

Our Children's Circle

OUR MOTTO:

"Do not unto others, what you would not have others do unto you."

"A little child shall lead them.—Isaiah xi., 6.

My Dear Little Cousins,

On Sunday we shall be celebrating *Simchath Torah* which is the happiest day of the whole year for the Jewish people. Those of you who learn Hebrew will know that *Simcrath Torah* means the "Rejoicing of the Law." The Torah (Law) is divided into portions and each Sabbath one of these portions is read; on *Simchath Torah* the last portion is read and then we begin all over again for the next year with the reading of the first portion.

Every Sabbath men are "called up" to the *Bima* or platform in the synagogue to read the portion of the Law for that week. A boy who becomes *Barmitzvah* reads the portion on the Sabbath for the first time and after that he ranks as a full-grown man.

The man who is called up to read the last portion of the Law on *Simchath Torah* is called the "Bridegroom of the Law" and the one who stands by when the first portion is read is known as the "Bridegroom of the Beginning." To be either of these is a very great honour.

Simchath Torah is a day of rejoicing, and the synagogue, especially on the eve of the festival, seems to be full of light and joy. The men of the congregation walk seven times round the pulpit carrying the scrolls of the Law and singing songs of praise to God. This is called the "Hakofoth" and is a very beautiful part of the service.

The Torah is often likened to a bride and on *Simchath Torah* the bride is supposed to be dancing with the bridegroom.

I am sure you will all go to shul on *Simchath Torah* and those of you who are big enough will also go on Saturday evening to the "Hakofoth."

Your loving,

COUSIN HELEN.

Zionist Youth Activities.

CAPE TOWN ZIONIST YOUTH EXECUTIVE.

Oneg Shabbat. An enjoyable programme has been compiled for to-night's *Oneg Shabbat* and *Oneg Yom Tov*, which takes place at "Rosecourt" at 8.30 p.m. All members are invited to attend.

Picnic. Zionist Youth are reminded of the all-day picnic which takes place on Monday, 5th instant. Meet at the Railway Station in Adderley Street at 8.30 a.m. or at Kloof Nek at 9 a.m.

All those attending the picnic are invited to attend the Cape Town Zionist Youth Society's hobo dance.

Don't forget the dance at the Zionist Hall, October 17th.

Owing to pressure on space some "YOUTH ACTIVITIES" items have been held over until next week.

Enthusiastic Rally of Peninsula Jewish Children.

OVER 1,000 ENTERTAINED AT J.N.F. CELEBRATION.

A grand Children's Concert, in celebration of Succoth and in commemoration of the late Menachem Ussishkin, took place at the Zionist Hall on Thursday afternoon, September 24th, under the auspices of the Western Province J.N.F. Executive. The hall was filled to overflowing with Jewish children from all parts of the Peninsula, amongst them being groups from the Hebrew Schools and Kindergartens, Habonim, etc. The stage was decorated with greenery to represent a Succah, thus providing a festive atmosphere. All the children on entering the hall were presented with packets of sweets and badges featuring Ussishkin's photograph, while they in turn gave their contribution to the J.N.F. Box at the door.

During the afternoon the children were addressed by Rabbi Israel Abrahams. He was introduced by Dr. A. Birnbaum, Director of Hebrew Education at the Cape, who stressed the greatness of Ussishkin, the man they were honouring that afternoon. He also referred to Succoth, a festival which was very closely bound up with the land. He urged the children always to remember the Blue Box, and with it the Torah, without which our regeneration would be useless.

RABBI I. ABRAHAMS, in simple but eloquent terms, outlined the importance of Succoth and its special appeal for the younger generation. It symbolised our desire to return to our ancient homeland, the only land in which we could feel happy and at home. Although we had worked hard to recreate Eretz Israel, there was much more to be done. To that end we had to prepare for the future and make ourselves worthy of the land which we claimed to be ours. We had always to bear in mind the importance of land in the life of a nation, and face the future with hope and confidence. Rabbi Abrahams also referred to the presentation of a Golden Book Certificate to General Smuts by the pupils of the United Hebrew Schools, for whom that was indeed a red letter day.

The programme of entertainment that followed included violin solos by Reuben Mibashan, a presentation of Succoth interest by the pupils of the Hebrew Kindergartens (Cape Town), an item entitled "Dunam Poh" by the pupils of the Morning Classes, "The Chalutzim" presented by pupils of the Green and Sea Point Talmud Torah, and "Wishes Come True" by members of Hashtilim. An outstanding item was the beautiful rendering of Bloch's "Nigun" by Miss Nella Wessema, accompanied by Miss Sara Gordon. The programme concluded with an item presented by pupils of the United Hebrew Schools in which a giant "Blue Box" featured.

Mr. J. Blesovsky acted as compere. There was also community singing of Hebrew songs during the intervals.

In organising this function the J.N.F. Executive had the co-operation of the Board of Hebrew Education, Hebrew Teachers' Association, and the Kindergarten Committee.

Grand Hebrew Concert

will be held in

Zionist Hall, Cape Town, on Sunday, 25th October, at 8.30 p.m.

in Celebration of the Sixtieth Birthday of the two renowned Hebrew poets,

JACOB COHEN and JACOB FICHMAN.

The Programme will include a presentation of extracts from the play "MEETING THE MESSIAH," the rendering of "The Messiah" (Handel) and many items by well-known artists.

Reservation of Seats at the office of the S.A. Board of Jewish Education, Geneva House, Parliament St., Cape Town.

Gemorra Class at Maitland.

The Editor,

"S.A. Jewish Chronicle."

Sir,—I would be pleased if you could through your paper draw the attention of the Jewish residents in or near Maitland to a Gemorra Class which I, with the help of others interested, Mr. M. Singer and Rev. Kaufman, have arranged to form. As the circle was very small at its beginning, meetings were held on Friday evenings weekly at my home. But as new members are steadily joining, classes are now held at the Maitland Shul every Saturday afternoon from 4 to 6 o'clock. We would greatly welcome new members. The reader is Rev. Kaufman.

Before coming to Maitland in February this year I stayed at Muizenberg, where I founded and was chairman of such a weekly class.

Thanking you in anticipation.—Yours, etc.,

J. P. KRIGER.

Ussishkin Commemoration Meeting in Bloemfontein

A Ussishkin Commemoration Meeting was held at the Communal Hall, Bloemfontein, on Wednesday evening, 23rd Sept., there was a very good attendance. Mr. D. Davidson, the Chairman, welcomed as the guests speaker, Adv. J. Herbstein, K.C., and Mr. M. Wolozinsky and his wife as newcomers to Bloemfontein, expressing the hope that Mr. Wolozinsky would be a leader to the youth of the town. Before calling on the speakers, the Chairman spoke of the importance of such a meeting as this, in honour of a great man.

The speakers on Ussishkin were Rabbi Dr. M. Romm, who dwelt on the importance of keeping the memory of Ussishkin alive, and Mr. Wolozinsky, M.A., who gave a biographical survey of Ussishkin's life and aspirations. Both speakers stressed the ideal this great leader had set—the Redemption of the Land, Eretz Israel.

Adv. J. Herbstein, K.C., spoke on the "Bankruptcy of Emancipation" and stressed how aptly this pointed to and proved Ussishkin's policy. Dr. M. Block proposed a vote of thanks to the speakers.