

Thus ended in smoke all the dreams of Barnett Levey, with a considerable financial loss to all concerned.

However, a new Royal Hotel soon rose from the ashes of the old. In the new Royal Hotel the first Municipal Council of Sydney, which was elected on the 1st November, 1842, held its first meeting. It continued to meet there until January, 1843. During the Great War, 1914-1918, the Royal Hotel building was occupied as a club (founded by Dr. Mary Booth and a committee) for returned soldiers. As a club, it was opened by the then Governor-General of the Commonwealth of Australia, Sir Ronald Munro Ferguson.

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The author desires to acknowledge the assistance he has received in the writing of this paper from Mr. C. H. Bertie, whose book, *The Story of the Royal Hotel and the Theatre Royal, Sydney*, has been drawn on for many of the facts; from Mr. F. D. S. Bell, City of Sydney Librarian; from Miss Ida Lesson, B.A., Mitchell Librarian, and the staff of the Mitchell Library; and also from Mr. F. J. C. Fleming, Secretary of Lodge Leinster Marine, and Mr. J. Drury, Secretary of Lodge Antiquity. By courtesy of Mr. Drury, the author was permitted to peruse the Minute Book (1820) of Lodge Antiquity.

The writer of this paper is a great-grand-nephew of Barnett Levey.

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## The New South Wales Jewish Association.

By the late PERCY J. MARKS.

(Read before the Society, December 11, 1941, by  
Miss Hilda V. Marks.)

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The need for a centre for Jewish activities in Sydney—social, literary and otherwise—was recognised long before the inception of the present Maccabean Institute. In 1902 an attempt was made to supply this want by the formation of The New South Wales Jewish Association. At a meeting held on Sunday, April 7th, 1902, the following resolution was carried: "That it is desirable to form a Society for the promotion of social and intellectual inter-

course among members of the Jewish Faith." A Provisional Committee was appointed under the chairmanship of Mr. Daniel Levy, M.L.A.

The Provisional Committee held several meetings and framed a code of rules for the government of the Association. These rules were subsequently submitted to a numerously attended general meeting held at the Protestant Hall on June 8th, and were adopted with some slight alterations. This meeting was adjourned until the 15th June, when a resolution was passed that the Association should be formed into a Limited Liability Company under Section B of the Companies Act. At this meeting, honorary executive officers and members of the Council were elected. The Memorandum and Articles of Association were prepared, and application was made for registration. The Certificate of Incorporation was issued on November 20th, 1902.

Premises were secured for the Association at Commercial Chambers, Bond Street, at the corner of Hamilton Street, and on September 1st, 1902, the rooms were formally opened. The attendance overtaxed the capacity of the premises, and, according to the newspaper report, "suggested a very prosperous career for the new Society." The Mezuzah<sup>†</sup> was blessed by the Rev. Alexander B. Davis, who intoned the Hymn of Dedication (Psalm XXX). The President, Mr. Daniel Levy, addressed the assembly, and formally declared the clubrooms opened. Rev. A. B. Davis spoke as follows :—

After many meetings, much thought and argument, and deep consideration as to the best means for the accomplishment of our endeavour and place it on a sound and successful basis, the President and members of the Council meet you here to-night to inaugurate the opening of this New South Wales Association. In so doing we greet you as brothers, sisters and dear friends. We hold out to you the right hand of good fellowship. We could have done better things, but such as you now find these rooms, we have done the best according to the means at our command. If during the first year of our incorporation there should be a considerable accession to the number of our members, if some two hundred or more be enrolled, we shall only be too glad to make a second start on a grander scale. For my own part, I think it better to commence in a humble way and go on and on improving than to start

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<sup>†</sup>Door Post Symbol.



Rev. ALEXANDER B. DAVIS.

many instances been elements at similar societies that have brought them to a fall. I trust they may at all times meet in peace, and part in peace. That the tender sapling they plant this night in what may prove good soil, must grow and extend its branches little by little, become hardy and sturdy, and eventually gain height and strength, even as the Cedars of Lebanon.

Rev. J. H. Landau said :—

He hoped the Association's motto would be, "While I live I grow." The work now started was to promote the social and intellectual progress of the community. The question had been asked why the Association had been started. Its name did not suggest an answer, and many persons thought it would do harm by its apparent clannishness since now the walls of the Ghetto were down. The

with a great blare of trumpets and end with a penny whistle. Don't laugh ! I mean, to find that our pride has had a great fall. Little by little in most of the great enterprises have proved the means that have led to success. One of the great prophets of our nation has declared that line should be upon line, "here a little and there a little." The Mighty Deity gave a lesson to mankind on this matter when He commanded that the idolatrous inhabitants of the Holy Land should not be driven out in a single year, and said, "Little by little will I drive them out from before thee." But I am trespassing on the time limit, so I will only add the hope that peace, harmony, tranquillity, and goodwill shall ever prevail among the members of the Association. That strife, contention, or cavilling shall find no resting place within these walls, for these, as you know, have in



Rev. J. H. LANDAU.

adjective Jewish was, however, the qualifying term. Games could as well be played in the Sports Club, and debates be listened to in the School of Arts, and there would be no reason for the existence of the new Association if it was not to strengthen and solidify the community. The social element in this community is lacking; hitherto there have been few opportunities of the people meeting. A stranger landing in Sydney had no opportunity of meeting his people in social intercourse, and the Club would now prevent such from drifting away from the community. He made special reference to the arrangements for a library. The study of Jewish literature, he said, encouraged the pride in the name Jew. He was pleased the title "Jewish" had been selected instead of "Hebrew." The latter word seemed to indicate that the users of it were ashamed of their being Jews. The word Hebrew was much used in America, but he did not like it for the reason he quoted. He emphasised that the Association is a people's movement, and that every section of the community would require to assist in the work.\*

At the earliest opportunity, as required by the by-laws of the Association, four committees were appointed, viz., a House Committee, a Social Committee, a Library Committee, and a Games Committee. The number of members on the roll of the Association at the close of its first year was 344. The attendance at the rooms was very satisfactory. The report, however, regretted that many members had not been regular in the payment of their subscriptions.

Various social functions were organised. Musical evenings were held at the rooms on alternate Wednesday evenings, and occasionally on Sunday evenings. Two harbour excursions—the first in December, 1902, and the second in January—were largely attended.

The nucleus of a Jewish library was formed, most of the books being donated. The books so acquired were, on the disbanding of the Association, transferred to the Hebrew Literary and Debating Society as the nucleus of a library. Subsequently the library of the Debating Society was transferred to the Maccabean Hall, where such of the books as have not disappeared are now shelved.

The Rev. P. Philippstein formed a Hebrew Literature Class, and an Orchestral Society was formed from among the members under the baton of Mr. Daniel White. For the social activities of the members a billiard table and table tennis were installed, and a refreshment bar fixed up.

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\**Vide Hebrew Standard*, September 5th, 1902.

The statement of receipts attached to the first, and, unfortunately, also the last, annual report, showed the receipts at £242/4/6 and the expenditure £239/16/3, there being unpaid liabilities in connection with the furnishing and billiard table of £99.

Mr. Leslie A. Fischer showed himself to be an efficient Hon. Secretary, and Mr. Coleman P. Hyman as Hon. Treasurer was responsible for the finances.

Unfortunately these efforts on behalf of the Association did not meet with the success they deserved, and the body fell into financial difficulties. In a little over twelve months after its meeting a meeting of the members was held on September 20th, 1903, when the following extraordinary resolution was proposed :—

That it has been proved to the satisfaction of this meeting that the New South Wales Jewish Association cannot by reason of its liabilities continue its business and that it is advisable to wind up the same and accordingly that the said Association be wound up voluntarily.

That Leslie J. Fischer, Esq., and A. Marks, Esq., be, and they are hereby appointed Liquidators for the purpose of such winding up.

This resolution was carried, and the liquidators proceeded with the unpleasant task of winding up what promised to be a fine club.

The blocks of Revs. A. B. Davis and J. H. Landau and the York Street Synagogue are reproduced from *The Town and Country Journal* of January 25th, 1913.

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## Jews of Goulburn.

By SYDNEY B. GLASS.

The author desires to acknowledge his obligation to the many persons who have assisted with information going to the completion of this record. Where known, their names will be noted at the foot of the pages; likewise a complete list will be added after the last chapter. Special thanks, however, are due to Mr. Ramsome T. Wyatt, Registrar of the Anglican Cathedral at Goulburn and author of the monumental *History of Goulburn* (1941); to Miss Ida Leeson, B.A., Mitchell Librarian, and the staff of the Mitchell Library; to Messrs. Daniel Bros. & Co. Pty. Ltd., newspaper proprietors of