity in South Africa. On the one hand, the tenacity which they have shown in maintaining their group identity should help them to cultivate mutual respect and goodwill towards the similar aspirations of other

groups. On the other hand, the adaptability of the Jew is no less striking: the readiness with which he identifies himself with the country and people in which he lives. "The national and the international are not with him, as in truth they need not be, two irreconcilable opposites, but a sound basis supplementary to each other. Accordingly the Jew can, and does often, become, a good national as well as a good Jew . . . a good South African as well as a true son of Israel."

Educational Policies

The attitude of the Jewish community towards the "Conscience clause" and religious freedom in institutions of education was thus defined in a resolution of the Board's Congress, 1949, which has since been re-affirmed:

"While recognizing the fact that religious instruction forms an integral part of the curriculum of Government schools, this Congress stresses the importance of safeguarding the principle that no test of religious belief shall be imposed on any person as a condition of his being either a pupil or a teacher in any Government educational institution, or that any teacher or pupil shall be prejudiced or discriminated against by reason of his religious conviction. Congress records its conviction that the maintenance of the undenominational school system, now in force in our Government schools, is essential in order to safeguard the rights of members of all religious denominations, and in order to preserve the influence of the school as a unifying factor in our national life."

This being the Board's attitude, it has naturally shown some concern at developments, especially in the O.F.S., where these principles seemed to be challenged. The Education Ordinance, 1954, of the O.F.S. now states the aims of education as follows:

"It shall be the general policy of the Administrator to recognize, reveal and cultivate the Christian principle in education, and to maintain the national outlook, in order to develop in pupils a Christian philosophy of the world and of life, to inculcate a healthy sentiment and undivided love for and loyalty to the common fatherland and to cultivate an esteem for the traditions, language and culture of all sections of the people." (Section 2).

In pursuance of this policy it is now laid down that no teacher may be appointed to the staff of the school "unless he is prepared conscientiously to give the religious instruction required . . . or unless the Director has exempted him from such obligation." (Section 48 (6).) The requirements regarding religious instruction have been

tightened considerably, as compared with those existing in the Transvaal and elsewhere. Another section (60) requires an applicant for a vacancy to a teaching staff to produce, *inter alia*, a certificate of good conduct signed by a minister of religion of his church or other responsible person.

At the same time, the ordinance provides that no doctrine or dogma peculiar to any religious denomination or sect is to be taught at a public school; and that a pupil shall not be compelled to attend religious devotions or instruction if his parent has notified the head of the school to that effect. These stipulations are wholesome and safeguard the position of Jewish pupils at schools. On the other hand, it would seem that in many schools in the O.F.S. a Jewish teacher is likely to find it very difficult to secure an appointment.

An analogous situation exists also at the University of the Orange Free State, in Bloemfontein. The Act of Parliament constituting the university included the "Conscience Clause" (Clause 31) which prohibits the imposition of any test of religious belief in regard to the appointment of staff of the university or the admission of students. The Statute of the university, however, states that it "shall have a Christian character, and its aims shall be in accordance with the national character and cultural requirements of the O.F.S." It is now the practice of the university, when filling vacant posts, to require applicants to state their religious denomination. This practice has been justified on the grounds that since the university is founded on a Christian basis, it would not tolerate the appointment of people who do not believe in God.

In referring to these developments, we do not suggest that discrimination against Jews is in fact being practised, but we deem it our duty to say that the introduction of such religious tests is a relatively new phenomenon in South Africa which, if it became general, could seriously threaten the principle of academic freedom and the equality of Jews in education matters.

Anti-Jewish Propaganda

Anti-Semitic propaganda continues to find its way into South Africa periodically. We can only guess at the volume of such material but it would appear to be fairly substantial.

For the most part, it emanates from the same persons and organizations that have been active in the anti-Semitic field over a long period. One of the main sources is Einar Aberg of Sweden who sends a steady flow of his pamphlets and leaflets to South Africa as part of a world-wide activity. The Board has been in touch with Jewish

organizations in other parts of the world in an effort to bring about a cessation of Aberg's activities. Aberg has, in fact, been prosecuted in his own country on a number of occasions but with apparently no deterrent effect, and in one case recently he successfully appealed against the conviction. Whereas previously his material was despatched from Sweden, this year some of it has been sent from Denmark.

It has been reported that in recent years certain South American countries have become centres for the dissemination of anti-Semitic propaganda throughout the world, and it is known that various anti-Semitic publications are reaching this country from that source.

Anti-Semitic material published in England also periodically comes into the country. Some months ago, for instance, members of Parliament received copies of the "Protocols of the Elders of Zion" published in England, and there have been several books based on the "Protocols", preaching that Judaism and Zionism are associated with Communism or are seeking to undermine Christianity—the usual well-worn themes made particularly familiar by the Nazis.

Statutory power exists in this country under the Customs Act No. 35 of 1944 for preventing the importation of "goods which are indecent or obscene or on any grounds whatsoever objectionable"—Section 21 (1) (*f*). The decision rests with the Minister of the Interior after consultation with the Board of Censors. Acting under these powers, the Minister has, in fact, banned the importation of the "Protocols." The Board has, from time to time, drawn the Government's attention to the fact that this "objectionable" material continues to come into the country, but whether these representations have resulted in any of the material being impounded we cannot say.

Apart from these importations from abroad, a fair amount of anti-Semitic material produced locally circulates. Those mainly responsible for this are R. K. Rudman of Pietermaritzburg and Johan Schoeman of P.O. Broederstroom. Their material circulates through the post, is placed in private post office boxes, etc. One of their main themes is the alleged identification of Jews and Judaism with Communism. They have also been distributing new "modern" versions of some of the "Protocols." The Board has not been able to find any way of placing a curb on these activities. It continues, however, to interchange information with Jewish organizations elsewhere which are confronted with similar problems.

When it was announced that the Government had set up a Commission of Enquiry in regard to Undesirable Literature, dealing

especially with domestic (as opposed to imported) publications, the Board gave very careful consideration to the question whether distribution of the sort of material mentioned above came within the purview of this Commission. After a careful study of the terms of reference of the Commission and of the questionnaire, however, the Board came to the conclusion that the Commission was concerned only about pornographic literature, the harmful effects of certain comics and so on. It was, therefore, decided not to submit evidence to the Commission, inasmuch as the subjects in which the Commission is interested are outside the Board's field of study.

The Work of the Public Relations Committee

The Public Relations Committee has sought to give effect to the directives laid down by the resolutions of the last Congress. It will be remembered that the Congress re-affirmed the view that "the welfare of South Africa rests on a sound foundation of inter-group understanding, inter-group co-operation and inter-group goodwill." It called upon the Board to "contribute its share towards the strengthening of this foundation in the vital interests both of the Jewish community and of the national good."

A second resolution recorded the conviction that: "the welfare of all sections of the population depends on the maintenance of democratic institutions, and the enjoyment of freedom and justice by all." The Board was, therefore, urged to support efforts towards eliminating inter-group conflict and abating racial prejudice.

Another resolution affirmed that: "while the Board must continue to combat anti-Semitic propaganda and manifestations of anti-Jewish prejudice and discrimination, it should consider its present main task in the public relations field to be the promotion of better understanding between Jews and their neighbours, *inter alia* by fostering a knowledge of the history, culture, religious observances and aspirations of the Jewish community."

The Public Relations Committee has endeavoured to give effect to these resolutions, by whatever means were at its disposal, always bearing in mind that it is not a political body and cannot take sides on political issues.

In order to keep abreast of current developments all the main newspapers in the country are regularly perused. A digest summarizing the main developments in the country is produced every week and distributed to members of the various committees of the Board and to others who request it.

We are glad to say that our efforts at promoting a better understanding of the Jewish community, its history and religious observ-

ances, have met with a gratifying response. There exists in many circles an eagerness to know more about the Jewish community. During the period under review we have given wide distribution to pamphlets, published both in English and Afrikaans, Chief Rabbi I. Abrahams's "Your Neighbour celebrates his Jewish Holy Days", "Jewish Customs and Ceremonials." A new publication by Dr. S. Rappaport entitled "The Way of Good Men", which deals with the ethical teachings of Judaism in the Bible and post-biblical literature, has been distributed recently and has been well received.

The Board's journal *Jewish Affairs* also plays a valuable part in this programme of cultural relations. A number of complimentary copies are sent to university personnel, clergymen, journalists and others. Many of the recipients have written to say that by regularly reading the journal they have derived a new insight into the life and thought and current problems of the Jewish people.

Believing firmly that an inter-cultural programme cannot be a one-way process, the Board has at all times encouraged bilingualism in the Jewish community. It has been glad to read tributes like that by Mr. Roux, Secretary of the Johannesburg Afrikaanse Skakelkommittee, paying tribute to Jewish business houses who have been rendering bilingual services to their customers. It has also noted with pleasure that several Afrikaans organizations have been seeking cultural contacts with the Jewish community.

It is obviously not possible in this report to go into details of the numerous day-to-day activities which the Board is called upon to do in the field of public relations. It must suffice to say that in line with the thinking of Jewish communities in other countries, we believe that it is necessary to maintain a continuous educational programme, aimed at enlightening the public on the problems of prejudice, at fostering goodwill and at promoting a better understanding of things in the Jewish community. It is a grave fallacy to believe that the community can afford to put this work into "cold storage" merely because there has been an abatement, which we hope will be of long duration, in anti-Jewish manifestations. On the contrary, the improved atmosphere provides favourable conditions for consolidating good relations between the Jewish community and all other sections.

Nor should it be forgotten that in the politically- and racially-charged atmosphere of South Africa, pretext could easily arise for a recrudescence of anti-Jewish prejudice.

It is therefore desirable that the community should maintain an effective public relations programme. For this, qualified staff and

requisite funds are required, and proposals to cut down the relatively small budget available to-day for this work are short-sighted.

JEWISH YOUTH

The Survey by Rabbi L. Milgrom

At the time of the last Congress Rabbi Louis Milgrom, the Director of the B'nai B'rith Hillel Foundation at the University of Minnesota, U.S.A., had just arrived in South Africa. He had come on the invitation of the Board through the friendly co-operation of the headquarters of the Hillel Foundations, for the purpose of "assisting the Board in devising an effective programme of Jewish youth activities for South Africa, with special reference to the needs of Jewish university students in the community." In the "prospectus of study" it was made clear that "in this entire project the Hillel representative shall seek to be as objective as possible. He shall come to South Africa with no preconceived notions as to the needs of the South African Jewish community or as to the form of Jewish youth organizations best adapted to meet those needs. His sole mission is to study, test, evaluate and report."

Rabbi Milgrom arrived on May 24th, 1953, and remained here till August 27th. During that period he completed an intensive programme. The techniques which he used in his survey included a questionnaire addressed to students; "person-to-person" interviews with as large a sample of students as possible; interviews with community leaders, university authorities, rabbis and leaders of Jewish youth organizations, and discussions with leaders of other religious agencies. In general, Rabbi Milgrom sought to secure an understanding of the total setting in which a programme of Jewish youth activities for South Africa would be carried on.

Except for a few days' break, the whole period that he spent in South Africa was given up to the investigation, and our community is much indebted to him for the zeal with which he devoted himself to this task, for which he sacrificed his summer vacation. We are pleased to record that certain misapprehensions, which apparently existed prior to his arrival as to the purpose of the survey, were removed, and that he obtained the fullest co-operation from all student and youth bodies, as well as from all others interested in youth work.

It was intended that Rabbi Milgrom would write his report only after the survey was completed; but already while he was here it became clear that, irrespective of his findings, his work was producing valuable results. He succeeded in focusing much public attention on

the problems of youth and he also evoked a spirit of self-criticism in our institutions. Moreover, as, in the last portion of his stay, he decided to inform the major organizations about his provisional findings and invited their comments, he was able to check his conclusions and also to initiate a process of discussion and reform.

The Report and its Recommendations

Unfortunately, Rabbi Milgrom's written report did not reach this country before the middle of 1954, the delay being due to the pressure of his own work on his return to the United States. The report was a lengthy document of 45,000 words, consisting of three parts:

- (a) A day-to-day diary of his activities and discussions in South Africa.
- (b) A statistical analysis of the replies to the questionnaire completed by students. The questionnaire had been sent to approximately 2,400 students (both full and part-time) throughout the country, of whom about 550 replied. His statistics are based on a detailed analysis of the 508 available before he left—279 from the University of Witwatersrand, 204 from the Cape University and 25 from elsewhere. These replies he regards with confidence as a "reliable cross-section" of student opinion generally—"the negative and the apathetic as well as the positive are adequately represented."
- (c) Specific recommendations which he makes for activities to be undertaken among university students, the Zionist Movements, the sports clubs, synagogues, and so on.

Full summaries of the Report may be had upon request. Its recommendations dealt partly with ideological matters—the content of youth programmes—and partly with organizational questions. Recommendations were made for a number of new tasks to be undertaken.

Although it is not possible to summarize the report here, some of its broad conclusions should be stated. Milgrom sums up the general situation among the Jewish students thus: "A large number of students are highly emotional and irrational about major issues in South Africa. An even larger number are woefully confused about Judaism, the Jewish community, and about themselves as Jews." He believes that "many of their attitudes may be traced to general conditions in South Africa, the constantly good weather which heightens their interest in sports, and to the ineffectiveness of their Jewish education, formal and informal." He recommends that "the Jewish community needs to establish itself directly in the line of

traffic at the university. The Jewish counsellor must be on the spot—in the Piccadilly Circus of each campus getting to know everyone, establishing a basis of friendship and confidence and offering guidance to individuals and direction to whole groups in a non-coercive atmosphere.”

He dwells upon the importance of there being someone to whom young people can turn for counsel and advice on *personal* problems. Students of all denominations have such difficulties, and Jewish students should have a Jewish “counsellor” whom they can consult.

“The key word is personnel and the primary consideration must be an adequate staff to serve the personal needs of Jewish youth. It is my recommendation that two men be appointed to establish headquarters at or near each of the two large universities, and that they be given the responsibility of keeping in contact with the Jewish students at the smaller universities.”

In regard to the content of student programmes he says that a satisfactory student programme must be comprehensive in its scope, catering for varied interests:

“An advisory committee for Jewish student organizations must include representatives of all major Jewish organizations, who would dedicate themselves to the task of helping the observant student maintain his religious life, providing a centre of activity for students who are interested or might be interested in the State of Israel, and making it possible for all to solve their problems and find significant belonging in a meaningful Jewish association. All this and more, no less. To cater to any one segment of the Jewish student body and to ignore or write off the others as uninterested or apathetic would be a very serious mistake.”

Regarding the Zionist youth movements, Milgrom records his great admiration for those who are working so selflessly and for what they have achieved. One of the basic problems, in his view, is that while young people are active in the movements until the age of 15 or 16, they later disappear, and in their late teens and early twenties do not seem to find a place in Jewish life.

Among the suggestions which he makes are the following:—

The educational programme among the Zionist youth movements should be improved. He finds the various groups to be too much orientated on Zionist party politics, and to be deficient in systematic educational work. Where they do embark on the latter, it is too limited in scope; he believes it should embrace Zionism, Israel, Jewish religion, aspects of Jewish life in South Africa, and the Jew's place in the general South African scene—indeed a broad, comprehensive

approach. Specifically in regard to Zionist teaching, he believes that it is a mistake to lay the emphasis so heavily upon Chalutzith and Aliyah, as this may leave those young people who cannot go to Israel with a sense of frustration and failure, unaware how they may be integrated into Jewish life in South Africa itself. He also makes suggestions for improved camping facilities, the establishment of Synagogue Centres, etc.

The Need for Co-ordination

The gist of the Milgrom report was summarized in these words in *Jewish Affairs*: "It means in practice, that we must try and reach agreement on the goals and ideals for Jewish living which we set before our youth in relation to our own Jewish community, to South Africa as a whole, and also to Israel. It means further, that we must create the facilities, and appoint the qualified professional personnel—for youth guidance is not any amateur's pastime—in order to implement such a programme. Lastly, it means the coming together for the *joint* direction and guidance of youth work by various organizations which are to-day operating largely in water-tight compartments."

Milgrom's recommendation for the creation of an overall committee for Jewish youth is couched in these words: "I therefore suggest as the top priority recommendation an overall committee for Jewish youth with representatives from the Jewish Board of Education, synagogue leadership, sporting clubs, the Zionist Federation and the Jewish Board of Deputies. I further recommend that an experienced group worker be engaged to serve as permanent adviser to this committee and as the agent through whom the high policy decisions are channelled to the institutions and organizations doing youth work, and that it be the additional responsibility of this professional group worker to help every organization generally interested in serving Jewish youth needs."

Reactions to the Report: Implementation

There is no doubt that both the visit and the report stimulated a great deal of interest in youth work. Despite criticisms of detail which have been voiced in various quarters, many of Milgrom's comments on the existing situation and many of his recommendations have won acceptance. Even in circles which have been critical about the report, the substantial validity of Milgrom's findings has not been challenged. That it is necessary for more attention to be given to youth work, and to provide programmes suited to South African needs and to find qualified personnel to lead them, is generally agreed.

A number of leading organizations have informed the Board of their deep interest in youth work and of their readiness to give it support. What this means concretely has not yet been explored.

The report was extensively publicized. Summaries appeared in the Press and copies of the complete report were also made available to all organizations interested. Where certain organizations were directly affected, e.g. the Zionist youth movements, the Zionist Youth Council and the student bodies, these were asked to formulate their views.

The Board formed the view that the successful implementation of the report would be best achieved in co-operation with the South African Zionist Federation, and it sought the co-operation of the Federation in setting up the "overall representative committee for the co-ordination of youth work" which Rabbi Milgrom had recommended, suggesting that this committee should function under the auspices of the Board. The Federation subsequently stated, however, that it did not see its way clear to share any further commitments in the youth field other than those which it has already undertaken in respect of the Zionist Youth Movement. Later, at a full discussion of these matters at an Inter-Provincial Conference of the Board in June of this year, the Chairman of the Zionist Federation stated that the Federation had never intended to stand in the way of the Board doing its own work in the youth field, and that the Board should go ahead in setting up its own youth department.

Arising from that discussion, the Inter-Provincial Conference decided that the Executive Council should lose no further time in formulating and carrying out a constructive programme of work among Jewish youth. Naturally the Board will abide by its established policy of seeking the co-operation of the Zionist Federation, the Zionist youth movements and any other bodies active in this sphere, and of avoiding duplication. The question how to raise the requisite finance for this work arose. The delegates favoured the proposal that this youth work should be subsidized directly by the United Communal Fund. The matter was left to a special committee of the Executive Council for its recommendations.

The Board believes that the fullest co-ordination of youth work, advocated by Rabbi Milgrom, is an objective which should be steadily pursued, even though progress may be somewhat slow. Its attitude has been stated by the Chairman of the Executive Council, Mr. E. J. Horwitz: "All communal agencies that directly impinge upon youth should consult together about their common ends. The difficulties are great enough without the additional obstacle of

organizational rivalry . . . The Board has made it clear that it is far more concerned about effective co-ordination being achieved, than it is worried about the auspices under which this is to take place. But let me say just this about auspices. The Board of Deputies by its function and constitution is the central representative organization of South African Jewry, and as such, it has the duty to take the initiative in a matter of this nature which affects the whole of the South African Jewish community—though, of course, it should act prudently in consultation and co-operation with all other bodies that are directly interested. This is, in fact, what we are trying to do.”

Work Among Students

Milgrom's visit had an immediately beneficial effect at the universities. The Zionist Federation and the Board are jointly associated in efforts to assist and stimulate the work of the South African Federation of Students' Jewish and Zionist Associations. This body came into being about two years ago and it has promoted Jewish student activities, not only in the Universities of Johannesburg and Cape Town, but also of those elsewhere. The budget of the Students' Federation is covered jointly by the Board and the Federation. In addition, the Cape Board of Deputies is associated with the Cape Board of Jewish Education in supervising Hillel House, the students' hostel in Cape Town; the cost is defrayed by the United Communal Fund in the Cape.

At present the work is directed at each of the Universities of Witwatersrand and Cape Town by a student who fills a part-time post. Another student (now Mr. Monty Joffin) has acted as part-time national organizer. The students are, however, insistent that full-time qualified directors/counsellors (somewhat after the model of the Hillel Directors) should be appointed at each of these universities. The National Office of the Hillel Foundations in the U.S.A. is exploring, at our request, the possibility of a Hillel Director being seconded to serve in South Africa, probably in Johannesburg, for the next academic year (and perhaps for two years). It is trying to find a suitable candidate, but has not yet reported any progress.

We should like, at this point, to record our deep gratitude to the leaders of the Hillel Foundations for their sympathetic interest and active assistance in our student problems. These have proved a great source of strength and encouragement to us.

It is generally agreed that one of the first pre-requisites for a successful student programme is to appoint the necessary full-time personnel to direct it. It will not be easy to find such persons either

in America, Israel or elsewhere, and we shall probably have to try to seek out promising persons in South Africa in order to send them overseas for necessary training. Co-operation has been promised by organizations abroad in enabling South Africans to qualify for such a career.

The students are pressing strongly for the principle that a successful student programme is dependent upon the establishment of a Jewish students' hostel, which would become a centre of cultural activity for the whole Jewish student body, besides providing accommodation for those in residence. They therefore ask that such a hostel be established before the next academic year in Johannesburg and that the existing hostel at Cape Town (Hillel House) be reconstructed or replaced in order to provide more suitable facilities. This proposal involves difficult financial problems; furthermore, there are differences of opinion as to whether in fact a hostel—however desirable it may be—is indispensable to the scheme at this stage. It is pointed out that the Hillel Foundations in the U.S.A. and Canada do not have residences attached to them; and the recently-established Hillel Foundation in London is also mainly a cultural centre, without residential amenities.

Without going into any detail on the programme of work being carried out at the universities, it should be stated that the student leaders are showing enterprise and initiative and are eager to develop a rich and satisfying programme. Proposals for new undertakings involving additional finance or questions of principle are discussed by a liaison committee of the Board, the Zionist Federation and the Students' Federation.

Unesco Travel Grant

One of the incidental results of Rabbi Milgrom's visit to South Africa was the fact that a Unesco travel scholarship was made available to a Jewish student leader in this country in order to participate in a study programme in the United States. Mr. Israel (Itzik) Scher, a student of the Witwatersrand University was awarded this scholarship. He spent seven weeks in the United States and took an active part in the study programme which had been organized by the World Union of Jewish Students in association with the B'nai B'rith Hillel Foundations and Unesco. The insight which he was thus afforded into youth work in England and the U.S.A. proved very stimulating and was later put to excellent use when he became, for a time, the National Organizer of the Students' Federation.

Work Among Youth

The Executive Council held up its own plans for its work among youth generally (apart from university youth) pending the receipt and consideration of the Milgrom report. It was felt that since the question of the Board's relation to youth had caused much controversy in the past, it was desirable to await Rabbi Milgrom's recommendations before setting up a new youth committee. Unfortunately, as has already been said, the report took longer to come than had been expected, and thereafter a further period elapsed before the Board's line of action was clarified. It is for these reasons that a youths committee was set up by the Executive Council only a few months ago.

In the meantime, the impression should not be left that we are inactive. Members of the Board's staff, in particular Dr. H. Abt, are in regular touch with youth leaders, who come for advice and guidance, especially in their cultural programmes. Nearly all the Zionist youth movements discuss with the Board the running of their annual summer camps, and in their July seminars some groups have regularly availed themselves both of lecturers and technical facilities offered by the Board.

During the whole of the year, addresses are given to youth bodies, both those which are part of the South African Zionist Youth Council and those which are not. Mention should also be made of groups which originally started as Synagogue Youth Clubs, but later developed into cultural societies engaged in educational activities on a wider plane.

Good use is being made of the Board's library of audio-visual material, gramophone records, and "Eternal Light" recordings, (programmes produced by the Jewish Theological Seminary of America). In the period July, 1953 to July, 1955, 350 "Eternal Light" programmes were borrowed, mainly by Zionist youth groups. These groups have recently also been receiving many copies of the correspondence courses on Jewish History and Jewish Customs prepared by the Board.

We believe that these services can be extended in many ways and that many other services could be rendered by the Board, both in initiating new projects and in co-ordinating and making more effective existing work among youth, provided there will be the necessary personnel and funds (which we hope will soon be the case).

NEW HISTORY OF SOUTH AFRICAN JEWRY

A major project which has taken several years of continuous work has now been completed; the compilation of a new history of South African Jewry. The project was initiated by Mr. Saron (General Secretary) who has devoted a great deal of time to it, much of it out of office hours, working in collaboration with the South African Jewish Sociological and Historical Society. The need for a comprehensive history of our community has been long felt, the last important publications in this field being the *South African Jewish Year Book*, 1929 and Dr. Louis Herrman's *A History of the Jews in South Africa*, 1930. The preparation of the new history was made possible by the systematic assembly of material by the Historical Society, which is entirely subsidized by the Board.

The work is a collective one, separate chapters having been written by Mrs. D. Abelson, Chief Rabbi I. Abrahams, Messrs. A. Addleson, Jack Alexander, G. Aschman, M. Geffen, C. Gershater, Dr. L. Herrman, L. Hotz, M. Pencharz, Chief Rabbi L. I. Rabinowitz, Rabbi Dr. S. Rappaport, Messrs. S. A. Rochlin, Eric Rosenthal, G. Saron and Mrs. D. L. Sowden.

Notwithstanding the Board's interest in the writing of the new volume, it is, however, not an official publication of the Board. Each contributor treated his subject as he wished and, subject to the overall editorial supervision, bears the sole responsibility for the facts and views contained in his contribution.

The book has been accepted for publication by the Oxford University Press, Cape Town, and will appear later this year. It will be a substantial volume running to over 400 pages, with many illustrations. It records the growth and development of South African Jewry until Union, concluding with an epilogue dealing with the period 1910 to 1955. Some of the essays deal with the history of the Jewish communities in particular localities, others are of a more general character. Among the latter, are essays on the immigration of Lithuanian Jews, the Zionist Movement, the relation between Boers, Uitlanders and Jews before the South African War, and Jewish contributions to the economic progress of South Africa.

Messrs. G. Saron and L. Hotz are the joint editors. They carried a heavy burden as they not only co-ordinated the work of the separate writers, but also themselves contributed to the volume. Mr. Saron, indeed, wrote four of the major chapters, and also saw the book through the press.

The progress of the work was assisted by an editorial board appointed by the Historical Society, consisting of Mr. M. Geffen (Chairman of the Society), Rabbi I. Abrahams, Mr. G. Saron and Mr. L. Hotz. The editorial board had the continuous assistance of Mr. S. A. Rochlin, Archivist of the Society, and also of Mrs. Dora L. Sowden until she resigned from the secretaryship of the Society over a year ago. Since then, her successor, Mrs. H. Dreiman, has also rendered valuable service.

We have pleasure in recording our thanks to all who have contributed towards the compilation of this history, which we trust will become a definitive history of the Jewish community and also be recognized as a valuable contribution to the history of South Africa.

Biography Morris Alexander

It is appropriate to mention here the assistance rendered by the Board to Mrs. Enid Alexander in getting her biography of her late husband, Morris Alexander, written and published. The Board felt that it was fitting that a memoir should be published of this well-known Jew, who had not only served his country well, but had also played a leading role for many years in the Board of Deputies. The Board accordingly rendered financial assistance towards the writing and publication of the biography, and members of the staff, especially the General Secretary, also assisted with advice and guidance. The Board did not, however, interfere in any way with the contents of the volume, for which the author herself was alone responsible.

JEWISH HISTORICAL SOCIETY

The South African Jewish Sociological and Historical Society continues to do very useful work. It is maintained by the Board (as already mentioned) and its offices and archives are housed in the Board's premises. The Society's archive is indeed an integral part of the Board's archive and library of information. It is steadily growing in size and usefulness through gifts and loans of historical documents relating to the past of South African Jewry.

The main activity of the Society and of its staff during the period under review has been to assist in the compilation of the new history of the Jews in South Africa mentioned above. In addition, the Society has continued its routine activities, such as answering queries, interviewing old pioneers, tracing documents of historical interest, etc. The Society, on all suitable occasions, urges members of the public to preserve, and preferably to hand over for safe keeping

any documents, photographs or other articles of historical interest, which they may possess. It also urges Jewish institutions to deal similarly with old minute books and records.

The staff of the Society consists of Mr. S. A. Rochlin, the archivist, and Mrs. H. Dreiman, who has been in charge of the administrative side of the Society's activities since 1954. She succeeded Mrs. Dora L. Sowden, who did very valuable work during her three years' tenure of office as organizing secretary.

It is with deep regret that we have to report that during the period under review there occurred the death of Mrs. Clara Tichauer, reference librarian of the South African Jewish Board of Deputies. A valued and esteemed member of the Executive Council of the Society, the late Mrs. Tichauer not only displayed a keen interest in South African Jewish history and sociology, but was always willing to help all who sought her advice and guidance in matters of South African Jewish life and lore.

The members of the Executive Council of the Society and its staff are as follows:

Chief Rabbi Professor L. I. Rabinowitz (President), Mr. Max Geffen (Chairman), Rabbi Dr. M. C. Weiler (Vice-chairman), Mr. Louis Hotz (Vice-chairman), Mr. L. Pinshaw, Q.C. (Hon. Treasurer), Dr. H. Abt, Mr. I. Goss, Mr. L. Hodes, Mr. B. I. Joffe, Mr. J. S. Judelowitz, Rabbi M. A. Lew, Mr. A. Mendelow, Miss H. Navid, Rabbi J. Newman, Rabbi Dr. S. Rappaport, Mr. J. M. Rich, Mr. F. M. Rosenthal, Mr. W. Rykbo, Rabbi L. Singer, Mr. G. Saron, Mr. S. A. Rochlin (Archivist) and Mrs. Hannah Dreiman (Organizing Secretary).

COMMUNAL RELATIONS

The work of the Communal Relations Committee has continued on the same lines as in previous years. Several major projects which were considered could, unfortunately, not be implemented, for financial reasons. This is so often an obstacle whenever the question arises of providing much needed amenities and services for the South African Jewish community.

Contact Between the Board and the Community

Much importance is attached to the holding of regional and local conferences as a means of ascertaining public opinion on communal problems and bringing the Board's work closer to the community. Members of the Executive Council, the Communal Relations Committee, the Provincial Committees and the senior staff of the Board

attend these conferences, which are usually well attended and serve a most useful purpose.

Apart from the Regional Conferences organized by the Provincial Committees, the following Regional Conferences have been held during the period under review: Ficksburg (Eastern Free State), Odendaalsrus (North-western Free State), Bethal (Eastern Transvaal), Nigel (Eastern Transvaal), Pietersburg (Northern Transvaal), Klerksdorp (Western Transvaal), Volksrust (Eastern Transvaal and Northern Natal).

In these conferences, over 50 communities participated and they were attended also by members of scattered Jewish families, unattached to any congregation, who were thus enabled to maintain contact with Jewish life.

In July, the first Southern Transvaal Regional Conference was held in Johannesburg. Constituent bodies of the Board in Johannesburg, Pretoria, the Reef and Vereeniging were represented. This was an innovation. The Conference took the place of the July meeting of Deputies. The opportunity was taken of having preliminary discussions of some of the topics that were to figure on the agenda of the Biennial Congress.

Co-ordination of Communal Activities

In order to bring about some co-ordination, at least on the organizational level, in the cultural work and fund raising done in country communities, a Co-ordinating Committee of senior officials of national organizations was established early in 1954. The Communal Relations Department of the Board now keeps a "Country Diary" of the programmes of all organizations doing work in country areas. It has proved to be of great use in avoiding overlapping and in bringing about a proper spacing of visits. Unfortunately, the Co-ordinating Committee did not function very well during 1955, as some of the organizations were lax in notifying their programmes of activities.

A similar diary of communal activities in Johannesburg, which has been maintained by the Communal Relations Department for a number of years, has proved of great value in avoiding, or at least reducing, the multiplicity of functions on the same date. It is strongly hoped that the Co-ordinating Committee of Officials will become a permanent feature and will lead to further steps in co-ordination.

Exhibition of Jewish Religious Art

A notable project in the field of adult education during the period

under review was an Exhibition of Jewish Religious Art. The idea of such an exhibition was suggested, in the first place, by the collection of Ceremonial Silver which belonged to destroyed synagogues in Europe and was received in South Africa from "Jewish Cultural Reconstruction, Inc." (the body which was entrusted at the end of the war with the task of salvaging the religious appurtenances looted by the Nazis from synagogues and private homes in Europe). The Exhibition took place in Johannesburg in February, 1954 and comprised, in addition to the "Reconstruction" collection, objects loaned by synagogues and private owners, as well as of articles sent on loan by the Bezalel Museum, Jerusalem. The exhibition proved most popular. It was visited by thousands of people, both Jews and non-Jews, from Johannesburg, the Reef and even communities further afield. Wide publicity was given to it by the press and the radio.

Requests having been received for the exhibition to be shown in other parts of the Union, arrangements were made to send the greater part of the exhibits to the larger Jewish centres. A trailer was purchased for the purpose of transporting the exhibits and Dr. Abt, assisted by Mrs. Abt, went on tour for almost two months. The exhibition was shown in Durban, East London, Port Elizabeth, Cape Town, Bloemfontein and Kimberley, and smaller exhibitions were held in communities lying on the route between these centres. Later Dr. Abt took a part of the exhibition to the Eastern Free State and Northern Cape. Large numbers of people visited the exhibition and listened to the lectures delivered by Dr. Abt. The educational and cultural value of this exhibition was felt not only in the Jewish community but also among the general community, who displayed much interest in it.

The Board has also assisted in organizing other exhibitions of Jewish interest, e.g. an exhibition of Haggadoth at the Johannesburg Public Library.

Jewish Museum

When the question of the final disposal of the Ceremonial Silver received from "Reconstruction" came up for consideration, there was a general feeling that the original plan to distribute it among congregations should not be proceeded with, but that the collection should be kept together as a memorial of the Jewish tragedy in Europe. At an Inter-Provincial Conference of the Board, in October, 1954, it was agreed that the silver should be divided between the communities of Johannesburg, Cape Town and Durban to form the

nucleus of a Jewish museum in each of these cities, and this has been done. Plans are now being made for the establishment of the museums. The museum in Johannesburg will be housed in the new premises of the Board in Sheffield House, Main and Kruis Streets.

Central Jewish Library

At the last Congress of the Board the memorandum on future work submitted by the Communal Relations Committee pointed out that "the unavailing efforts to bring into being a central Jewish library have proved that this must be a combined effort of the whole Jewish community and not of the Board alone." Nevertheless, the Communal Relations Committee still discussed the possibility of starting a Jewish Reference Library, in the hope that the co-operation of other interested organizations would gradually permit the project to be expanded, to include a lending library, a children's section, etc. This plan was held up through financial considerations and the lack of suitable premises. In June, 1954, information was received from the Zionist Federation that a Jewish library had been established and would be further extended when the Zionist Federation moved to their new centre in Johannesburg. It was also stated that in due course, interested organizations would be invited to appoint representatives to the Library Committee.

The Board will, of course, continue to maintain the Jewish Reference Library and historical archives which it has been building up over the years.

Audio-visual Material

A beginning has been made in establishing a collection of audio-visual material to assist organizations in planning educational and cultural programmes. It contains a number of records, films and film strips which have been received from America. There are also Programme Aids for the celebration of Jewish festivals and for other group activities, such as plays on Jewish subjects and pamphlets on Jewish music, folk dancing, etc. Good use has been made of these, particularly by Jewish youth groups. The "Eternal Light" Recordings issued by the Jewish Theological Seminary continue to be very popular.

Lecture Service

The lecture service of the Board has been utilized by many organizations, and numerous lectures were also delivered in connection with the Religious Art Exhibitions. The lecture service has been of particular assistance to the Seminars of the Zionist Youth movements

which have received help both in the planning of the programmes of these Seminars and in the lectures delivered.

People's College

People's College, which is under the joint auspices of the Board and the South African Zionist Federation, has made steady progress. In the early part of last year the attendance decreased and doubts were entertained whether People's College should be continued. It was decided, however, to carry on with a reduced number of courses and with more popular subjects. The result of this change was most gratifying. Attendances rose markedly and during the last terms have been uniformly good. For the first half of the period under review, Mr. A. Mureinik, of the South African Zionist Federation, became the Registrar of People's College. Dr. Abt assumed this position once again from the second term of 1954.

Dr. A. Cohen, President of the Board of Deputies of British Jews, who came to South Africa during the celebrations of the Golden Jubilee of the Board of Deputies, delivered a series of four lectures at the second term of People's College in 1953, on "Judaism Between the Testaments." This series proved very popular and the lectures have since been printed in book form by the World Jewish Congress in its "Popular Jewish Library." Since then People's College has relied solely on local lectures.

Plans were far advanced to bring to this country the eminent American Jewish scholar, Dr. R. Gordis, to deliver a series of lectures during the second term of 1955, but unfortunately, for personal reasons, Dr. Gordis found it impossible to undertake the visit.

People's College has taken the lead in commemorations of Jewish interest. A course of lectures on Maimonides were delivered on the occasion of "Rambam Year", the 750th anniversary of the great Jewish philosopher's birth. A course on Rashi was given on the occasion of the 850th anniversary of his death. A Memorial Meeting in honour of the late Prof. Albert Einstein was held at the Great Hall of the Witwatersrand University.

People's College has been functioning at Pretoria under the auspices of the Pretoria Jewish Community Council, which has been actively assisted from Johannesburg.

The following are the members of the Committee of People's College:

South African Jewish Board of Deputies:

Mr. I. Goss (Chairman of the Committee), Dr. H. Abt (Registrar),

Dr. M. Natas.

South African Zionist Federation:

Rabbi Dr. M. Kossowsky, Dr. W. Kark, Mr. H. S. Liebgott.

South African Yiddish Cultural Federation:

Mr. Z. Levy.

Histadruth:

Mr. M. Ben Moshe.

Department of Hebrew, Witwatersrand University:

Chief Rabbi Prof. L. I. Rabinowitz.

Ex Officio:

Mr. Z. Infeld, Mr. G. Saron.

Day of Mourning

Union-wide commemorations of the Jewish tragedy in Europe were held in 1954 and 1955 on the 27th Nisan, the annual World Jewish Day of Mourning. The participation of the Jewish public in this commemoration has become larger year by year and more communities have held mass meetings or religious services. The Hebrew date of the 27th of Nisan coincided this year with April 19th, the actual date of the beginning of the Battle of the Warsaw Ghetto, and the commemoration evoked a remarkable response from the community. The Board as usual helped in the organization of these gatherings and provided speakers wherever required. Thirty-one communities reported on the commemorations which they had organized.

A lesson for children on the Day of Mourning was specially written at the request of this Committee (included in the Correspondence Course of the Country Communities Committee). With the co-operation of the South African Board of Jewish Education, the Council for Progressive Jewish Education and the Yiddish Folkshul, copies of these lessons were distributed to all children over the age of nine attending Jewish schools. Numbers of Hebrew and Yiddish teachers gave special lessons on the significance of the commemoration.

COUNTRY COMMUNITIES

At the Biennial Congress of the Board in 1949, it was decided that the Board should "take steps to meet the special needs of the country communities more particularly in the educational and religious fields." Since then, much practical work has been accomplished. This has been made possible through the financial allocation made for this purpose by the United Communal Fund.

The National Country Communities Committee, appointed by the Executive Council, governs the work as a whole. A Transvaal Country Communities Committee composed of representatives of the Board, the Beth Din, the Federation of Synagogues of the Transvaal and the Orange Free State, the South African Board of Jewish Education and the South African Jewish Ministers' Association, is responsible for the local activities in the Transvaal. The Cape Council of the Board also has a Country Communities Subcommittee on which are represented the Cape Beth Din, the Western Province Zionist Council, the Cape Board of Jewish Education and the Union of Jewish Women. In Natal the Educational Subcommittee of the Council of Natal Jewry deals with the work for the country communities. The O.F.S. Committee of the Board also has a Country Communities Subcommittee.

The work for the country communities is conducted in the closest association with the Jewish religious authorities who, of course, retain the full responsibility for all the religious aspects. In regard to educational matters there is regular liaison with the two Boards of Education.

Shortage of Ministers

The shortage of ministers noted in the last report to Congress has become even more acute. It is now the main obstacle facing the committee. There are at present 15 ministerial vacancies in country areas and these vacancies affect some 30 centres, for most of the ministers filling these vacancies would be expected to serve a region. For four of these vacancies appointments have been made of ministers overseas, but they have not yet arrived in this country. In addition to these vacancies, there are about ten further communities whose ministers have reached the age of retirement, but are not able to enjoy the leisure due to them, as no provision in the way of a pension has been made for their old age, nor would it be possible for their congregations to replace them.

In these circumstances every possible effort has been made to find suitable incumbents for at least some of the available posts. In spite of inducements, such as bursaries and other facilities for training both overseas and in this country, offered to young South African Jews, there are very few South African-born youths who are willing to make the ministry their career and hardly any who are prepared to study shechita, which is essential for work in country communities. The Anglo-Jewish community, which has supplied South Africa with a number of leading ministers has, for a variety of reasons, been unable also to provide many men to fill the smaller posts (in

the country). The problems facing small communities throughout the Commonwealth, and the need for devising a common scheme for solving them, were discussed at the Commonwealth Conference in London last year, when it was urged that Jews' College should play a special part in training ministers for such communities. The Board takes this opportunity of thanking Chief Rabbi I. Brodie, Dr. A. Cohen, then President of the Board of Deputies of British Jews, Mr. Sol Cohen, the Secretary of the Jewish Memorial Council and, in Israel, Rabbi Avida (Zlotnick), formerly Director of the South African Board of Jewish Education, for their ready help whenever they were asked to advise in regard to the selection of candidates for South Africa. Thanks are also due to Rabbi E. Duschinsky, formerly of Cape Town, who gave up part of his holiday in England last year to interview prospective candidates for the South African ministry.

As regards candidates from Israel, here again, many of them are not proficient in shechita, and even those who are, need a period of training in this country in order to adjust themselves to the differing local conditions and to acquire the necessary linguistic attainments.

In 1954, Rabbi Dr. J. Newman, while on a visit to Israel, interviewed many possible candidates, and found a number who might become suitable ministers to South African country communities. After his return, some of them were offered appointments by congregations in the country, most of them on a regional basis. So far, however, only one has arrived. Other candidates are still awaiting their immigration permits. The procedure is often long drawn out and sometimes candidates tire of waiting and accept other positions.

Temporary Services

As a result of the shortage of ministers, country communities frequently call upon the Committee to assist them with temporary services for shechita and Jewish education. It is not easy to find such assistance, which constitutes a great drain on the funds of the Committee, owing to the cost of transport and the subsidies which often have to be provided.

Hostels

The establishment of children's hostels in Bloemfontein and Kimberley for children from country areas attending schools in those towns has received careful consideration. So far as Bloemfontein is concerned it has now been found that the demand was not commensurate with the expense involved.

The setting up of a hostel in Kimberley, as a result of negotiations between the Kimberley Hebrew Congregation and the Committee

(the South African Board of Jewish Education has also been consulted) is now in sight.

Correspondence Courses

There has been a long-felt need to provide the Jewish children in remote country districts, where there is no Jewish minister or teacher with some means of Jewish instruction. Two correspondence courses, one on Jewish history and the other on Jewish Laws and Customs, have been prepared.

The first lesson was distributed in April, 1954 and since then they have been supplied to an ever-growing number of children. They are written by rabbis and Jewish educationists and are edited by Mr. I. Goss, the Director of the South African Board of Jewish Education, and Rabbi Newman, the Rabbi to the Country Communities.

The lessons are distributed at intervals of a fortnight and every lesson contains five or more questions which the child making use of the lesson is expected to answer. Children are also encouraged to write essays on set topics. Prizes are awarded for commendable work.

Officiants for High Festivals

In collaboration with the Beth Din, the Committee assists country communities to arrange for services during the High Festivals and to procure officiants for that purpose. Many smaller centres, which cannot meet the expenses involved, are given financial assistance.

Pastoral Tours

The Committee continues to arrange pastoral visits to country communities.

As many of the rabbis and ministers in Johannesburg have teaching duties and can, therefore, not absent themselves for more than one day at a time, the Rev. S. Kibel has been engaged on a temporary basis to assist in pastoral tours to cover the greater part of the Transvaal and the O.F.S., but places near Johannesburg are still served by local ministers.

Vacation Courses

There are many children who live in country areas where they have no opportunity of receiving regular instruction in Judaism and Hebrew. Recently, with the co-operation of the South African Board of Jewish Education, vacation courses were devised. A group of children spent a part of their last July vacation at Herber House, the hostel of the Board of Jewish Education. They were given intensive short courses in Judaism and Hebrew, and also opportunities, denied them in their places of residence, of familiarizing themselves

with synagogue ritual and the activities of Jewish communal organizations.

Defunct Communities

The Committee has continued to deal with the problem of the assets of defunct country congregations. The Board, wherever possible, takes such assets over in order to safeguard the interests of the defunct congregations.

The policy is that if assets belonging to defunct communities are realized, the money is made available as a loan free of interest to small congregations unable to meet their capital requirements from their own resources. If a defunct community should ever be in a position to re-establish a congregation, its assets or the funds of such community will again be placed at its disposal.

A number of sifrei torah and other religious requisites were also collected from defunct congregations. Whenever a growing community is in need of them, the Committee makes them available on permanent loan.

It is desirable that a clause should be inserted in the constitutions of rural congregations appointing the Board as the Trustee of the assets if the communities should become defunct.

The Rabbi to Country Communities

The Rabbi to the Country Communities has continued to pay regular visits to various parts of the country and during the period under review visited over 100 communities. A number of the centres were visited four or five times. Particular attention has been paid during this period to the Eastern and Western Cape and plans have been made for the association of a number of the smaller communities for the purpose of receiving ministerial services.

Many appreciative letters have been received from the country areas, testifying to the value of the Board's work.

WELFARE WORK

One of the busiest sections of the Board is the Welfare Department. Within its framework are an Employment Bureau, for men and women; the Restitution Office; and the Ex-Servicemen's Committee.

Employment Enquiry Bureau

The Employment Enquiry Bureau is a gratuitous service intended for the common benefit of employers and employees. Its services are very widely known and are warmly appreciated by the community. A problem which is now becoming pressing is that of finding employment for persons of the older age groups and handicapped persons.

The Welfare Officer deals with an extraordinary variety of enquiries from individual members of the public. Personal guidance is sought, requests are made for the tracing of missing relatives, help is asked regarding the correct mode of making applications to Government Departments and many domestic problems are posed. The department is, in brief, a general clearing house for the perplexed.

The department collaborates closely with all the communal bodies engaged in welfare work and, in particular, with the Witwatersrand Jewish Welfare Council, whose excellent progress is noted with gratification. Many aspects of the welfare work of the community have benefited as a result of the Welfare Council's existence.

Missing Relatives

At the request of the department, the Jewish press prints lists of persons who are sought by relatives abroad. Grateful acknowledgment is made to the editors for their courtesy. As a result of this service many close relatives who have lost touch with each other for long periods have been re-united.

A similar service is rendered to South African residents endeavouring to trace relatives overseas. This work entails correspondence with a large number of Jewish bodies throughout the world.

Restitution Office

In this country there are many former Jewish residents of the Nazi-occupied territories of Europe who have claims against the West German Government for restitution, compensation or damages as a result of Nazi depredations. To assist the claimants, most of whom are not in affluent circumstances, the Board established, in 1946, a Restitution Office. The work of this office is most intricate and laborious. A single claim may entail very protracted correspondence, both in English and in German. Several thousand claims have been lodged. The work increased greatly in volume during the last year or two, when new German laws entitled many additional persons to present claims. At the same time the pressure under which the office worked was very greatly intensified, for the claims had to be submitted by a specified final date.

The services of the Restitution Office had been rendered free of charge to all who applied. Last year, for the first time, a contribution towards the cost of the office was received from the United Restitution Office in Germany which received funds for the purpose from German reparations.

A number of claimants have already met with success and have

shown their appreciation to the office in a practical manner for the assistance rendered to them, as they are indeed, expected to do.

The office has now come more directly under the authority of the United Restitution Office, and the procedure has been adjusted to conform more closely with the rules laid down by the U.R.O.

Assistance to Ex-Servicemen

During the last world war a fund for the assistance of Jewish members of the forces and their dependants was set up. The Board feels that ex-servicemen who are confronted with special difficulties still have a claim on the community, and the Ex-Servicemen's Committee (which is entirely comprised of members of the South African Jewish Ex-Service League) is still active. Whatever amounts are repaid by ex-servicemen on their loans are utilized for the assistance of new applicants.

Many hundreds of ex-servicemen and their dependants have been helped.

“JEWISH AFFAIRS”

Jewish Affairs, the monthly journal published by the Board, continues to make a contribution to the cultural life of the community. It publishes articles dealing with cultural, artistic and literary aspects of Jewish life, and reflects important trends in Jewish thought the world over. Its aim is furthermore to promote critical thinking on the current problems of the Jewish community in South Africa. In addition it regularly reports significant aspects of the Board's activities.

The journal has acquired a fine reputation not only in this country but also abroad.

The number of subscribers is considered satisfactory but an increase in circulation is desirable, and would be welcomed. Comments from delegates and institutions in regard to the contents of the journal, and its adequacy in meeting the needs of the community, would be welcomed.

A number of non-Jewish readers receive the journal on a complimentary basis. Letters of appreciation have been received from many of them who have said that the magazine has deepened their understanding of Jewish life and culture.

The Editorial Board consists of Mr. Leslie Cooper (Chairman), Dr. H. Abt, Mr. E. Bernstein, Mr. N. Philips, Mr. J. M. Rich, Mr. G. Saron, Dr. T. Schneider, Rabbi Dr. M. C. Weiler and Mrs. Amelia Levy as the editor.

THE BOARD'S CONSTITUTION

For some years there has been a feeling on the part of some members of the community that the Board's constitution, based as it is on "organisational" representation, is out of date and that a different form of constitution based on individual franchise is desirable. The problem has been discussed at more than one recent Congress of the Board, and opinion on the subject proved to be greatly divided. There are many who feel that the community is, in essence, the sum of its organised bodies — the congregations, friendly societies, Zionist societies, charitable organizations, and others, of which it is made up; and that the individual's viewpoint can be adequately represented through the organization of which he is a member. On the other hand, there are others who contend that times have changed, and that the only truly democratic system is by individual franchise.

This is the main problem. There are also several subsidiary problems that have been the subject of criticism. Granted an organisational basis for the Board, is there not considerable overlapping of representation? If one man is a member of a synagogue, a friendly society, a Zionist society, and perhaps of several other bodies, should he be represented by a Deputy — and a delegate to Congress — in each and all of these capacities? Is every Jewish body, *ipso facto*, eligible for representation on the Board?

Questions have also arisen with regard to the powers of the monthly meetings of Deputies, the procedure at these meetings, the relationship between the meetings of Deputies in Johannesburg and the corresponding meetings in the Provinces.

At the Biennial Congress in 1953, a resolution was adopted, instructing the incoming Executive Council "to consider the question of the revision of the present system of election of delegates to Congress, and if it considers it advisable and feasible, to widen the present system by according the vote to individuals or otherwise, and to submit a report thereon to next Congress."

In pursuance of this resolution the Executive Council appointed a Constitution Committee under the Chairmanship of Adv. N. Philips. The other members were Adv. A. Mendelow, Mr. H. X. Rajak, J.P., Mr. N. M. Slood, and Mr. Arthur Suzman, Q.C. The Committee was also directed to consider the formulation of general principles to govern the admission of new members of the Board.

Also within the Committee's purview came the question of possible improvements of the procedure at Congress and at the meetings of Deputies.

After some preliminary meetings, the Committee found that the following questions had crystallised themselves:

- (1) The desirability or otherwise of expanding the electorate, and the means whereby this can be done.
- (2) The machinery of representation at Congress through the organizations:—
 - (a) Which bodies should be entitled to be members of the Board?
 - (b) Manner of appointing their delegates.
- (3) The desirability of the reform of the system of Deputies:—
 - (a) Do the Deputies present a true cross-section of organization opinion?
 - (b) Power of Deputies.
- (4) Reform of procedure at Congress.
- (5) Practicability of establishing a Transvaal Committee.

The Committee took all possible measures to elicit the views of Jewish organizations and individuals on the matters with which it was dealing.

The Committee held seventeen meetings in all. The recommendations as approved by the Executive Council have been submitted to all constituent bodies and to delegates, and will come up for discussion and decision at Congress.

The main recommendation bears on the question of individual franchise. The Committee exhaustively considered the desirability and practicability of such a system. It came to the conclusion that there is much weight in the argument that organizational representation should remain as the basis of the Board, because it is through the Jewish organizations that corporate Jewish life finds expression. Furthermore, in the opinion of the Committee, the practical difficulties of the system of individual franchise are too great to be surmounted. Apart from the very heavy financial burden of compiling and keeping up to date a register of the electorate, the cost of printing, postage and extra staff, there is the grave danger that, in the absence of acute controversy, no more than a fraction of the Jewish public would trouble to vote. Elections on the basis of a small minority of the electorate would result in a Board which would be less representative than on the present system.

In the result, the Committee decided upon the retention of the present system of corporate representation, with the addition of a limited system of individual franchise, based on an electorate composed of donors to the United Communal Fund for South African Jewry. This body would elect a number — a minority —

of delegates to Congress. Such a system has been adopted by overseas bodies, such as the Canadian Jewish Congress, and here in South Africa by the Cape Council of the Board, with some measure of success. It would mean that a number of persons, to whom the Board is otherwise remote, would be made aware that, as persons who help to provide funds for the Board, they have a right and an obligation to take an interest in the Board's work. In fact, the proposal means giving the "tax-payer" representation.

There are many persons in the community who would like to participate in the work of the Board, but for one reason or another, cannot come to the Board's orbit through ordinary organizational channels. Common sense suggests that some machinery should be created to enable this to be done.

UNITED COMMUNAL FUND

Introductory

The United Communal Fund was established in 1949 on the initiative of this Board as a financial instrument for raising funds to cover the budgets of the Board of Deputies and its Provincial Committees, of the South African Board of Jewish Education and the Cape Board of Jewish Education and a number of other organizations. It is governed by a National Council, upon which the Board and all the other participant organizations are represented. Ever since the Fund was created we have taken a close interest in its progress, because we realize the importance of the Fund for the general welfare of the community, and because we depend on the Fund for our income.

The United Communal Fund has indeed taken up a great deal of the time of our officers and senior staff, and it has figured on the agenda of most meetings of the Executive Council and of Deputies. The fund has its own offices and administration, but these are closely co-ordinated with our own. This is to the advantage of the community as a whole, as it saves expenditure and makes for greater efficiency. It could, however, operate to the disadvantage of the Board, if we have to continue, as at present, to shoulder an unduly large share of the burden.

A more detailed report on the third United Communal Fund Campaign, (1953-1955) than is possible in this summary, will be given at Congress.

Decisions of Last Congress

After a full debate on the second campaign (1951-1953), the last

Congress unanimously resolved that the Fund should continue under the auspices of the Board, and recorded its satisfaction that the Fund was now accepted as an integral part of communal life.

Most of the debate centred round the allocations to the participating bodies, and especially to the Boards of Education in Johannesburg and Cape Town. For the second campaign the allocations had been scaled down to 70% of the budgets originally approved for the participating bodies. The Congress resolved that if the amount raised in the third campaign did not exceed that of the second campaign, the beneficiaries would receive only the same amounts as they received in the second campaign. If, however, a larger amount were raised, all the participating bodies would receive a *pro rata* increase up to the amount of their total budgets (as approved by the Allocations Committee of the United Communal Fund) with a special provision for the benefit of the South African Board of Jewish Education and the South African Board of Deputies.

Launching of the Third Campaign

The third campaign was inaugurated in Cape Town on the 13th August, 1953, and in Johannesburg a little later. The target for the whole country was set at £750,000 as in the previous campaign. In addition to the existing beneficiaries, it was decided that an allocation would be made to the Teachers' Pension Fund which was about to be established in terms of a Congress resolution. The following organisations therefore were participants in the last campaign:—

- South African Jewish Board of Deputies
- South African Board of Jewish Education
- Cape Board of Jewish Education
- Country Communities Fund
- Federation of Synagogues of the Transvaal
- Histadruth Ivrit
- South African Jewish Ministers' Association
- Bnei Akivah Yeshivah
- South African Ort-Oze
- South African Council for Progressive Jewish Education
- Union of Jewish Women of Southern Africa
- South African Yiddish Cultural Federation
- Teachers' Pension Fund

There had been a separate women's drive in the second campaign; but because of certain differences of opinion, a number of centres did not hold one in the third campaign. It is pleasing to record

that women's campaigns will be held in all centres on behalf of the current women's campaign, which is to terminate at the end of 1956.

Results of the Campaign

As at 29th July, receipts for the whole country amounted to £499,722. This represents an increase of £18,796 over the previous campaign. Nevertheless, when all the allocations (on the 70 per cent basis mentioned above) have been paid out and all expenses defrayed, it is anticipated that there will be a deficit of over £20,000.

Below we give figures of income from the main areas, as at 29th July, 1955.

Johannesburg	194,807	9	6
Transvaal and Reef	100,264	14	6
Eastern Province	33,065	5	0
Orange Free State	19,829	18	0
South West Africa	5,215	11	0
Women's Campaign	18,822	16	3
Anticipated additional amount to be collected in the country areas	3,716	7	0
Total available to Headquarters	£375,722	1	3
Cape Province	82,000	0	0
Natal	42,000	0	0
Total for South Africa	£499,722	1	3

A number of general trends are to be noted:—

(a) The number of contributors throughout the country has increased.

(b) The average standard of contribution has dropped from £44 in the second campaign to £41 in the third campaign.

(c) The Johannesburg campaign showed an increase of £12,474 on the second campaign; the number of contributions also rose from 3,631 to 4,398. On the other hand, the average standard of contribution in Johannesburg dropped from £50 to £44; this drop was mainly due to the fact that the additional contributions were comparatively small.

(d) In many of the country communities there has been a slight drop in the total amount contributed. This is probably due to the financial burden which these communities have to shoulder in maintaining their own ministers and teachers and in running their local institutions. In some cases, too, they have undertaken addi-

tional capital expenditure by building new Hebrew schools, synagogues or communal halls.

Distribution of Funds

The monies raised in the Transvaal, Orange Free State, Eastern Province, and South-West Africa come direct to the United Communal Fund Headquarters (with the exception of certain amounts which, by arrangement, are retained in some areas for local needs). Headquarters has the responsibility of paying out what is due to all the participating bodies, other than those which derive their funds from the United Communal Fund in the Western Cape and in Natal.

The Natal contribution to Headquarters for this campaign will be £16,000 and the Western Cape contribution £11,725.

The following tables show the amounts which were distributed respectively by Headquarters, by the Cape Western Province and by Natal, as at June 30th, 1955.

In the case of distribution by Headquarters, particulars are also given of:—

- (a) the total due to each body
- (b) the amount actually paid as at June 30, 1955.
- (c) the balance still due.

Distribution by Headquarters

Participating Bodies	Total Allocation	Amount paid as at June, 30, 1955	Balance still due
S.A. Jewish Board of Deputies	150,000 0 0	38,523 8 11	111,476 11 1
Board of Jewish Education	84,000 0 0	73,796 3 0	10,203 17 0
Country Communities	17,500 0 0	nil	17,500 0 0
Fed. of Synagogues	8,400 0 0	5,100 0 0	3,300 0 0
Histadruth Ivriith... ..	8,400 0 0	3,700 0 0	4,700 0 0
S.A. Ort Oze	8,400 0 0	619 9 0	7,780 11 0
Yiddish Cultural Federation	16,000 0 0	12,550 0 0	3,450 0 0
S.A.J. Ministers Association	1,100 0 0	600 0 0	500 0 0
S.A. Council for Prog. Jewish Education	5,000 0 0	nil	5,000 0 0
Union of Jewish Women	6,000 0 0	2,990 0 0	3,010 0 0
B'nei Akivah Yeshiva... ..	1,700 0 0	534 18 0	1,165 2 0
Payments to Various Towns	18,000 0 0	8,600 14 6	9,399 5 6
Anticipated requirements for Administration	64,000 0 0	61,296 6 7	2,703 13 5
Bad Debts and other contingencies	15,000 0 0	15,000 0 0	—
Hebrew Teachers Pension Fund	16,000 0 0	nil	16,000 0 0
Total ... £	419,500 0 0	223,311 0 0	196,189 0 0

Cape Western Province Distribution

United Hebrew Schools	21,000	0	0
Cape Board of Jewish Education	18,760	0	0
Teachers' Pension Fund	2,344	0	0
Council for Progressive Jewish Education ..	1,758	0	0
Country Communities Fund	2,932	0	0
S.A.J.B.D. (Cape Council)	11,725	0	0
U.C.F. National H.Q's.	11,725	0	0
United Council Hebrew Congregations ..	587	0	0
Jewish Ecclesiastical Association	294	0	0
Yeshivah Tachkimony	875	0	0
Hillel House	3,000	0	0
Administrative Expenses	7,000	0	0
TOTAL	£82,000	0	0

Natal Distribution

National H.Q's. of U.C.F.	16,000	0	0
Durban Jewish Community Chest	10,000	0	0
Council for Natal Jewry	16,000	0	0
TOTAL	£42,000	0	0

In order to pay out to all the participants the monthly instalments due to them, the Fund would have to be in regular receipt of something like £16,000 per month. In fact, however, as the income from pledges varies considerably from month to month, most of the participating bodies have been receiving less than their allocations entitled them to get per month. The decision on priorities of payment is a difficult one, but every effort is made to ensure that distribution should be fair and in relation to the urgency of needs.

Expenditure (Headquarters)

The expenses of conducting the campaign at headquarters for the period August 1953—June 1955 were as follows:—

Salaries, wages and audit fees	44,272	12	6
Motor and travelling expenses	8,481	12	4
Printing and stationery	1,378	5	2
Publicity and advertising	1,884	19	1
Receptions and banquets	78	13	3
Postages, telegrams and telephones ..	769	3	11

Rents and lights	..	..	..	..	1,067	0	0
General expenses	..	..	..	..	1,460	9	10
Bank charges	..	..	..	..	1,403	10	6
					<hr/>		
					£60,796	6	7
					<hr/>		

Next Campaign (1955-1957)

The fourth campaign was launched in the Western Province at the end of June, and in the rest of the country it will be inaugurated in about September. Mr. M. W. Beckelman, Overseas Director of the Joint Distribution Committee of America, who is coming to South Africa on a private visit, has kindly agreed to address a few public meetings in the interests of the campaign. The Women's Campaign was launched a few weeks ago.

The budgetary requirements of the participating bodies have not yet been submitted, but it is known that a number of them require increased amounts. It would not be realistic, however, at this stage, to count upon a larger income from the fund than was obtained in the last campaign. The participating bodies should not, therefore, expect larger allocations than previously. On the other hand, since additional sums are required, and in our view could be obtained through a concerted effort, it is desirable that the target shall remain £750,000,000 as heretofore for the whole of the country. Whatever amount is raised over and above the present minimum budgets, would be allocated by the National Executive.

We believe that the community understands the importance of the United Communal Fund for its future progress and we have every confidence that, with its goodwill and with the co-operation of all the affiliated bodies, the next campaign can be made a resounding success.

The Board takes this opportunity of recording its grateful thanks to the public-spirited men and women throughout the country who have assisted the campaign.

Administration

Upon the death of the former National Organiser, Mr. A. Ovedoff, Mr. E. Tannenbaum undertook the organisation of the last campaign, and when he left the Board's services, Mr. H. Schewitz was appointed Acting National Organiser. Mr. Schewitz is assisted by a staff of field and office personnel, who show great devotion to their work and to whom, one and all, warm thanks are due. Much assistance was

rendered by the staff of the Board, especially by its General Secretary, Mr. G. Saron, and Mr. L. Druion, Assistant Secretary.

THE SOUTH AFRICAN BOARD OF JEWISH EDUCATION

As in the previous period, the Board of Deputies has been called upon to spend much time in considering the finances of the South African Board of Jewish Education. Whenever the latter was in difficulties it turned to us and to the South African Zionist Federation for assistance, and as a result a very large number of discussions and consultations have been held.

The core of the problem is that the Board of Education's budget has far outstripped the amount which the United Communal Fund has been able to grant it, substantial though this amount is. As an emergency measure, our Board has been giving the Board of Education a loan of £4,500 per annum out of its own funds, and the Zionist Federation has been giving a loan of £9,000 per annum, thus raising the biennial income of the Board of Education to £111,000. But the total income of the Board of Education from all these sources has still not been adequate and the Board of Education is running at a substantial deficit.

Apart from the deficits in its maintenance budget, the Board of Education has had the problem of how to find capital funds for the building of the new King David High School and other building projects to which it is committed. Lengthy negotiations took place last year and this year, in order to find a way of raising the needed capital. The Board of Education was intent upon having an independent building endowment campaign, whereas our Board (and also the United Communal Fund Executive) did not favour this course. The latter realised that additional capital funds had to be found for the Board of Education. They felt, however, that a separate campaign by the Board of Education might prejudice the next United Communal Fund campaign. As an alternative they urged that the Board of Education should throw all its forces into the next United Communal Fund campaign, for which a higher target would be set; the allocations to the other bodies would be pegged on the present basis, and the additional sums raised would go to the Board of Education. This proposition did not prove acceptable to the Board of Education.

The discussions continued for many months. Eventually, when the Board of Education made it clear that it was committed to launching an independent campaign, the Board and the United

Communal Fund gave their blessing to it. The Board only did so, however, on the basis that the Board of Education would not expect to participate in the next United Communal Fund to a greater extent than in the present campaign — unless, of course, the new United Communal Fund campaign would yield a larger amount, in which event the Board of Education would receive a larger allocation. The Board and the Federation also agreed to guarantee an overdraft of £10,000 for the Board of Education for three years. It was also mutually understood that there would be the closest co-operation between the Board of Education and the United Communal Fund in the conduct of the Building Development Fund.

We are pleased to record that the latter campaign was indeed conducted in this spirit, and that a substantial sum was raised towards the capital needs of the Board of Education, although it is still very much short of the target.

However, as already stated, the Board of Education is once again faced with a major financial crisis because its current expenditure exceeds its normal income from the United Communal Fund and the additional amounts which it receives from the Board and the Zionist Federation. The Board has always dealt sympathetically with the financial problems of the Board of Education, and is, at present, endeavouring, together with the Federation, to find a solution which will not be merely a temporary palliative but will radically overcome the financial problems of the Board of Education.

TEACHERS' PENSIONS

At the last Biennial Congress, it was decided to allocate a sum of money from the United Communal Fund as a nucleus for a pension fund for Hebrew and Yiddish teachers and also "minister-teachers." The many problems in connection with the scheme have been considered by a special committee of the Executive Council, and also by the Cape Board of Jewish Education. Each committee has formulated an independent scheme and they differ in certain respects. The matter is receiving further study in an effort to see whether one uniform scheme can be devised for the whole country.

ADMISSION OF JEWISH TEACHERS

Protracted discussions and correspondence took place between the Board and the Department of the Interior in regard to the granting of immigration permits to Jewish teachers from overseas. The Board's object was to endeavour to expedite the granting of such permits in cases where suitable candidates have been appointed to local positions.

The Board was informed some years ago that it is the settled policy of the Department that teachers required by the Jewish community—and, for that matter, also by other groups in South Africa—should, as far as possible, be recruited from persons who are trained in this country, and “importations” from abroad are therefore discouraged. It is conceded, however, that a certain number of teachers from overseas are required in order to provide for the current essential needs of the Jewish community. The Board was called upon to furnish the Department with detailed information on the total number of Jewish schools and pupils in the country, the number of teachers engaged in these schools, the expectation of future needs, and other facts.

Eventually, an arrangement was concluded between the Board and the Department of the Interior which provides that the teachers from abroad (after making the necessary application) will be admitted on a temporary permit on the recommendation of the Board; and that on the termination of their stay, their permits may be renewed, or may be converted into permits for permanent residence.

The number of teachers to whom these facilities will be granted will be limited in all to 25. (At present there are 12 vacancies, including two pending applications.) Naturally, whenever a teacher so admitted resigns from the teaching profession or leaves the country, a further permit becomes available in his stead.

Among other conditions which it has stipulated the Department has stated that “the quota conditions of entry will be reviewed from time to time, bearing in mind the ultimate goal of complete independence of overseas sources to supply the educational needs of the Jewish community in the Union.” On the other hand, “the Board will not be debarred from making representations for the introduction of a limited number of teachers above the quota, in special circumstances; such representations will receive careful consideration.”

We are pleased to report that this arrangement is working satisfactorily and has resulted in expediting the admission of teachers to the Union. The arrangement is limited to the admission of teachers, and the rules governing the admission of Ministers continue in operation as heretofore.

The Board takes this opportunity of drawing the attention of all institutions to the fact that applications for the admission of teachers and ministers require its endorsement and that it should therefore be consulted before the immigration authorities are approached.

FINANCE

The Board derives practically the whole of its revenue (except for a small proportion received by way of membership fees), from its share of the United Communal Fund. The Board's budget continues to be cut to the minimum compatible with the efficient discharge of the duties entrusted to the Executive Council by Congress. The Finance Committee, consisting of Mr. Max Greenstein (Treasurer) and Mr. B. A. Ettlinger, Q.C., and Mr. A. B. Klipin (Vice-Presidents)—both former Treasurers of the Board—continues to maintain a close and constant supervision.

Following a precedent established by the Executive Council in 1951, when it established a special committee under the chairmanship of the late Mr. Gerald Lazarus to investigate the finances and administration of the Board, and to examine whether the Board's functions were being efficiently and economically performed, a similar special committee was appointed recently. Apart from two of the Honorary Officers, Mr. Max Greenstein (Treasurer) and Mr. A. B. Klipin (Vice-President), the members of the Committee were independent accountants and business-men of high standing—Mr. Alec Fine (Chairman of the Committee), Mr. R. Frankel, Mr. Henry Ginsberg, Mr. M. M. Lewin. The Committee found that in the time available before Congress, it would not be possible for them to make an exhaustive study of the Board's functioning. The Committee had been furnished with detailed memoranda on the activities of the various departments. The independent members of the Committee expressed their gratification at learning that the Board is performing so many functions for the benefit of the community, of which the general public does not seem to be aware. The committee saw no evidence that the Board's work is not being efficiently and economically carried out. They recommended that for the future a standing committee should be appointed, consisting, like the committee itself, mainly of independent accountants and businessmen, to maintain a constant scrutiny of the Board's functioning and expenditure.

As in the past, audited accounts will be submitted to Congress. They will be tabled for the inspection of delegates and the Treasurer will submit a detailed financial report.

BEQUESTS TO THE BOARD

Attention is drawn to the form of bequest printed at the beginning of this report. Attorneys are specially requested to bear the Board in mind when drawing up wills for their clients.

Since last Congress, the Board has been notified of legacies from the estates of the following: Mr. J. S. Unterhalter, Mr. Barnett Sacks, Mr. Nathan Cohen, Mr. Selek Levin, Mr. J. Ber, Mr. George Jacob, Mr. George Falcke and Mr. I. J. A. Diamond.

MEMBERSHIP OF THE BOARD

Since the 1953 Biennial Congress eight congregations and other bodies have been admitted to membership of the Board. A few bodies, such as congregations that have become defunct, have been removed from the roll of membership.

The membership is now as follows:—

Cape Western Province	76
Eastern Province	32
Natal	13
O.F.S.	38
Transvaal	172
Johannesburg	102
Rest of Tvl.	70
South West Africa	3
Rhodesia	1
	<hr/>
	335
	<hr/>

THE BOARD'S GOLDEN JUBILEE

The Board celebrated its Golden Jubilee by a banquet at the City Hall, Johannesburg, on May 28th, 1953, the eve of the last Biennial Congress. It was attended by delegates to Congress, leading members of the principal Jewish organizations and a very representative group of non-Jewish guests occupying prominent positions in all spheres of public life. Some notable speeches were delivered. The speakers were His Excellency the Governor-General, Dr. the Hon. E. G. Jansen; His Worship the Mayor of Johannesburg, Councillor Hyman Miller; the Hon. the Minister of Transport, Mr. P. O. Sauer, M.P.; the Bishop of Johannesburg, the Right Rev. R. Ambrose Reeves; and the following Honorary Officers of the Board: Mr. I. A. Maisels, Q.C., President; Mr. B. A. Ettlinger, Q.C., Vice-President; Mr. S. M. Kuper, Q.C., Vice-President; Mr. E. J. Howitz, Chairman, Executive Council.

The function was given considerable publicity by the press. Portions of the speeches were broadcast by the South African Broadcasting Corporation, and the reception of the Governor-General

by the Honorary Officers was filmed by African Theatres, Ltd. for the weekly news film *African Mirror*.

The Board received numerous congratulatory messages on this milestone in its history from a large number of Jewish bodies in South Africa and overseas.

The Jubilee celebrations made a strong impact on the Jewish community at large, especially in the main urban centres. A series of functions was held during the week commencing June 21st and attracted large audiences.

Functions were also held in Bloemfontein, Durban, Port Elizabeth, Cape Town and East London.

The issue of the Board's monthly journal, *Jewish Affairs* for June, 1953, was a special Golden Jubilee commemoration issue. It contained articles on the history of the Board and accounts of the banquet and public meetings. The articles dealing with the Jubilee were re-printed in a pamphlet issued under the title "The South African Jewish Board of Deputies; The Story of Fifty Years 1903-1953" and put on sale at 1s. each.

DR. A. COHEN'S VISIT

On the invitation of the Board, Dr. A. Cohen, the President of the Board of Deputies of British Jews, came to this country in June, 1953, for a brief visit. The intention was to afford Dr. Cohen the opportunity of acquainting himself with South African Jewry, but, in fact, he carried out a very heavy communal programme. He was the guest-speaker at the Board's Golden Jubilee celebrations in several of the larger centres and also, under the auspices of the People's College, he delivered four notable lectures on "Judaism Between the Two Testaments". Dr. Cohen also lectured in many other towns.

Dr. Cohen was also a speaker at two United Communal Fund functions, one in Johannesburg and one in Cape Town.

When he left, in August, Dr. Cohen carried with him the sincere thanks of the South African Jewish community for the intellectual and cultural stimulus which his visit provided. The visit did a great deal to cement the close and friendly relations between the South African and British Boards of Deputies.

CECIL LYONS MEMORIAL FOUNDATION

The Foundation, to commemorate the late Mr. Cecil Lyons, J.P., a former President of the Board, was established in 1945.

Its objects are:

- (1) To assist any member of the Jewish community who undertakes to qualify for some form of communal service, e.g. the Jewish communal administration, the Jewish ministry or the Jewish teaching profession.
- (2) To assist any person, irrespective of his race or religion, who undertakes to devote himself to special studies dealing with inter-race and inter-faith problems in South Africa, more particularly in so far as they relate to the Jewish community.
- (3) To assist Jewish students (including post-graduate students) in their education or vocation, more particularly those intending to pursue Jewish studies.

The amount available for the work of the Foundation is £800 a year.

During the two years under review the Foundation granted the following bursaries:

Mr. I. B. Kahanowitz, Vice-principal of the King David School; to enable him to take up a refresher course on psychological subjects in England, and the study of Hebrew in Israel.

Mr. C. A. Skibbe, a non-Jewish student of the University of Stellenbosch; to complete a thesis for his M.A. degree on "Jewish Education in Cape Town."

Mr. R. Abt, a South African matriculant; to attend a Yeshivah in Israel.

Mr. B. Isaacson, who had previously been assisted to pay his passage to attend a Yeshivah in the United States, has received a further bursary to enable him to continue his studies.

Mr. A. Bassin has also been further assisted to continue his studies in London for the Jewish ministry.

WEISS MEMORIAL BURSARY

In 1945, the Board established a annual bursary, which is now of the value of £50, for the promotion of Jewish education to perpetuate the memory of Mr. Abraham Weiss, M.M., a keen and active Deputy for a Germiston constituent body, who made the supreme sacrifice in the Battle of El Alamein, in October, 1942. The award is made on the recommendation of the South African Board of Jewish Education. Preference is given, other things being equal, to students from Germiston.

The Bursary for 1953 was awarded to Gerald Mazabow, a second-year student of the Rabbi Zlotnik Seminary, and the Bursary for 1954 was awarded to S. E. Dorfan, a first year B.A. student at the

University of the Witwatersrand. One of the subjects in which he intends to major is Hebrew.

REFORM OF THE CALENDAR

An influential World Calendar Association has been successful in getting its plans for a reform of the calendar considered from time to time by the League of Nations and, latterly by the United Nations. These proposals have, however, not found favour with the Churches, whose ecclesiastical calendars would be upset, and they are totally unacceptable to Jews, for any such reform would involve a "floating Sabbath." In other words, the Sabbath would fall on a certain day of the week one year, on a different day the next, and so on.

In 1954, the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations called for the views of all Governments on the proposals that had come before it on the sponsorship of India.

When the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations met to consider the matter in June, 1955, it was found that 30 Governments had replied, out of a total of about 80 to whom the enquiry had been addressed. Of these the great majority had expressed themselves as clearly opposed, while a number withheld final decision pending further enquiry.

The Government of Israel submitted a strong statement explaining the motives for Jewish opposition. Many of the predominantly Protestant English-speaking countries, like the United States, United Kingdom, Australia, New Zealand, and South Africa, also opposed the proposal.

Further consideration of the matter was accordingly postponed for a further year.

SHECHITA

Close attention is given to the safeguarding of shechita, and no opportunity is lost of disseminating the material in the Board's possession, consisting of the considered opinions of eminent scientists and veterinary surgeons, testifying to the complete humaneness of shechita. This material is freely made available to members of the public on request.

PUBLIC EXAMINATIONS

The Board is always ready to assist candidates for public examinations who find that papers are set on the Sabbath or a Yomtov. Tables of Jewish holy days are circulated regularly to educational

and examining bodies. Occasionally an oversight occurs. The Board then negotiates with the body concerned for the setting of alternative papers and defrays or guarantees the expense involved.

S.A. MESHULLOCHIM BOARD OF CONTROL

The South African Meshullochim Board of Control is a joint committee of representatives of this Board, the Federation of Synagogues of the Transvaal and the O.F.S., the Beth Din and the Meshullochim organization. It regulates the operations of the South African collectors (Meshullochim) for certain religious and philanthropic organizations in Israel. It is registered as a welfare organization under the National Welfare Organizations Act. At the present time there are 12 Meshullochim operating in South Africa. Two confine their collections to Johannesburg, one to the Transvaal, four to Cape Town and suburbs, and five usually visit all parts of the country.

The Executive Council of the Board recently re-affirmed a decision taken some time ago that no new Meshullochim are to be authorized and vacancies which arise from the death or departure of Meshullochim are not to be filled.

JEWISH MEMBERS OF THE FORCES

The Board continues to assist the Principal Jewish Chaplain to the Forces, Rabbi Dr. A. T. Shrock, and the Jewish ministers in the various localities, in their work of attending to the needs of Jewish members of the Union's Permanent Force and the Active Citizen Force. At Potchefstroom, Rabbi Y. Kemelman has received official appointment as part-time Chaplain to the Forces. In Bloemfontein, Rabbi S. Coleman; in Pretoria, the Rev. S. Katz; and in Durban, Rabbi Harris Swift, carry out the necessary duties. (In Bloemfontein, during Rabbi Coleman's absence overseas, Mr. Ray, the President of the Congregation, and Mr. S. C. Ostrofsky, the Chairman of the local branch of the S.A. Jewish Ex-Service League, readily offered their services.)

The Board provides bibles, prayer books and other suitable books; Kosher tinned meat for those who require it, and so on. The editors of the weekly Jewish journals are to be thanked for supplying copies of their papers for Jewish members of the Forces.

The officers commanding the various camps, and the authorities at Defence and Command Headquarters, deserve the community's thanks for their understanding and courtesy.

JEWISH INMATES OF INSTITUTIONS

The Board continues to watch the problem of the needs of Jewish

inmates of hospitals, nursing homes and public institutions generally. The actual work is done by the Jewish ministry, the Jewish Society for Visiting the Sick (Bikkur Cholim), the Committee of the Johannesburg General Hospital (Kosher Kitchen), the Union of Jewish Women, and the local congregations. A great amount of invaluable service is rendered unobtrusively by these public-spirited bodies and individuals. (Incidentally many non-Jewish inmates receive attention from these Jewish visitors.)

REPRESENTATIVES OF THE BOARD ON OTHER BODIES

South African Board of Jewish Education:

Mr. George Berold

Vocational Guidance Bureau of the South African Ort Oze:

Mr. L. Melamed, Mr. G. Osrin.

Witwatersrand Jewish Welfare Council:

Mr. Lionel Goldman, Mr. N. M. Slood, Mr. G. Osrin.

South African Meshullochim Board of Control:

Mr. J. Goldblatt, Mr. J. Nathan, Mr. S. Danziger,

Mr. R. S. Myers, J.P.

South African Sociological and Historical Society:

Trustees: Mr. B. A. Ettlinger, Q.C., Mr. I. A. Maisels, Q.C.

Mr. J. M. Rich.

Council: Mr. G. Saron, Mr. J. M. Rich.

Governor-General's National War Fund:

Mr. B. A. Ettlinger, Q.C.

Johannesburg Council of Adult Education:

Executive Committee: Dr. H. Abt.

OBITUARY

Among the communal personalities who unfortunately passed away during this period, special mention must be made of the following:—

Mr. Siegfried Raphaely, a former President of the Board, who died on October 22nd, 1953. He played an outstanding part in the development of the Board and of the Jewish community.

Mr. Leon Segal, August 24th, 1954, Cape Vice-President of the Board. Mr. Segal had been a member of the Cape Committee since 1932, and was successively Treasurer, Vice-Chairman and Chairman.

Mr. Harry Landau, September 23rd, 1954, Joint Treasurer of the Board in 1946, Chairman of the War Service Council from 1939

to 1946, and for many years National Chairman of the South African Jewish Appeal.

Mr. H. H. Morris, Q.C., in October 1954; member of the Executive Council of the Board in 1935.

Mr. Harry Herber, President of the S.A. Board of Jewish Education, who died on December 12th, 1954.

Mr. Louis Gradner, in March 1955. Mr. Gradner had been for many years a member of the Cape Committee of the Board. He had been twice Mayor of Capetown.

THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL AND COMMITTEES

At the Biennial Congress in 1953 the following Honorary Officers and other members of the Executive Council were elected:—

<i>President</i>	.. .. .	Mr. I. A. Maisels, Q.C.
<i>Vice-President (Cape)</i>	.. .. .	Mr. Leon Segal
<i>Vice-President (Natal)</i>	.. .. .	Mr. A. Levine
<i>Vice-president (Eastern Province)</i>		Mr. A. Schauder, J.P.
<i>Vice-president (Orange Free State)</i>		Mr. Henry Bradlow
<i>Vice-president (Transvaal)</i>	.. .. .	Mr. B. A. Ettlinger, Q.C.
<i>Vice-president (Additional)</i>	.. .. .	Mr. M. H. Goldschmidt
<i>Vice-president (Additional)</i>	.. .. .	Mr. A. B. Klipin
<i>Vice-president (Additional)</i>	.. .. .	Mr. S. M. Kuper, Q.C.
<i>Treasurer</i>	.. .. .	Mr. Max Greenstein.

Other members: Mrs. J. Adler, Mr. Edgar Bernstein, Mr. George Berold, Mr. S. Buirski, Mr. Leslie Cooper, Mrs. M. Franks, Mr. Max Gonski, Mr. H. J. Hanson, Q.C., Mr. E. J. Horwitz, Mr. I. J. Kagan, Rabbi Dr. M. Kossowsky, Mr. A. L. Kowarsky, M.B.E., M.P.C., Mr. L. A. Lipshitz, Mr. A. Mendelow, Mr. A. L. Meyer, Mr. Philip Porter, Mr. N. Philips, Mr. H. X. Rajak, J.P., Dr. T. Schneider, Mrs. L. Sive, Mr. A. Suzman, Q.C., Rabbi Dr. M. C. Weiler, Mr. N. Winik, Mr. Michael Wix.

Of the 24 "other members," 19 had served during the preceding session.

At the first meeting of the Executive Council after Congress, Mr. E. J. Horwitz was re-elected Chairman and Mr. N. Philips, Vice-Chairman.

Subsequently the following were co-opted: Messrs. N. M. Slood (June 1953); Abe Grabman, Manfred Hermer, Maurice Porter, Rudolph Raphaely, Abel Shaban (March, 1954). Jack Heršov (National Chairman of the South African Jewish Appeal), was co-opted in October, 1954, and Mr. E. Tannenbaum (formerly

National Organiser of the United Communal Fund for South African Jewry) was co-opted in March, 1955.

Mr. Michael Wix found it necessary to resign, for personal reasons, in September, 1953, and Mr. S. Buirski also resigned for personal reasons, in February, 1954.

Mr. Leon Segal, Cape Vice-President, died in August, 1954. The vacancy was filled by the Executive Council, on the recommendation of the Cape Committee, in June, 1955, by the appointment of Adv. Dave Cohen, until then the Chairman of the Cape Committee.

On the election of Dr. B. Moshal as President of the Council of Natal Jewry, the Executive Council, in May, 1955, on the recommendation of that body, elected him as Natal Vice-President, in place of Mr. Alex Levine, the former President.

In July, 1955, Mr. S. M. Kuper, Q.C., one of the Vice-Presidents of the Board, was appointed a Judge of the Supreme Court and accordingly resigned from the Executive Council. Mr. Kuper was warmly congratulated on his elevation to the Bench, but he will be sorely missed in the councils of the Board. He had been a member of the Executive Council since 1940, and had been Chairman from August, 1944, to June, 1949, when he was elected Vice-President. At the Regional Conference of Transvaal and Reef Constituent Bodies of the Board held on July 31st, 1955, a stinkwood kist was presented to Mr. and Mrs. Kuper in appreciation of his long and devoted service to the Jewish community.

Attendances at Executive Council

Number of meetings held since Congress:— 51.

	<i>Number of Attendances</i>
Mr. E. J. Horwitz (Chairman)	44*
Mrs. Edgar Adler	12*
Mr. Edgar Bernstein	37*
Mr. George Berold	33*
Mr. Leslie Cooper	21*
Mr. B. A. Ettlinger, Q.C., (Vice-President)	21*
Mrs. M. Franks	13*
Mr. A. Grabman (<i>Co-opted, March, 1954</i>)	19*
Mr. Max Gonski	19*
Mr. Max Greenstein (Treasurer)	29*
Mr. H. J. Hanson, Q.C.	25*
Mr. Manfred Hermer	21*
Mr. Jack Hersov (<i>co-opted, October, 1954</i>)	8*

Mr. I. J. Kagan	29
Mr. A. B. Klipin (Vice-President)	27*
Rabbi Dr. M. Kossowsky	19
Mr. A. L. Kowarsky, M.B.E., M.P.C.	13*
Mr. L. A. Lipshitz	28*
Mr. I. A. Maisels, Q.C. (President)	22*
Advocate A. Mendelow	31
Mr. A. L. Meyer	24*
Mr. Maurice Porter (<i>co-opted, March, 1954</i>)	28*
Mr. Philip Porter	34
Mr. N. Philips (Vice-Chairman)	29*
Mr. H. X. Rajak, J.P.	43
Mr. Rudolph Raphaely (<i>co-opted, March, 1954</i>)	11*
Mr. Abel Shaban (<i>co-opted, March, 1954</i>)	15*
Dr. T. Schneider	30*
Mrs. Lily Sive	21*
Mr. N. M. Slood	19*
Mr. Arthur Suzman, Q.C.	18*
Mr. E. Tannenbaum (<i>co-opted, March, 1955</i>)	3*
Rabbi Dr. M. C. Weiler	22*
Mr. N. Winik	42*

**Indicates prolonged leave of absence, while overseas, or on medical grounds, or for other reasons.*

(Several members of the Executive Council were absent from meetings on account of duty on behalf of the Board or the United Communal Fund.)

The Committees

The Executive Council appointed, as usual, a number of standing committees. The personnel of the committees was drawn from the Executive Council, augmented by a number of co-opted members. Most of the committees have held a large number of meetings. Most of the members of the Executive Council served on more than one committee and many of them found themselves obliged to attend two or more meetings each week. In addition, the Honorary Officers have met regularly at least once, and sometimes twice, a week to deal with current business. In addition to these meetings, the Honorary Officers frequently held additional meetings to confer with representatives of communal bodies who wish to submit their problems to the Board. As the Honorary Officers are *ex officio* members of standing committees, many of them find themselves at the Board's offices almost every day of the week.

In addition to the standing committees, there have been several sub-committees and *ad hoc* committees.

The "representational" work of the Board involves the members of the Executive Council and particularly, of course, the Honorary Officers, in an arduous round of engagements—attendances at communal gatherings, annual and special meetings of Jewish organisations, etc. Most of these functions call for speeches by the Board's representatives.

The following is a list of the standing committees, showing the attendances at each:—

Attendances at Committees

(The Honorary Officers are *ex officio* members of all Standing Committees.)

Cecil Lyons Memorial Foundation Committee

Number of meetings held 9

Mr. I. A. Maisels, Q.C., (Chairman), 7; Mrs. A. Franks, 3; Mr. J. Goldblatt (co-opted), 5; Dr. Ellen Hellmann (co-opted), 4; Mr. A. L. Meyer, 4; Mr. H. X. Rajak, J.P., 8; Rabbi Dr. M. C. Weiler (Vice-Chairman), 7.

Secretary: Mr. L. Melamed

Communal Relations Committee

Number of meetings held: 39.

Mr. H. X. Rajak, J.P., (Chairman), 33; Mrs. M. Adler, 9; Mr. George Berold, 24; Mr. Leslie Cooper, 5; Mrs. A. Franks, 8; Mr. A. Grabman (possible attendances 21), 8; Mr. Harold Hanson, Q.C., 16; Dr. S. S. Israelstam (co-opted), 5; Mr. I. J. Kagan 19; Rabbi Dr. M. Kossowsky, 16; Mr. H. S. Liebgott (co-opted), 25; Mr. A. L. Meyer, 10; Mrs. L. Sive, 12; Mr. M. Szur (co-opted), 30; Rabbi Dr. M. C. Weiler, 8.

Secretary: Mrs. H. Kehr

Cultural Organiser: Dr. H. Abt.

Country Communities Committee

(National Committee)

Number of meetings held: 20.

Mr. A. B. Klipin (Chairman), 13; Mrs. M. Adler, 6; Mr. M. Gonski, 4; Mr. A. Grabman (possible attendances 8), 4; Mr. C. Isaacson, Q.C., (co-opted), 11; Mr. L. A. Lipshitz, 6; Mr. A. L. Meyer, 3; Mr. Philip Porter, 13; Mr. H. X. Rajak, J.P., 11; Dr. T. Schneider (possible attendances 6), 1.

Secretary: Mrs. H. Kehr.

Rabbi to the Country Communities: Rabbi Dr. J. Newman

Country Communities Committee
(Transvaal Committee)

Number of Meetings held: 8.

Mr. A. B. Klipin (Chairman), 4; Mrs. M. Adler, 3; Mr. Max Gonski, 0; Mr. I. Goss (S.A. Board of Jewish Education, 3; Mr. L. Gut (Federation of Synagogues), 5; Mr. M. Jacobs (Federation of Synagogues), 4; Mr. J. Klewansky (S.A. Board of Jewish Education) (possible attendances 6), 1; Mr. I. Kuper (Federation of Synagogues), 5; Rabbi A. H. Lapin (S.A. Jewish Ministers' Association), 5; Mr. L. A. Lipshitz, 1; Mr. A. L. Meyer, 3; Mr. Hyman Miller (S.A. Board of Jewish Education), 0; Mr. Philip Porter, 4; Chief Rabbi Prof. L. I. Rabinowitz, 3; Mr. H. X. Rajak, 5; Mr. C. Isaacson, Q.C. (co-opted), 7.

Secretary: Mrs. H. Kehr.

Rabbi to the Country Communities: Rabbi Dr. J. Newman

Ex-Servicemen's Committee

Number of meetings held: 27.

Mr. A. L. Kowarsky, M.B.E., M.P.C. (Chairman), 23; Mr. H. Bernstein (co-opted), 20; Mr. R. R. Blumenthal (co-opted), 14; Mr. Leslie Cohen (co-opted), 22; Mr. S. M. Cowen (co-opted), 19; Mr. Harold H. Goldberg (co-opted), 6; Mr. Dan Gonski (co-opted) 8; Mr. J. W. Gonski (co-opted), 19; Mr. H. Goodman (co-opted) 12; Mr. Manfred Hermer, 17; Mr. D. Judah (co-opted), 17; Mr. Leonard Lazar (co-opted), 17; Mr. G. Mandelzweig (co-opted), 19; Mr. H. Peiser (co-opted), 11.

Secretary: Mr. L. Melamed.

Clerk to the Committee: Miss R. Rosenberg.

General Purposes Committee

Number of meetings held: 29.

Mr. A. L. Meyer (Chairman), 25; Mr. George Berold, 20; Mr. S. Danziger (co-opted), 14; Mr. J. Goldblatt (co-opted), 17; Mr. M. Gonski (Vice-chairman), 9; Mr. I. J. Hersch (co-opted), 10; Mr. I. J. Kagan, 18; Mr. S. Louis (co-opted), 10; Mr. R. S. Myers, J.P., (co-opted), 21; Mr. J. Nathan (co-opted), 23; Mr. Harry Serebro (co-opted), (possible attendances 6), 3; Mr. N. M. Sloom, 17.

Secretary: Mr. J. M. Rich

Legal Committee

Number of meetings held: 5.

Mr. Arthur Suzman, Q.C. (Chairman), 4; Mr. H. J. Hanson, Q.C., 2; Mr. C. Isaacson, Q.C. (co-opted), 4; Mr. C. J. M. Nathan (co-opted), 2; Mr. J. Nathan (co-opted), 2; Mr. Maurice Porter, 4.
Secretary: Mr. J. M. Rich.

Overseas Committee

Number of meetings held: 5.

Mr. B. A. Ettlinger, Q.C. (Chairman), 5; Mr. Edgar Bernstein, 4; Mrs. Anna Franks, 3; Mr. Manfred Hermer (possible attendances: 3), 2; Mr. E. J. Horwitz, 5; Mr. N. Philips, 4; Mr. Rudolph Raphaely (possible attendances: 3), 1; Mr. Abel Shaban (possible attendances: 3), 3; Rabbi Dr. M. C. Weiler 3.

Secretary: Mr. J. M. Rich

Public Relations Committee

Number of meetings held: 30.

Mr. N. Philips (Chairman), 20; Mr. Edgar Bernstein, 24; Mrs. Anna Franks, 6; Dr. Ellen Hellman (co-opted), 22; Mr. Manfred Hermer (possible attendances: 13), 6; Mr. Louis Hotz (co-opted), 16; Mr. A. L. Kowarsky, M.B.E., M.P.C., 13; Mr. A. Mendelow, 11; Mr. Maurice Porter (possible attendances: 15), 12; Mr. H. X. Rajak, J.P., 21; Dr. T. Schneider (Vice-Chairman), 25; Mr. N. M. Slood, 10; Mr. Arthur Suzman, Q.C., 17; Mr. E. Tannenbaum (possible attendance: 1), 1.

Secretary: Mr. I. Pinchuck.

Welfare Committee

Number of meetings held: 8.

Mr. N. M. Slood (Chairman), 8; Mr. George Berold, 1; Mr. L. A. Lipshitz, 2; Mr. A. Mendelow, 4; Mr. A. L. Meyer, 1; Mr. L. Sive (Vice-Chairman), 3; Mr. N. Winik, 3.

Secretary: Mr. L. Melamed.

Youth Committee

Number of meetings held: 1.

Mr. H. J. Hanson, Q.C., (Chairman), 0; Mr. Edgar Bernstein, 0; Mr. A. Grabman, 1; Mr. Manfred Hermer, 1; Mr. Maurice Porter, 1; Rabbi Dr. M. C. Weiler, 0.

Secretary: Dr. H. Abt.

Since last Congress, the Head Office has suffered two severe losses by death. Mr. Alexander Ovedoff, National Organiser of the

United Communal Fund, died in September, 1953. He had been a member of the Board's staff for fourteen years.

Mrs. Claire Tichauer, the Board's librarian, died in November, 1953. She had been associated with the Board in a permanent capacity since 1945. She had been instrumental in making the Board's library and information service a valuable instrument.

Mr. E. Tannenbaum, who succeeded Mr. Ovedoff as National Organiser of the United Communal Fund, resigned in February, 1955, to take up a business career. He was a member of the Board's staff from 1945 and made his mark as Secretary of the Public Relations Committee. The United Communal Fund benefited greatly under his direction. Mr. Tannenbaum has been co-opted as a member of the Executive Council.

The Board's administration is under the general direction of the General Secretary, Mr. G. Saron, and the Secretary, Mr. J. M. Rich. Mr. L. Druion, Assistant Secretary, acts as the Board's financial Secretary. The senior officials attached to the main departments, are as follows:—

Communal Relations	Dr. H. Abt. (Cultural Organiser) Mrs. H. Kehr.
Country Communities . . . "Jewish Affairs" and "Goodwill" Department	Rabbi Dr. J. Newman. Mrs. A. Levy.
Public Relations	Mr. I. Pinchuck.
Welfare	Mr. L. Melamed
Restitution Office . .	Mrs. I. Herzberg.
Librarian	Miss Z. Orlin.
South African Jewish Historical Society	Mrs. H. Dreiman (Secretary) Mr. S. A. Rochlin (Archivist)
United Communal Fund	Mr. H. Schewitz (Acting National Organiser)

THE BOARD'S STAFF

The Executive Council must once more record its deep obligation to the members of the Board's staff, both at Head Office and in the offices of the Provincial Committees. As the "civil service" of the community the Jewish public owes them much for their loyal and unflagging devotion to their task.

E. J. HORWITZ, *Chairman, Executive Council.*
G. SARON, *General Secretary.*
J. M. RICH, *Secretary.*

CAPE COUNCIL

The Cape Committee is the Provincial Committee of the Board in the Cape Western Province.

In November, 1953, with the sanction of the Executive Council, a new body, the Cape Council, was set up. It consists of all the constituent bodies of the Board in that area and the Cape Committee acts as its Executive Committee. The object of the Cape Council, as set out in its constitution, is, to act for and on behalf of the South African Jewish Board of Deputies in the Cape Province, and to co-operate with and assist the Board in promoting the objects of that body, always subject to the jurisdiction and authority of that body in accordance with the Board's constitution.

The present members of the Cape Committee are as follows:— Cape Vice-President of the Board, Adv. D. Cohen; Additional Vice-President of the Board, Mr. M. H. Goldschmidt; Chairman, Mr. Max Melamet; Vice-Chairman, Mr. Frank R. Bradlow; Treasurer, Mr. J. M. Weinreich; Committee: Mrs. M. Bane, Mr. I. Buirski; Dr. H. Freund, Mr. A. M. Jackson, M.P.C., (Hon. Life Member), Mr. L. Karabelnik, Mr. S. Kessler, Mr. E. Kluk, Mrs. M. Levitas, Mr. W. Levy, Mr. C. Rabinowitz, Mr. S. L. Schach, Mr. S. Walt, Mrs. F. Weinreich, Mr. C. Winokur.

Meetings of the Cape Council take place, as far as possible, each month. They are attended by the delegates of the constituent bodies — the "Cape Deputies" — and by the members of the Cape Committee.

Four years ago an experiment was introduced of providing for the election by postal vote of ten "Additional Deputies" by contributors to the United Communal Fund (and their wives). The directors or partners of firms contributing to the Fund were also given the right to vote. This experiment has now received general acceptance. It enables the Cape Council to have the co-operation of members of the community who are not necessarily representatives of the constituent bodies. There are approximately 2,800 names on the voters' roll.

Annual Conferences

An annual conference is held early each year, attended by leading delegates of organisations affiliated to the Cape Council.

Endeavours are made, as far as possible, to hold the conference in a different suburb each year, so as to stimulate closer interest in the work of the Board on the part of the respective communities. The attendances have been very good. The conference in March, 1954, took place in Muizenberg. It was attended by Mr. Max Gonski, a member of the Executive Council, and by Mr. G. Saron, General Secretary of the Board. A feature of the Conference was Mrs. Enid Alexander's address on her biography of her late husband, Mr. Morris Alexander, K.C., M.P. The conference in March, 1955, took place at Rondebosh. Mr. Cecil Hyman, Minister for Israel and Mrs. Hyman, and Mr. Morris Kentridge, M.P., were present. The Executive Council was represented by Mr. Max Gonski, Mr. Saron and Rabbi Dr. J. Newman, the Board's Rabbi to the Country Communities.

Regional Conferences were held at Beaufort West and Wellington.

Communal Relations

An outstanding exhibition of Jewish religious art was arranged in the Old Synagogue in Cape Town. The nucleus consisted of some of the ceremonial silver presented to the South African Jewish community by "Jewish Reconstruction." These items were brought to Cape Town by Dr. H. Abt, the Board's Cultural Organizer, and were supplemented by pieces from private collections in Cape Town and elsewhere. The exhibition evoked great interest and it was visited by thousands, both Jews and non-Jews.

A portion of the "Jewish Reconstruction" collection has been allocated to Cape Town and arrangements are now being made for the establishment of a permanent Jewish museum in the Old Synagogue, where these pieces will serve as the nucleus of the collection.

Each year, on the occasion of the World Jewish Day of Mourning, the Committee assists in the organizing of memorial meetings, which are usually well attended by the community.

In October, 1954, a symposium was arranged in commemoration of the 750th anniversary of the death of Maimonides.

The Communal Relations Committee (Chairman, Mr. E. Kluk) has provided speakers to address local organizations on the work of the Board and other topics. Good use has been made by several bodies of the collection of "Eternal Light" and other recorded programmes.

People's College in the Cape has, for various reasons, not been very effective. In July, 1953, it arranged lectures in Cape Town and

Paarl by Dr. A. Cohen, the President of the Board of Deputies of British Jews, the renowned Jewish scholar. Discussions are taking place with the Cape Board of Jewish Education and the Western Province Zionist Council, the sponsoring bodies of People's College, with the object of injecting new life into this venture.

Books for Libraries

The Cape Council set up a Jewish Library Committee to stimulate the reading of books of Jewish interest, and to co-ordinate the activities of the Jewish libraries possessed by the various organizations in this area. The Committee was instrumental in establishing a library at Hillel House and in revitalizing the libraries of other communal bodies. Investigations show that there is very little reading of Jewish books by members of the community, both young and old, and in fact, that there is a regrettable lack of suitable Jewish books available.

The Committee is endeavouring to establish a Jewish section at the Public Library in Cape Town. At the Committee's request, the Chief Rabbi, Prof. I. Abrahams, will examine the catalogue of the Hebraica section of the Jagger Library, with a view to having it supplemented, if necessary. Unfortunately, some of the projects that the Jewish Library Committee has in mind could not yet be carried out, owing to the lack of co-operation by some organizations.

Overseas Committee

The object of the Overseas Committee (Chairman, Adv. S. L. Schach), is to make itself conversant with matters affecting the South African Jewish Community's relations with Jewish bodies overseas and the effect of overseas events on our community, so as to be able to advise the Cape Council. The Committee maintains constant contact with the Overseas Committee of the Executive Council.

Country Communities

The Country Communities Committee (Chairman, Mr. J. M. Weinreich), has arranged Pastoral Tours to all parts of the Cape. Most places have been visited several times. Warm thanks are due to the Chief Rabbi Prof. I. Abrahams, Rabbi E. Duschinsky, Rabbi J. Weinberg, Rabbi Dr. Levine, Rabbi Dr. A. T. Shrock and the Rev. S. Zucker, who fully co-operated in this work.

Visits were also paid to the country communities by the Chairman of the Cape Council, Mr. J. M. Weinreich, and the Secretary.

Assistance has been rendered to several communities in obtaining and maintaining the services of Ministers.

In February, 1955, Rabbi Dr. J. Newman, the Board's Rabbi to the Country Communities, spent two months in the Western Province. He conducted a thorough survey of the country communities in the area and suggested practical steps for providing better services. As a result, the appointment of a travelling minister has been made to serve country communities within a radius of 100 miles of Cape Town.

The shortage of ministerial personnel is a matter for grave concern. A special committee was set up to deal with the problem, consisting of Mr. J. M. Weinreich (Convener), the Chief Rabbi, Prof. I. Abrahams (Beth Din), Mr. S. Walt and representatives of the United Council of Hebrew Congregations and the Cape Board of Jewish Education.

Another problem that is being dealt with is that of dwindling and defunct communities. Efforts are being made to acquire the assets, movable and immovable, of such congregations, to be kept in trust and used for the benefit of other needy communities.

Jewish Youth

The Cape Council set up two committees, a Youth Committee (Chairman, Mr. A. M. Melamet) and a University Students' Committee (Chairman, Dr. A. Landau). They consist of members of the Cape Committee, students and other youth, and persons having experience in Youth work. The Youth Sub-committee has assembled very useful information with regard to the Jewish youth organisations in the Cape Peninsula, but has not yet been able to report any practical results.

In July, 1953, the Cape Board of Jewish Education, jointly with the Cape Council of the Board of Deputies, at the instance of the Students' Jewish Association, brought Hillel House into being as a residence for Jewish students and a centre of Jewish cultural activity for Jewish students at the University of Cape Town.

The Hillel House Residence Board is composed of representatives of the three sponsoring bodies, namely the Cape Board of Jewish Education, the Cape Council of the Board of Deputies, and the Students' Jewish Association.

Unfortunately, Hillel House did not function as satisfactorily as was expected, and a Commission of Enquiry was set up to investigate its management and finance. Its report is now being considered.

Public Relations

The Public Relations Committee (Chairman, Mr. C. Rabinowitz), co-operates closely with the Public Relations Committee of the Executive Council of the Board. It has dealt with anti-Semitic manifestations and also with discrimination in employment. It has endeavoured to stimulate Public Relations activities by the affiliated bodies.

Welfare Work

Assistance is rendered in connection with applicants for naturalisation, problems relating to immigration, claims against the West German Government in respect of property confiscated under the Nazi regime, and tracing of missing relatives. Many long lost relations and friends have been put in contact with one another. There is an active Employment Department, under Mrs. R. Pimstone, which co-operates closely with the Jewish Board of Guardians and the Sheltered Employment Council. There is a growing number of applicants of over 40 years of age. Some of them previously owned their own businesses. Others were qualified in one particular occupation which, for various reasons, they were no longer able to pursue.

Ex-Servicemen's Committee

Since the re-establishment of the Committee (Chairman, Mr. F. R. Bradlow), in September, 1953, it has dealt with over 20 applications for assistance and has made loans and grants of over £3,000.

Clothing Depot

The Clothing Depot of the S.A. Jewish Appeal at 16 Sir Lowry Road, Cape Town, is under the control of the Cape Council.

There is still an urgent need for used clothing in Israel. As there were rumours to the contrary, the Cape Committee had investigations carried out in Israel in order to ascertain the true position. It was found that an urgent need for the clothing still existed. In the past two years the depot has collected, processed and despatched over 70,000 used garments.

United Communal Fund

The third U.C.F. campaign was launched in August, 1953. Of the target of about £105,000, £82,000 was raised. Although this was a progressive improvement over previous campaigns, it was necessary for *pro rata* reductions to be made in allocations to all participating bodies including the Cape Council, whose budget for the two-year campaign period represented its basic requirements in order to carry out its work, and the *pro rata* reduction to 66 per

cent thereof through failure to reach the target, has made its financial position very difficult indeed, despite severe economies effected in all aspects of its expenditure.

The fourth campaign (1955-1957) was launched in June, 1955. A meeting of workers and contributors unanimously elected Adv. D. Cohen chairman of the campaign. Unless the target of this campaign is reached, the Cape Council will be unable to carry out essential work owing to lack of finance, as the U.C.F. is its only source of income.

The Finance Committee (Chairman, Mr. J. M. Weinreich) holds monthly meetings and scrutinises all items of expenditure. Many economies have been effected with a view to keeping the expenditure of the Cape Council as low as possible.

From time to time the Finance Committee has held joint meetings with the Ex-Servicemen's Assistance Committee.

Co-ordination Committee

The Co-ordination Committee (Chairman, Dr. H. Freund) was appointed pursuant to a resolution adopted at the Annual Conference of the Cape Council in March, 1954, calling for efforts to be made to co-ordinate local charities and communal building activities. The Committee began its work by obtaining information with regard to the buildings owned or hired by the various communal bodies, and with regard to contemplated building projects. It is obvious that the Committee cannot meet with success unless it has the full co-operation of the communal organizations.

Archives Committee

An Archives Committee (Chairman, Mrs. R. Movsovic) was appointed to collect material relating to the history of the Jews in Western Cape. So far only a few documents have been collected and the work has been retarded chiefly through lack of funds.

The Late Mr. Leon Segal

The Cape Council laments the death, on August 24th, 1954, of Mr. Leon Segal, Cape Vice-President of the Board and a former Chairman of the Cape Committee, of which he was a member for over 25 years. He is sadly missed, not only by the Board, but by practically every organization in the community, and particularly the charitable bodies, in whose affairs he played a leading part for many years.

The Late Rev. Louis Kirschner

The Rev. Louis Kirschner, who had rendered outstanding services as a member of the staff of the Cape Council for many years, and

was subsequently on the staff of the United Communal Fund, died on May 8th, 1955. He is sadly missed.

Office Administration

The senior staff of the Cape Council, under the Secretary, continue to carry out the day-to-day work arising from the meetings of the Cape Council, Cape Committee and sub-committees, as well as the very essential duties of being always available to deal with enquiries from the public for information and advice.

Mr. H. N. Eisenberg, who was a member of the staff of the head office of the Board from 1951, was appointed Assistant Secretary of the Cape Committee in November of that year. From January, 1954, he was seconded to the United Communal Fund in the Cape, as Organizer. Mr. Eisenberg has now resigned to pursue his profession, but will retain his connection with the Cape Council in an honorary capacity, as he has been appointed a "Cape Deputy" and a member of the United Fund Committee.

A. M. MELAMET, *Chairman.*

A. S. SHER, *Secretary.*

COUNCIL OF NATAL JEWRY

The Executive of the Council of Natal Jewry acts as the Natal Committee of the Board, as well as the overall co-ordinating body of Natal Jewry in particular.

At the 24th annual general meeting of the Council held on April 21st, 1955, the following Honorary and Executive Officers were elected:—

Hon. President: Mr. F. C. Hollander, J.P.

Hon. Vice-President: Mr. A. Levine.

Board of Past Presidents: Mr. H. Moss-Morris, Mr. S. Moshal, Mr. M. Freed, Mr. E. S. Henochsberg, Q.C., Mr. I. Geshen, Mr. H. L. Magid, Mr. J. J. Friedman, Q.C.

President: Dr. B. Moshal.

Vice-presidents: Mr. L. S. Ditz, Dr. N. Smith.

Hon. Treasurer: Mr. M. Woolfson.

Executive Committee: Mr. I. J. Greenberg, Mr. I. B. Shagam, Mr. Hayman Levy, Mr. N. Hertz, Mr. S. Ernst, Mr. G. Benjamin, Mr. B. Barnett, Mr. M. Cohen, Mr. H. G. Friede, Mr. H. H. Hadany, Mr. F. M. Lapin, Mr. C. H. Malatskey, Mr. M. Gild, Mr. K. Nathan, Mr. S. L. Abrahams, Mr. J. Rubin, Mr. A. Stiller, Mr. S. Colley, Mr. C. Adley, Mr. R. Abrahams, Mr. O. Ballin, Mr. A. Miller, Mr. P. Frame, J.P., Mr. A. Goldberg, Mr. J. Goldberg,

Mr. Sternberg, Mr. M. Solomon, Mr. F. Rogoff, Mr. H. Zulman, Mr. B. Geshen, Mr. J. Greene, Rabbi M. Miller, Rabbi Harris Swift, Rev. H. J. Oleska, Rev. L. Friedman. Mrs. G. Benjamin, Mrs. H. G. Friede, Mrs. H. I. Greenspan, Mrs. J. Kalf, Mrs. A. Beare, Mrs. N. Smith, Mrs. S. Bilchik, Mrs. C. R. Fridjhon, Mrs. M. Moshal, Mrs. A. Goldberg, Mrs. I. B. Shagam, Mrs. O. Schmahmann, Mrs. M. Rothschild.

The Executive Committee is composed of the Executive Officers together with ten members who are elected at the annual general meeting, the chairmen of the 20 affiliated societies and the chairmen of sub-committees of the Council. The Rabbonim in Durban and the ministers of the country communities, as well as Mr. S. Ernst, the Regional Director of Jewish Education, are also *ex-officio* members of the Executive Committee. The Chairman of the Zionist Council for Natal is invited to all meetings. This committee co-opts ten further members. The Executive Committee meets at least nine times a year.

The Council consists of the Executive Committee together with representatives of each of the affiliated societies. The Council meets at least three times a year.

Work of the Council

The Council, as in past years, has endeavoured to co-ordinate and to direct the activities of the community as a whole.

Constituent organizations have shown that they recognize the position of the Council, as they have brought their problems to the Council or its honorary officers and have abided by the decisions arrived at. While the Council has no wish to, and does not, interfere in the internal affairs of any of its constituent organizations, it is recognised that the Council is, and must be, the only body which can decide on matters affecting the interests of the whole community.

The Natal community is well knit, well organized and amenable to reason. Within the community itself there have been no startling developments, but in general it may be said that there has been harmony and unity of purpose and progress has been made in many directions.

Provincial Conference

The Sixth Provincial Conference of the Council was held in Pietermaritzburg on Sunday, March 14th, 1954. Mr. E. J. Horwitz, Chairman of the Executive Council of the Board, was the main speaker. A large delegation from Durban attended and Vryheid

was also represented. Discussion was brisk and the atmosphere most cordial.

As the annual general meetings of the Council are held early each year, it has been decided to hold provincial conferences in future in the latter part of the year. The venue alternates between Vryheid and Pietermaritzburg, which are the only other organized Jewish communities in Natal.

The scattered Jewish families in the Province are, however, not neglected and are always exhorted to send as many representatives as possible to the provincial conferences.

Country Communities

The Council continues to keep close contact with the Pietermaritzburg and Vryheid communities and with the scattered Jewish families in many other centres. Every opportunity is taken to arrange visits to the outlying centres and minutes of meetings of the Council are sent to them.

Last year members of the Council attended the Golden Jubilee celebrations of the Vryheid Hebrew Congregation. Deserving tributes were paid to this little community, which through 50 checkered years has never ceased to maintain its close affiliation to Judaism.

Education and Welfare

In 1953 the Council of Natal Jewry Educational Trust Fund was created. This was a sequel to the many applications for bursaries and other financial assistance for higher education which had had to be refused for lack of funds, and also on account of the stringent conditions attached to most of the existing bursaries. The capital sum to the credit of this fund is at present only about £140 and it cannot yet operate. In due course a substantial sum of money will accrue from the "Levin Joel Trust", but in the meantime it is hoped that the public will contribute.

Henry Denton S.A. Universities Trust

This bursary fund was created by the late Mr. Henry Denton. It provides bursaries of £300 per annum, for three years, to young Jews below the age of 25, who were born, or have resided in Natal for a period of not less than ten years, and whose parents are unable to afford a University education for them. This fund came into operation in 1952, after various legal difficulties had been solved. Two of the bursars have now completed their three years of study. Another bursar is in his third year and two new bursaries were

awarded at the beginning of 1955. At present the Trust Fund permits of only three bursaries per annum.

Youth

As a result of this Council's Commission of Enquiry into Youth set up in March, 1951, a Standing Youth Sub-Committee was established and has been functioning smoothly since March, 1952. The committee serves mainly as a forum for the youth organizations and interested adult bodies to deliver reports, discuss recommendations and try to solve youth problems. The organizations represented are however, not responsible to, nor controlled by the Youth Sub-committee, which serves mainly as a clearing house for youth problems. The sub-committee is now discussing some of the recommendations of the Milgrom Report and is considering the desirability and feasibility of appointing a youth organizer and counsellor for Natal and perhaps certain adjacent territory.

It is significant that youth activity in Durban, which was on the wane a few years ago, has definitely been revived since the setting up of the Commission of Enquiry into Youth in Natal, the establishment of the Standing Youth Sub-committee, and the visit of Rabbi Milgrom.

Hebrew Education

The Council was recently called upon to give special attention to the precarious financial position of the Durban United Hebrew Schools, and the Executive approved a loan of £2,000 to the schools. On the wider issue of funds for Hebrew education, the Council has expressed its disagreement with the result of the negotiations between the Board and the South African Board of Jewish Education. The Council made it clear that no campaign for the Board of Education's capital funds would be permitted in Natal unless its prior consent had been obtained. The Executive of the Council has also expressed the opinion (though not unanimous) that Zionist funds should be employed to alleviate the financial difficulties of the Boards of Education. It has been contended that a sound Jewish education for the youth of South Africa will be to the ultimate benefit of Israel itself, and would strengthen the ties between the two countries.

United Communal Fund

It is a matter of pride that the Jewish community of Natal has risen to the occasion and been able to meet its commitments during the three campaigns. Organisational work is now being undertaken for the fourth combined United Communal Fund — Durban

Jewish Community Chest campaign. Owing to the increased needs of local institutions, it has been found necessary to raise the target of the Durban Jewish Community Chest and the target for the combined campaign will probably be set at £50,000 as against £42,000 in the second and third campaigns.

Full credit is due to Mr. I. B. Shagam and Mr. J. Greene, Chairman and Treasurer respectively of the third United Communal Fund campaign, for the zeal and energy with which they set about their onerous task, and achieved such excellent results. The ladies of Durban, as in the past, did not conduct a separate campaign, but under the co-chairmanship of Mrs. J. J. Friedman and Mrs. A. Levine rendered excellent assistance. Natal remains solidly in favour of the continuance of the United Communal Fund.

Durban Jewish Community Chest,

Closely linked with the United Communal Fund and, in Durban, making its appeal with that fund, is the local Community Chest, which contributes towards some seven organisations. Supporters of the local institutions co-operate wholeheartedly in the canvass for the biennial campaign, for on its success depend not only the national bodies, but also the local Durban institutions. Budgets of the local participating bodies are submitted annually to the Community Chest, which scrutinizes them and makes the necessary allocations.

Jewish Education Council

This Council acts as the Communal Relations and Country Communities Committee of the Council, and is the Regional Committee of the South African Board of Jewish Education. Its main task is the planning of cultural programmes for Durban and Natal and the co-ordinating of cultural activities. During the period under review People's College was successfully conducted. The last series of lectures dealt with the Bible. The next term is being planned for August-September of this year. Well-known lecturers from Johannesburg and Durban will take part in this series of lectures, which will deal with "The Making of the Modern Jew." The Council has given much encouragement to the Yiddish Culture Section of the Durban Jewish Club, which has organised many functions of a high cultural standard.

Services were rendered to the Country Communities of Natal, which were visited from time to time by Rabbi H. Swift of the Durban United Hebrew Congregation, and others. The corres-

pondence courses prepared by the Board are sent regularly to the children of the scattered Jewish communities of the Province.

Through the Director of this Council, Mr. S. Ernst, much assistance is given to the organized youth groups and other organizations in Durban. Mr. Ernst lectures regularly to the officers of Habonim, and directs the activities of the Youth Forum, which consists of senior pupils and past pupils of the Durban United Hebrew School.

The Council sponsored two art exhibitions by the Israel artists, Shmuel Schlesinger and Israel Frenkel. It is at present engaged in establishing the nucleus of a museum for the portion of ceremonial silver which it received from "Jewish Cultural Reconstruction" through the Board. The Exhibition of Ceremonial Silver brought to Durban by Dr. and Mrs. H. Abt was visited by a large number of the Jewish and general community and proved of great educational value.

Public Relations Committee

The Public Relations Committee, under the Chairmanship of Mr. I. J. Greenberg, continues to meet fairly regularly. It has kept in close touch with the Board. In pursuance of its policy of interpreting the Jew to the non-Jew, and bringing about greater social contact between the Jew and his gentile neighbour, this committee continues to circulate the brochures published by the Board and other "Goodwill" material. It is intended to revive the regular luncheons at the Durban Jewish Club.

In the matter of Shechita, the committee has continued to watch the interests of the community.

Special services are held periodically at the Synagogue and Temple David, and they have been attended by members of the non-Jewish community.

Rabbis H. Swift, of the Durban United Hebrew Congregation, has been the guest speaker at many non-Jewish functions and has taken part in inter-denominational services. He has played an outstanding role in promoting harmonious relations with the non-Jewish community.

Rabbi M. Miller, of Temple David, also does valuable work in this field. Both rabbis are members of the Public Relations Committee. The Council is always invited to participate in civic functions, and the President has represented the community on numerous occasions.

Welfare

The Council continues to render service in the field of welfare

work. People are assisted to find employment, to complete applications for naturalization, to apply for pensions and for restitution of property confiscated by the Nazis. Where the Council cannot handle a case, it is handed over to other bodies, such as the Durban Jewish Benevolent Society or the Durban Jewish Women's Guild.

Mr. N. Hertz, the Honorary Immigration Officer of the Council, continues to assist newly arrived immigrants to comply with the necessary formalities on their arrival in Durban and to proceed to their final destinations. He is not frequently called upon, as Jewish immigrants are few and far between.

Steps have been taken to amalgamate the Durban Jewish Benevolent Society and the Durban Jewish Women's Guild under the name of the "Durban Jewish Welfare Association." The new society is expected to commence activities by the beginning of 1956. The Council of Natal Jewry, which was the initiator of the amalgamation, will continue to work in the closest co-operation with the new body.

Soldiers' Assistance Committee

This Committee is still active and applications for loans from deserving ex-servicemen are granted. Although there are some outstanding loans that are not being repaid regularly, repayments in general are quite satisfactory.

Meshullochim Committee

In Natal collections by Meshullochim are prohibited, and as a compensatory measure the S.A. Meshullochim Board of Control is allocated a certain sum of money annually by the Durban Jewish Community Chest. This sum is divided among ten deserving Israel institutions. Individual members of the community, however, are not prevented from making private contributions to institutions in Israel and, in fact, some members of the community do send donations through the Meshullochim Committee.

Legal Sub-committee

This Sub-Committee offers advice whenever called upon. Fortunately there has not been much work for this sub-committee during the period under review.

Archives

For some time the Council has been very eager to establish its own archives, and recently a decision was taken to go ahead with this work. Mr. A. Levine has been appointed the Council's Archivist.

Communal Offices

The Council of Natal Jewry, the Zionist Council for Natal and the Clothing Depot of the South African Jewish Appeal have occupied communal offices for over two years. There has been the closest co-operation between this Council and the Zionist Council for Natal. The Chairman of the latter is invited to attend all meetings of our Council and of the Executive Committee. Joint functions have been held and the President of our Council has represented the community at functions arranged by the Zionist Council.

Distinguished Visitors

During the past two years, the community has been privileged to entertain such distinguished visitors as Dr. A. Cohen, President of the Board of Deputies of British Jews, Rabbi L. Milgrom, Councillor H. Miller and Mrs. Miller, during Mr. Miller's term of office as Mayor of Johannesburg, Mr. E. J. Horwitz and Mr. N. Philips, the Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Board, and Mr. C. Hyman, the Minister for Israel, and Mrs. Hyman, at a farewell function prior to their departure.

The Council has also been associated with the Zionist Council for Natal and with other bodies in welcoming to Durban the Consul for Israel and Mrs. Eylon, Mr. and Mrs. Menachem Begin, and the Hon. Edwin Samuel, C.M.G.

The community gave a cordial reception to the Israel merchant ship, the S. S. "Haifa," and the Israel frigate "Misgav." The Council was also associated in the entertainment provided for the Israel soccer and table tennis teams which visited Durban.

General

The Council is very fortunate in having amongst its members a rich source of talented leadership, and it is for this reason that the Council has remained so secure in its organisation, and respected in its work throughout its existence.

(Dr.) B. MOSHAL, *President*,
D. SPECTOR, *Secretary*.

THE ORANGE FREE STATE COMMITTEE

The Executive Committee of the Orange Free State Committee of the Board is constituted as follows: Chairman: Mr. Henry Bradlow (O.F.S. Vice-President of the Board); Vice-chairman: Dr. M. Block; Treasurer: Dr. W. Gordon; Committee: R. M. Berger, J.P.; Mrs. I. M. Bloom; Rabbi S. Coleman; D. Davidson; Dr. E. Hesselberg; Mr. B. Landau; B. Levinsky; Adv. S. Miller, Q.C.; S. S. Os-

trofsky; V. A. Rosendorff; S. Wasserman; N. Woolf; Secretary: Mrs. R. B. Goldblatt

Meetings of the Executive and Deputies

The Committee met regularly once a month, and more often when found necessary. From time to time the Committee reported to and consulted with delegates of the institutions and societies affiliated to the Board.

Public Relations

The relationship between Jews and non-Jews in the capital and in the Province as a whole is very satisfactory. Courtesy calls were paid on the Mayor of Bloemfontein on his election to office, and on prominent officials of the Province on their appointment.

There exists a cordial relationship between the Board, as representing Free State Jewry, and the Provincial Administration. The Hon. the Administrator was present at the laying of the Foundation Stone of the new Jewish Communal Centre and in his speech stressed this happy friendly relationship which had always existed between all sections of the community in the Free State. He recalled many incidents in the life of the Province to illustrate his remarks.

After the last Congress in May, 1953, the Free State, together with the other Provinces, had the privilege of a visit by Dr. A. Cohen, President of the Board of Deputies of British Jews. In Bloemfontein, he had the opportunity of meeting the ministers of the various denominations at a tea party at which the Rev. S. Coleman presided. The Catholic Archbishop also called on Dr. Cohen.

Communal Relations

The Committee has endeavoured to keep contact with the communities in the Province. Pastoral and cultural visits were made during the period under review to Welkom, Ficksburg, Brandfort, Theunissen, Thaba 'Nchu and Hennenman. In each case members of adjoining communities attended.

Regional Conferences were held at Ficksburg, Odendaalsrus and Kroonstad. Special thanks are due to Rabbi Dr. J. Newman for his interest in and work on behalf of the country communities. As a result of his endeavours the new communities of Odendaalrus and Welkom have appointed a minister to attend to the communities' religious requirements.

The Committee is in close contact with the local branch of the South African Ex-Service League. On the completion of the main building in the new Communal Centre, a plaque was erected in the vestibule, commemorating the Jewish soldiers who paid the supreme

sacrifice in the two world wars. Chief Rabbi Dr. L. I. Rabinowitz preached the sermon on that occasion and the Chairman of the Board, Mr. E. J. Horwitz, was present.

The Committee entertained the delegates of the Jewish Ex-Service League to its National Conference in Bloemfontein, in May, 1955.

Assistance was given to ex-servicemen when necessary.

Memorial services and meetings were held on the World Day of Mourning for the Jews who had perished in the European tragedy.

Cultural Activities

Dr. H. Abt, the Board's Cultural Organizer, accompanied by Mrs. Abt, brought to Bloemfontein a portion of the Exhibition of Jewish Religious Art. The exhibition evoked great interest and many non-Jews visited it.

The Board is sponsoring and assisting in the erection of a Jewish library for Bloemfontein and the Province. The community has offered a room in the Communal Centre to house it. A committee is now engaged in working out the details.

United Communal Fund

The Bloemfontein community is still in the midst of its endeavours to complete the complex of buildings for its Communal Centre. The main building, the synagogue, still has to be built, and as a result the individual members are severely taxed. Nevertheless, Bloemfontein and the Province participated wholeheartedly in the U.C.F. Campaign of 1953, and expects to reach the target set in the next campaign.

General

A delegation of members of the Executive led by Adv. S. Miller, Q.C., interviewed the Administrator of the Province in regard to the new Education Ordinance of the O.F.S.

Members of the Johannesburg Executive Council addressed on various occasions the Free State Executive and deputies of the affiliated societies.

The Executive places on record its thanks to its affiliated societies, to all speakers and delegates, to those who joined in the visits to the Regional Conferences and other gatherings, to its secretary, and to all who co-operated and assisted in strengthening the work of the Committee and Jewish endeavours in the Province.

H. BRADLOW,
Chairman.

THE EASTERN PROVINCE COMMITTEE

The following were elected as the members of the Eastern Province Committee at the Biennial Conference of the Board's constituent bodies in the Eastern Province held in Port Elizabeth on February 6th to 7th, 1954: Chairman, Mr. A. M. Spira; Vice-Chairman, Mr. J. Weinronk; Treasurer, Mr. D. Levy; Mr. A. Schauder (Vice-President), Messrs. G. Barris, R. Bennun, S. Goodman, J. A. Lifson, S. Marcus, N. Melmed, A. Marcow, R. Field and J. Zybutz; Mrs. C. Karstaedt, Mrs. R. Cohen, Mrs. E. Bernstein and Mr. P. Bloom were co-opted.

Earlier, Mr. R. Bennun tendered his resignation as Chairman of the Eastern Province Committee, and we place on record our deep appreciation of the valuable services he rendered during his period of office. He still serves as a member of the Committee, and continues to take part in our activities.

Staff

There have been several changes in staff during the period under review, and this has interrupted the work of the Board in this area.

Eastern Province Conference

The Biennial Conference of constituent bodies in the Eastern Province was held at Port Elizabeth on February 6th to 7th, 1954. Mr. Spira, Vice-Chairman of the Eastern Province Committee, presided. Mr. N. Philips (Vice-Chairman of the Board) and Mr. H. Hanson (member of the Executive Council) addressed the Conference. Many towns in the area were represented. The Conference was well attended and a useful discussion took place.

Inter-Provincial Conference

The Inter-Provincial Conference held in Johannesburg on January 23rd to 24th, 1954, was attended by Messrs. A. M. Spira, A. Schauder and J. Weinronk. Messrs. A. M. Spira, J. Weinronk and D. Levy were our representatives at the Inter-Provincial Conference which took place in Johannesburg on June 4th to 6th, 1955.

Meetings of Committees and Deputies

The Committee met regularly during the period under review, and several special meetings took place. In addition, meetings of Deputies were held.

United Communal Fund

This campaign was inaugurated in Port Elizabeth early in 1954 by Dr. Ellen Hellman, Mr. B. Gering and Mr. L. Shalit. A preliminary meeting of Deputies was addressed by Mr. E. J. Horwitz (Chairman of the Executive Council). The campaign was a great success, a record total for Port Elizabeth being achieved. Our

Committee undertook the campaigns in Grahamstown, Kirkwood and Uitenhage with satisfactory results, and Mr. A. M. Spira visited Queenstown in this connection.

A separate Women's Campaign was held in Port Elizabeth and also in Uitenhage and we record our gratitude and congratulations to these branches of the Union of Jewish Women on their great success.

Country Communities

Rabbi J. Newman, Rabbi Weinberg and Rabbi Lapin visited various centres in the Eastern Province, and we are grateful to them for their valuable work in this area.

Rhodes University, Grahamstown

Through the efforts of the Board, an organization of Jewish students at the university has been formed and Rabbi Dr. J. Vainstein visits them each month and delivers lectures to them and conducts a study group. The Board is endeavouring to establish a library for Jewish students at the university.

Youth Seminar

The People's College, which was established in collaboration with the E.P. Zionist Council, was discontinued, and in its place, a Youth Seminar was formed. This has proved to be most successful and is well attended at all its sessions.

Golden Jubilee Celebration

Dr. A. Cohen, President of the Board of Deputies of British Jewry, Mr. I. A. Maisels and Mr. A. Schauder were the guest speakers at a banquet held in Port Elizabeth to celebrate the Board's Golden Jubilee.

Functions

An impressive public meeting was arranged to commemorate the Jewish World Day of Mourning. Rabbi Dr. J. Vainstein, Mrs. J. Elias and Mr. L. Leibowitz were the speakers.

On May 18th to 21st, 1954, Dr. H. Abt presented an exhibition of Religious Art. It was opened by the Deputy Mayor, Mr. L. Dubb. A large number of people visited the exhibition, including many members of the various religious denominations. During his visit, Dr. Abt gave successful lectures to the youth and to the Port Elizabeth Women's Zionist League.

Rev. J. Klaff, accompanied by the Chairman of the E.P. Committee of the Board, visited Queenstown to conduct the Mayoral Service on the occasion of Mr. Paul's election as Mayor.

Soldiers' Assistance

A small number of loans and emergency grants were made during the period under review. Repayment of loans was, in most cases, satisfactory.

Conclusion

Mr. G. Saron (General Secretary of the Branch) has visited this centre on several occasions and we gratefully record our thanks to him for his assistance in connection with the work of the Board in this area.

We record our thanks to the numerous individuals who have assisted the Board in its work. Their efforts contribute in no small measure to the success of the Eastern Province Committee.

A. M. SPIRA, *Chairman.*

EAST LONDON AND BORDER REGIONAL COUNCIL

The East London and Border Regional Council acts as the local committee of the Board. It consists of the chairmen of the various institutions affiliated to the Board in the area. The Chairman is Mr. A. Addleson; Vice-Chairman, Mr. M. Hertz and Mr. A. Kaplan; and Mr. H. Winnett is Treasurer and Honorary Secretary.

The Committee maintains regular contact with the Executive Council and sends representatives to the periodical Inter-Provincial Conferences.

During the period under review, an exhibition of Jewish Religious Art was held in the Ann Bryant Art Gallery, through the courtesy of the East London City Council. It was largely attended by the general public, among whom were a number of non-Jewish clergymen. It was opened by the Deputy-Mayor, Councillor A. Addleson. Its success was largely due to the efforts of Dr. and Mrs. H. Abt.

United Communal Fund

Although the total reached in the local campaign for the United Communal Fund fell short of the previous total, the response showed that the existence of the Fund as a vital communal instrument is appreciated.

A. ADDLESON, *Chairman.*