

# Reverend Schachne Efron

## A TRIBUTE

With the passing of Rev. S. Efron in Cape Town early in September, a chapter in Hebrew and cheder education for succeeding generations of children in the Malmesbury and Maitland Congregations has closed.

He came to Malmesbury in 1922 from the prestigious Slobodka Yeshiva in Luthania. Very soon he stamped his imprint on the cheder and us children and indeed the winds of change were blowing over our cheder benches. Our



(Photo: Bridge Studio)

cheder classes were in the 'shtiebels' to the left and right of the entrance into the shul — boys on the left and girls on the right. He instituted a new method of teaching Hebrew with charts and coloured drawings and posters; while after the classes he taught us how to conduct the mincha and maariv services. Everyone in turn had to 'take' the service, so that many years afterwards, long before the Jewish Day Schools, those cheder boys could 'daven' and say Kiddush 'oisweinig' on Shabbat and Yom-Tov nights.

He laid a sound foundation in Yiddishkeit in those children who passed thorough his hands from 1922 to 1942, when he left Malmesbury to minister to the Maitland Congregation.

One of the highlights of his career in Malmesbury was his being elected as a delegate to the Zionist Conference in Cape Town in 1926, which was attended by Nahum Sokolow. With him, in a strong contingent from Malmesbury, was my father Tobias Kretzmar, Edel Horwitz, who later became President of the South African Zionist Federation for many years, Dr Harry Myers and Ralph Goldman.

Reverend Efron retired in Maitland in 1978, and later moved from there to spend his latter days in Sea Point. He was also well known as a mohel in the Cape area.

In an impressive and moving address at the funeral service, attended by a large number of mourners from the city and the Maitland congregation and a few old Malmesbury stalwarts, Rabbi Duschinsky stressed the many attributes of Reverend Efron as a minister and a teacher of Hebrew, not only as a teacher but also as an 'educator'. Indeed there must be scores of members of Cape Town's congregations who can lay claim to having been 'educated' by Rev. Efron and are 'old boys and girls' of his Malmesbury and Maitland cheders. And so his memory lives on . . .

Julius H. Kretzmar