

taken by Jews to the new form of certificate is not to be attributed to any exaggerated religious prejudice or to any factious spirit on their part. It is because they have conscientious objections to displaying in their homes a certificate containing generally recognised emblems of the Christian faith that they are endeavouring to impress upon the High Court that the fact of their feeling themselves unable as Jews to accept the new Foresters' certificate, is evidence in itself that the principle of religious neutrality has been violated. On this point Archdeacon Sinclair and Canon Barnett, who have done much to promote the progress of such unsectarian Friendly Societies as the Foresters and Oddfellows, and who have had exceptional opportunities for observing the beneficent influence such societies have exercised over the masses of the English people without regard to creed or party, are as emphatic as the Chief Rabbi, who is naturally anxious that Jews should be able "to continue their connection with a Society which has been so powerful a factor in the promotion of good-will and brotherly love among all sections of our fellow-citizens." Cardinal Vaughan, it will be noticed, is still more emphatic against the Order "taking a religious turn." In that event, "Catholics will have to leave it."

The Archbishop of Canterbury, it will be noted, admits that there is some ground of complaint against the Leaflet, but the Certificate itself does not appear to him to conflict with the undenominational character which should belong to the Order of Foresters. With regard to this differentiation of opinion it is only necessary to point out that the Leaflet simply describes in words the New Testament scenes pictorially represented in the Certificate, so that any exception taken to the description must apply with equal force to the Certificate itself. The fact that the enormous majority of the brethren of the Order are Christians does not in any way affect the rights of the large minority who are not. It is the purpose of such orders as that of the Foresters to unite in a common brotherhood those who are otherwise divided by differences of religious creed and political interests, and in order to promote this union no effort should be spared by those who are included in the majority to uphold that neutrality by which alone Jews and others who do not subscribe to the dominant faith can, by their membership, add to the strength and influence of the Ancient Order of Foresters.

Jews' Deaf and Dumb Home.

ANNUAL SPORTS.

The annual athletic sports were held in the grounds of the Institution at Notting Hill on Thursday, July 14th, before an enthusiastic audience, among whom was the Rev. W. Gilby, Chaplain of St. Saviour's Church, Oxford Street, whose dumb show sermons have earned for his church the title of "the cathedral of London's deaf and dumb." The various events resulted as follows, the prizes being distributed by Mrs. Langenbach:—

Flat Race, 1st prize, Goldring, 2nd prize, Kauffman; Physical Drill, 1st prize, Lissack, 2nd prize, Andreaser; Skipping, 1st prize, Hannah Nabarro; Sack Race, 1st prize, Britton, 2nd prize, Back; Articulation Drill, 1st prize, Yetta Berkofaki, 2nd prize, Goldring; Figure Marching, 1st prize, Eve Samuels, 2nd prize, J. Nabarro; Vaulting Horse, 1st prize, Jaffa; Potato Race, 1st prize, Mersky, 2nd prize, Hannah Nabarro; Parallel Bars, 1st prize, H. Levy; Sceptre Drill, 1st prize, Eve Samuels, 2nd prize, Hannah Nabarro; Wheelbarrow Race, 1st prize, H. Jaffa and I. Lipman; Wands, 1st prize, Greenfield, 2nd prize, Etta Schweitzer; Horizontal Bar, 1st prize, H. Levy.

In the Tug of War, the London team was successful. A special prize was awarded to Lissack for the best all round display of gymnastics. The prizes in the Swimming Race were also distributed, the first prize falling to Lissack, while Willenski obtained the 2nd prize. It may be mentioned that the Institution has gained the 2nd Shield offered by the National Physical Recreation Society for competition among Deaf and Dumb Homes.

The Rev. I. SAMUEL, in proposing a vote of thanks to Mrs. Langenbach, said it was now recognised that gymnastics and athletics were of great importance in fitting children for the battle of life. However, it must not be supposed that the education of the pupils of that Institution was limited to athletics. In one sense that was a historic occasion, as it was probably the last time any function of that kind would be held in those grounds. They had been fortunate in securing a favourable position in the healthy locality of Clapham. They had purchased about two acres of ground near Clapham Common, on which buildings would be erected to accommodate 55 children. Although they had purchased the freehold of the new site, they still required between £7,000 and £8,000 to bring it up to the requirements of the Education Department. Owing to these requirements they had been compelled to exceed the original estimate by £2,000. In concluding, Mr. Samuel paid a warm tribute to the staff, by whose untiring efforts the successful results that day had been achieved.

Mrs. LANGENBACH having briefly replied, the proceedings then terminated. The afternoon was enlivened by the strains of the band of the Jews' Hospital and Orphan Asylum.

Spanish and Portuguese Synagogue.

On Wednesday afternoon, a meeting of the Elders of the Spanish and Portuguese Synagogue was held at the Vestry Room, Heneage Lane, Sir JOSEPH SEBAG MONTEFIORE in the Chair.

Great difficulty was experienced in getting a quorum of ten in order to hold the meeting. It was not until after waiting three-quarters of an hour, and dispatching a special messenger to neighbouring offices that the requisite number was mustered.

Mr. GABRIEL LINDO submitted an offer that had been made for a building lease of the Heneage Lane School site. The offer was for 90 years at £400 per annum, but included a clause giving to the lessee the option within a certain period to acquire the freehold of the property at 32 years' purchase.

The CHAIRMAN said that the feeling had been indicated at a previous meeting of the Elders, that the property should not be sold, and he did not think that they were justified in accepting such a clause.

After some discussion it was resolved to accept the offer without granting the option of purchase.

At the instance of Mr. JOSHUA M. LEVY, it was resolved to effect certain alterations in the Escama of the Elders XV. (relating to the Government of Heshaim). Among the alterations was one which provided for the selection by the Elders of nine Inspectors instead of three. The following Yehidim were appointed Inspectors of Heshaim for the next two years:—Sir J. Sebag Montefiore, Messrs. Henry Pinto, C. A. Mocatta, M. A. N. Lindo, Manuel Castello, Abraham H. Pinto, E. L. Mocatta, A. Lindo Henry and Joshua M. Levy.

West London Synagogue Association.

THIRD ANNUAL REPORT.

The West London Synagogue Association, a philanthropic organisation formed in connection with the Reform Synagogue at Berkeley Street, has issued its Report for the year 1897-98. Two Drawing Room Meetings have been held during the year. At the first meeting the desirability of establishing closer relations between the three Reform Synagogues in England (viz., those of London, Bradford and Manchester) was discussed and representatives from the provincial Reformers were present. As a result of this Conference suggestions for a non-financial federation were made. These proposals were approved by Bradford, but fell through in consequence of the opposition of the Manchester Congregation, it being thought that a union from which one of the Reform Synagogues held aloof would be both useless and undesirable. At the second Drawing Room Meeting, the question of establishing a Reform place of worship in the East End was discussed. But though it was agreed that such a synagogue might be productive of much good, it was agreed not to move in the matter except in response to a definite request from the East End itself.

The Report goes on to describe the work of the Philanthropic Branch of the Association. There are now 52 members as against 50 last year; but though there has been practically no increase in numbers, there has been a large increase in the sphere of usefulness of the Branch. The Mothers' Meetings appear to be very popular, judging from the numerous letters received previous to their resumption last January, expressing the hope that they would not be discontinued; and the Mothers, we are assured, look upon the ladies who conduct the meetings as personal friends to whom they may safely look for help in times of need. Various members of the Association regularly visit the Home for Jewish Incurables, St. Mary's Hospital, the Hospital for Sick Children and the Hospital for Incurable Children at Chelsea; and numerous examples of individual benevolence on the part of members are given. The Association now numbers 127 in all as against 126 last year. The only expenditure that has to be provided for is about £14, the cost of carrying on the Mothers' Meetings. A proposal which was made to raise the scale of subscriptions fell through, the contention being that the subscriptions were large enough; the difficulty was that they were very tardily paid.

MESSES. SELIGMAN BROTHERS notify that Messrs. David E. Seligman and Charles D. Seligman have been admitted partners in the firm.

Mr. L. E. WHITE, one of the Guardians for Paddington, has presented a book case, furnished with books, for the use of the nurses of the Paddington Infirmary.

THE entire furnishing of the new wing of the Convalescent Home at Pegwell Bay, Ramsgate, has been entrusted to Messrs. Wolfe and Hollander, of Tottenham Court Road.

POOR JEWS' TEMPORARY SHELTER.—On Tuesday last, the inmates were entertained through the kindness of Sir Samuel Montagu, Bart, M.P., with a Salmon Dinner sent from his fisheries at Swathling.

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