

Inaugural Meeting.

A meeting for the purpose of discussing and considering the formation of an Australian Jewish Historical Society was held in the Library of the Maccabean Hall, Darlinghurst, Sydney, New South Wales, on the evening of Sunday, August 21, 1938, corresponding with the eve of the twenty-fifth day of Av in the year 5698 of the Hebrew Calendar.

Present were Rabbi L. A. Falk, Mesdames W. Lawrence Cohen and S. B. Glass, Miss Marise Lawrence Cohen, and Messrs. P. J. Marks, B.A., Herbert I. Wolff, Hirsch Munz, Dip.Ed., E. Green, S. B. Glass, A. A. Keysor, H. A. Kresner, B.A., D. J. Benjamin, H. H. Glass, B.A., and H. Braudo.

Mr. S. B. Glass read the notices inserted in the *Hebrew Standard* newspaper convening the meeting, and asked that the meeting appoint a chairman.

Mr. H. I. Wolff proposed that the chair be taken by Mr. Percy J. Marks. In doing so, Mr. Wolff referred to the early work in Australian History performed by Mr. Coleman P. Hyman, who left Sydney in the year 1912. Since that date Mr. Marks had, the speaker stated, constituted himself and had acted as an unofficial historian of Australian Jewry and collected much valuable data. His work in that field was already well known abroad. Mr. Marks was happily also a descendant of one of the first pioneer families. The meeting endorsed Mr. Wolff's motion.

Mr. Marks, in taking the chair, thanked the meeting. He proposed, and the meeting endorsed, that Mr. David J. Benjamin act as Honorary Secretary *pro. tem.* of the Society.

Letters expressing approval and willingness to co-operate were received and read from the following :—Sir Samuel Cohen, President of the Great Synagogue; Mr. John Goulston, Vice-President; His Honour Judge J. J. Cohen, M.A.; Lieutenant-Colonel A. W. Hyman, O.B.E., V.D.; Dr. Eric Blashki, President Jewish Aid Society; Dr. Fanny Reading, President National Council of Jewish Women of Australia; Mrs. Harris Cohen, President Ivriah and W.L.Z.O., Sydney; Miss Nerida Cohen, B.A.; LL.B.; Mrs. Victor I. Cohen, Tamworth, N.S.W.; Mr. D. M. Selby, B.A., LL.B.; Mr. Harry Lesnie; Rabbi J. Danglow, M.A., St. Kilda Congregation, Melbourne; Rabbi J. L. Gurewicz, Carlton Congregation, Melbourne; Rabbi Dr. H. Saenger, Ph.D., of Temple Beth Israel, Melbourne; Rabbi D. I. Freedman, O.B.E., B.A., V.D., Perth, W.A.; Rev. Z. Mandelbaum, Ballarat Congregation, Victoria; Mr. Nathan Spielvogel, President Ballarat Historical Society; the Secretary, on behalf of the President, Mr. Aaron Cohen, East Melbourne Hebrew Congregation; Rev. I. Morris, Newcastle, N.S.W.; Rev. Alexander Astor, B.A., Auckland Hebrew Congregation; and Mr. Louis Phillips, LL.B., Auckland, N.Z.

Apologies for non-attendance were noted also from Messrs. Orwell Phillips, Alroy M. Cohen, B.A., LL.B., Saul Symonds, B.A., LL.B., Victor Cohen, William L. Cohen, Simon Green, Harold Bloom and W. Muller.

Rabbi L. A. Falk approved wholeheartedly of the formation of the Society. He was minded, he said, to commence the proceedings with a "Shehahiyonu," so delighted was he that the efforts of a few enthusiasts had at last taken on practical form. The Society would strengthen Australian Jewry from within.

Mr. Hirsch Munz related his experiences as an Historian of South Australian Jewry, and indicated how the Society should approach its task and the dangers to be avoided. He moved as a first proposition :—

"That this meeting affirms the necessity of forming an Australian Jewish Historical Society, and the persons present agree to the formation of such a Society."

In seconding the proposal, Mr. S. B. Glass referred to the very extensive and interesting field awaiting in Australia the attention of persons willing to undertake research.

The motion was agreed to unanimously.

Mr. A. A. Keysor moved and Mr. Elias Green seconded :—

"That a Provisional Committee consisting of the Chairman (Mr. Marks), Rabbi L. A. Falk, Mrs. W. Lawrence Cohen, Messrs. H. Munz, S. B. Glass, H. I. Wolff and D. J. Benjamin, with power to add to their number, be appointed to draw up the Society's constitution, and that Mr. D. J. Benjamin act as Secretary *pro. tem.*"

After Mr. H. A. Kresner had suggested that a permanent committee be appointed and Rabbi Falk and others had disapproved of the suggestion, the original motion was carried.
