

In Durban

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

The Season.

With the usual activities of Durban's season now in full swing, numerous visitors from various parts of the country are in evidence. Capetown, Johannesburg and other leading centres are well represented, and all functions held during the past two or three weeks have been marked by that lively spirit which is invariably introduced into the town by holiday-makers.

From the point of view of the local community, this year's season is of special interest and importance, as the first season enabling us to offer to our visiting co-religionists the amenities of the Durban Jewish Club. This year, for the first time, we can entertain visitors in our own home, and welcome them as an organised community, with a central meeting-place. In fact, it is during this month that the Durban Jewish Club is being allowed an opportunity for full play of its functions as a club, providing for its members a place not only where they themselves may gather, but where they may welcome and entertain visiting fellow-Jews. That it is fulfilling this function is quite evident from the large number of visitors who have been seen at the club during the last two weeks, and it is hoped that members will continue to introduce their friends to all the attractions offered by our communal home.

Children's Plays.

Two children's plays, produced by Miss Esther Lutrin, L.L.C.M., and played by her pupils, were performed at the Club Hall on the 22nd June. There was a large attendance, which included a number of visitors.

The Club Orchestra, conducted by Mr. David Cohen, which, it is pleasing to note, is now accepted as a regular feature of club functions, supplied appropriate music during the intervals. Both plays were received by the audience with great enthusiasm, which reflects well-deserved credit on Miss Lutrin for her production.

The Durban Orchestra.

On Monday, the 29th June, Mr. Dan Godfrey, the Borough Director of Music, and the Durban Orchestra performed in the Club Hall before one of the largest attendances yet seen. At this function, too, there were numerous visitors in attendance.

An interesting programme was rendered, including one or two topical items, and a pleasing feature of the concert was the inclusion of items by two club members. Rose Alper rendered two songs, while Ruby Gevisser accompanied the orchestra in a pianoforte item.

The executive of the club had taken advantage of the function to entertain as special visitors Mr. Otto Siedle, chairman of the Symphony Concert Society, and Councillor and Mrs. Siedle, and a number of other prominent citizens.

At the close of the performance, Mr. Max Wolpert addressed the audience. He extended thanks to Mr. Godfrey and the orchestra, and in the course of doing so, made reference to the contributions made by the local community to music in Durban. He also expressed to Mr. and Mrs. Siedle and the other visitors the appreciation of the club for their attendance.

The unique nature of the function, in the appearance of the Durban Orchestra, together with the large attendance, marked it as perhaps the most interesting and successful yet held.

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Natal Young Israel.

The work of the Youth Movement in this province, which rests in the Natal Young Israel Council, the central body of the provincial organisation, has during the past few months been concentrated in Durban. The scheduled objects of the Council are the co-ordination of the Young Israel Societies in Natal, but the weak position of the Maritzburg Society (until last month the only other society in Natal) has left Durban as the only field for this important branch of the Zionist Movement in this country.

The effects of this concentrated activity have been apparent in the progress of the local society. With the grant of extensive privileges by the club, in the shape of an adequate meeting-place for the more important functions arranged, the local society has grown in a remarkable degree. Functions are of a higher standard, the membership has increased considerably, and all the work undertaken by the young people is marked by a pleasing enthusiasm. Among the numerous recent achievements, is the inauguration of a monthly magazine for members.

During this month a special feature is occupying the interest of the society in the form of the Young Israel Camp, which takes place at Umkomaas. Functions for the entertainment of campers are being arranged, and members of the local society have arranged to visit the camp.

There is now, however, a new and wider scope for the movement in this province. During last month a third Young Israel Society for this province was formed at Vryheid. Numerous attempts have been made to organise the young people of Vryheid into a society during the last year, but none were successful. But a society has now been formed and is already carrying on its work of entertainment and instruction for the young people of the town.

The Youth Movement in Natal, therefore, has now obtained a wider field for its work, and progress will be watched with great interest by all.

Examination Success.

News has been received that Annie, youngest daughter of Mr. and Mrs. M. K. Rosenbach, has been awarded a special book prize in the Elocution Division of the recent London College of Music examinations. Annie Rosenbach is a pupil of Miss Esther Lutrin, L.L.C.M.

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