

# Moving Opening Ceremony of New Jewish Aged Home And Hospital

## Mayor's Tribute To Jewish Community

By a "JEWISH HERALD" REPORTER.

**FIFTEEN** years ago a magnificent idea was conceived in Johannesburg. The Second World War was then being waged, however, and the scheme had to be shelved. After the war, work was begun to bring the dream a step nearer to reality. It progressed . . . developed . . . then, on March 6th, 1955, the two foundation stones were laid. Last Sunday afternoon, in sweltering heat, a vast gathering saw the opening of the New Witwatersrand Jewish Aged Home and Chronic Sick Hospital in Sandringham, Johannesburg.

The ceremony began with the unveiling of the Monument to Europe's Martyred Jews, by Chief Rabbi Rabinowitz. The monument of a figure baring its heart and chest carries the inscription: "To the sacred and undying memory of Europe's Martyred Jews, 1939-1945." in Hebrew, English and Afrikaans. The sculptor was Herman Wald.

Cantor S. Backon movingly intoned the Hazkarah, in memory of the six million who lost their lives in the Nazi holocaust.

Earlier, Mr. Leo Feit, Chairman of the Building Fund, in his opening address, traced the improvements made in the care of the Aged and Chronic Sick over the past few centuries. "The Jew does not give charity, but practices social justice," he said. "This building stands as a proud

monument to the martyrs." He thanked all those who had been (and still are) connected with the project and asked the gathering to remember "those whom we had lost but not forgotten."

The Mayor of Johannesburg, Clr. T. Glynn Morris, who addressed the gathering praised the great work of art and the building itself and said that caring for the Aged was a characteristic of the Jews. In the name of the City he congratulated the Jewish community.

Mr. Oscar Getz, President of the Witwatersrand Jewish Aged Home, referred to the Fifth Commandment in which we are told to honour our father and mother. This, however, in effect, meant that we should honour and care for all aged people.

A golden key was presented to Mr. Gus Reichman, President of the

Building Fund, who responded by saying that the home was an attempt to "create a haven of peace for the unfortunate."

The Mezuzah was affixed to the doorpost and Mr. Reichman declared the Institution officially open.

*A huge crowd attended last Sunday's official opening of the new Witwatersrand Jewish Aged Home and Chronic Sick Hospital in Sandringham, Johannesburg. Our photographer caught this magnificent view of the Herman Wald Statue with the imposing building in the background.*

