

THE ZIONIST MOVEMENT.

THE BASLE CONGRESS.

The Order of proceedings at the third Congress, which will assemble at Basle on August 15th, has been provisionally arranged as follows:—

1. Opening Address by the President.
2. Election of the Congress Bureau and of Committees.
3. Arrangement of Procedure.
4. Statement on the General Condition of the Jews.
5. Report of the Actions Committee.
6. The Bank.
7. Organization.
8. Election of Actions Committee and other Committees.
9. Motions.

A meeting of the Actions Committee, which has its seat in Vienna, will be held on the 13th August. According to reports which have reached the Actions Committee, the number of Delegates to the Congress will be considerably larger than last year.

It is, we have reason to believe, pretty certain that Dr. Gaster, although a Vice-President, and one of the most active members of last year's Congress, will not be present at the ensuing assemblage of Zionists at Basle. Our readers can form their own conclusions on the reasons which actuate the learned Haham's absence, in view of the "open secret" that serious differences have arisen between Dr. Gaster and Dr. Herzl, the leader of the Zionist movement. We are also informed that Mr. S. L. Heymann, the only English Director of the Jewish Colonial Trust, has resigned his position—the explanation being his departure for South Africa.

The Ahavas Zion Society.

[FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.]

TARNOW, 24TH JULY, 1899.

As I have already informed you, it was decided at the last general meeting that the Ahavas Zion Society, which had hitherto restricted its operations to Galicia, should exercise its functions all over Austria. The authorisation of the Government was necessary for this change, and the official sanction has just been given. At a meeting of the Executive Committee, held yesterday, the preliminary arrangements for extensive colonisation were discussed, and Chief Rabbi Dr. Gädeman of Vienna was co-opted, with his consent, a member of the Committee.

At the same meeting the following decisions were arrived at:—1. To send three more colonists to Machnayim. 2. To distribute all over Galicia a complete translation of the report of the meeting in aid of the Colony Machnayim, which appeared in the JEWISH CHRONICLE of July 7th, together with a protest against the disturbers of the meeting. 3. That in view of the attacks and calumnies of the Political Zionists against the President of the society, Dr. Sziz, the Committee passed to him a vote of complete confidence and begged him to work for the society in the future as he had done in the past.

The society has received several thousand gulden towards the cost of sending 50 workmen's families from Boryslaw to Palestine. 1,500 marks have been collected in Boryslaw alone.

A Zionist Quarrel.

[FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.]

VIENNA, JULY 23RD.

You have already been informed of the cross suits, Dr. S. R. Landau v. Dr. Herzl, and Dr. Herzl v. Dr. Landau for libel. At one of the recent hearings, Dr. Herzl called a witness from the body of the Court, who stated that Dr. Landau had employed monies belonging to the Society Achvah for the purposes of his paper, *Der jüdische Arbeiter*. As the result of this allegation, the Crown was specially asked to deal with this new fact, and on the 21st inst. the Crown Attorney returned the various documents bearing on the points to the District Court with the observation that there were no grounds for any proceedings to be taken against Dr. Landau. The papers proved that not only had Dr. Landau not diverted a single kreuzer from the Society's funds, but that, on the contrary, had paid out of his own pocket all the expenses for the establishment of the Society and for printing in connection therewith.

St. Paul's School.—At the "Apposition" on Wednesday among the principal prizes distributed were the following:—Norman Bentwich, Truro Prize and Medal, English Essay, "History of the Novel"; H. B. Samuel, Senior History Prize.

Owen's School, Islington.—The following were among the recipients of scholarships, prizes and certificates on Visitation Day, the 19th inst.:—A. Weber, J. N. Nabarro, W. H. Hirschbein, A. S. Straus (Owen Foundation Scholarship), C. F. Heilbuth, M. P. Jacobs (Owen Foundation Scholarship), G. Lévy, L. S. Woolf, L. J. Goldhill, S. G. Swersee, B. Swersee, M. Kaiser, P. F. Hirschbein. A large number of Jewish pupils were commended. Among those who gained honours in public examinations since last Visitation Day were: J. N. Nabarro, "Lara" Scholarship of £70 per annum; W. H. Hirschbein, "Anthony Death" Scholarship of £20 per annum, with yearly increase, tenable for six years; W. H. Hirschbein, Junior County scholarship.

T. & J. GOLDHILL.

— OUR —

SUMMER SALE

NOW PROCEEDING.

39, Brondesbury Villas, N.W.

A ZIONIST CONFERENCE, A.D. 1211.

BY MR. MYER DAVIS.

In the year 1210 King John seized the whole of his Jewish subjects and clapped them in prison. The majority ransomed themselves. Others who could not, or would not pay the King's exorbitant demands were tortured and maimed, and then set at liberty. He required 60,000 marks. From Abraham of Bristol he demanded 10,000 marks, and drew a tooth daily out of the poor victim's head till he was compelled to pay. Eight teeth were thus forcibly extracted. Isaac the "D'D—Scriptor, Writer, Cyrographer—was ordered to pay 5,100 marks, and actually discharged that sum into the Exchequer by the hands of John, son of Hugh, the King's myrmidon. (Madox 151).

Insecurity at home made the Jews of England turn with longing eyes to the land of their forefathers, and we are informed on excellent authority (Shulamith 120, Shevet Jehuda 113, &c.) that "in the year 1211 the Almighty roused up the spirit of the Rabbonim of France and the Rabbonim of England to proceed to Jerusalem, their numbers being more than 300. The Sultan of Egypt showed them great indulgence, and they built both synagogues and houses of study."

Mr. Joseph Jacobs, in his essay on the London Jewry, says, page 40, under date 1211, "Joseph ben Baruch visited England and induced many English Jews to go on a pilgrimage to the Holy Land. While he was in England he commissioned Jehuda ben Kardinal to make a new translation of Jehuda Halevi's Kusari." Mr. Jacobs notes elsewhere that Joseph's brother, Meir, accompanied him to Palestine. That was the case; but we must not accept without proof or references the equation, Meir ben Baruch-Meir of England, the famous writer on funeral customs. I do not think they were identical. Naphtali Levy has collected together every reference he could find concerning Meir of England, and dates him much earlier.

Zunz, in his "Benjamin of Tudela," vol. 2, page 55, says, "Samuel ben Simson visited Palestine in 1210, and composed a list, which is still extant, of the sepulchres of the pious which he had seen. He was possibly the precursor of more than 300 French and English Rabbis who, in 1211, emigrated to Jerusalem." The fact is corroborated by Steinschneider in his Literature (p. 81), and Zunz repeats it in his Geography, vol. 1, p. 167.

The statement seems to stand on a sure basis, and I venture to recommend it to the notice of the Zionists. Perhaps some of the clever ones among their number—they muster many learned scholars—may be able to supplement this historical episode with additional information which I do not possess. Even as the matter stands now, with our meagre knowledge, it suffices to show that our predecessors in England were not such a "money-grubbing" set as is assumed on their behalf, and that, on the contrary, they were often moved to many higher aspirations.

There is another little matter in connection with the Holy Land which requires looking into. In a Bodleian manuscript, catalogued by Neubauer (p. 152) occur these words, which I translate from the Hebrew: "He saw Maistre Delesaut, son of Rabbenu Jechiel, who made a public offering on his being released from prison. He desired to go to the Land of Israel, and his father gave his consent." No date, no country, no particulars. But the Pipe rolls step in very handily, and we get a glimpse of our Maistre, a veritable London English Rav. In Jacobs' Angevin Jews (p. 175) we read of Delesaut getting into trouble with the authorities, for which he was incarcerated. On p. 267 is an allusion to his redemption in 1186.

Delesaut is a record name, and the Hebrew equivalent is Eleazar, a great London Rav, unknown to Dr. Adler and Mr. Jacobs, when a few years back they wrote and spoke about the London Jewry. I was equally ignorant of the existence of this notable Rav Eleazar (alias Delesaut) till he came under my notice through the splendid researches of the late Rev. Naphtali Levy, who gives chapter and verse for every statement he advances. I wish to know now from some of the learned Zionists whether they have any information noting the pilgrimage of this Delesaut ben Jechiel, and whether he was the brother of the Joseph ben (martyred) Jechiel, who signalised on metal—the Bodleian ewer—his aspirations "to see the face of Ariel," Jerusalem. It looks as if the two brothers, Delesaut the Rav, coming out of gaol, and Joco the Nodiv, proceeded to Palestine together.

Are there in existence any histories of Jewish pilgrimages to the Holy Land, and if so, are the facts I have noted mentioned either cursorily or in detail? It would be interesting to know what was the upshot of this formidable array of 300 Rabbis meeting in conclave. What was their object, and did they accomplish it?

CRAUFURD COLLEGE, MAIDENHEAD.



CRAUFURD COLLEGE, which was built specially for the purpose of a scholastic establishment, consists of an extensive range of buildings, most conveniently arranged both for the comfort and efficient training of a large number of pupils, and replete with every requirement demanded by a high standard of educational efficiency. Besides spacious Scholastic, Dining-hall, Lecture-hall, and Billiard-rooms, the school has a large Playground, Cricket and Football Field, Basket Court, Tennis Courts, covered Playground and Workshop. There is also a capital Bath, and its daily use is a part of the School Curriculum. The College is situated on high ground about three-quarters of a mile from the station, and a mile from the river, on deep gravel soil. All particulars may be obtained from Mr. JAMES L. POLACK, the Secretary.