

OUR CHILDREN'S CIRCLE

Conducted by COUSIN HELEN

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,

Rabbi Meir, the famous rabbi who lived in the second century, was a pupil of Rabbi Akiba about whom I told you last week. He was very clever and very good, and was beloved by all his pupils.

He had a very clever wife, Beruriah, and two young sons. One Sabbath while the Rabbi was at synagogue, his sons died suddenly. His wife did not at first tell the Rabbi what had happened so that he might not be grieved by the sad news on the Sabbath. In the evening she said to him: "Some time ago two precious jewels were placed with me for safe keeping. He who left them with me called for them to-day and I gave them to him." "That is right," said the Rabbi; "we must always return cheerfully and faithfully all that is placed in our care."

Shortly afterwards the Rabbi asked for his two sons and the mother, taking him by the hand, led him gently into the room where the boys lay dead. When he realised what had happened the Rabbi wept bitterly, but his wife consoled him with what he had just said to her. "Weep not, beloved husband, didst thou not say to me that we must return cheerfully when called for all that has been placed in our care? God gave us these 'jewels.' He left them with us for a time and we gloried in their possession. But now that He calls

for His own we should not be too much grieved, but even be thankful that they have been preserved for us so long. "True," replied Rabbi Meir; "the Lord gave and the Lord hath taken away; blessed be the name of the Lord."

The Fox and the Bear.

Rabbi Meir wrote a large number of stories and fables which are often told. Here is one of them:—

A fox said to a bear: "Come, let us go into this kitchen. They are making preparations for the Sabbath and we shall be able to find food." The bear followed the fox. But, being a big animal, he was captured and punished. Angry at this, he wanted to tear the fox to pieces. "You knave," exclaimed the bear, "why did you deceive me?" "I am not at fault," replied the fox; "you have, I think, been punished on account of your father's sins. Come with me again. I shall lead you to another place where we shall surely find food." The fox then led the bear to a well where two buckets were fastened together by a rope, balanced like a pair of scales. It was night and the fox pointed to the moon reflected in the water, saying: "There is a fine cheese. Let us descend and have some." The fox got in his pail first, but, being too light to balance the weight of the bear, he took a heavy stone with him. As soon, however, as the bear had got into the other pail, the fox threw the stone away. Therefore he rose whilst the bear descended to the bottom and was drowned.

Your loving,

COUSIN HELEN.

"Book of Games" and "Book of Songs."

Two interesting booklets have been issued by the S.A. Zionist Youth Council and Merkaz Habonim (S.A.)—"Book of Games" and "Book of Songs."

Book of Songs.—One of the most important contributions of Eretz Israel to the educational effort of the Jewish youth movements of the Galuth is the Hebrew song, and to enable the youth of this country to make full use of this vital contribution to the scheme of Zionist education, this Book of Songs has been published and will fill a long felt want in the Movement. The book contains songs of all types, with the words printed in Hebrew, Hebrew transliteration and English, and set to music.

Book of Games.—It has been proved by the experience of many Youth Organisations that games are not only a means of entertainment, but have a great educational value. They are a pleasant and there-

fore effective means of acquiring or reviewing any subject matter. With this end in view, and in order to make the study of Jewish History, Zionism, Geography of Eretz Israel, etc., more interesting and effective, the Book of Games has been published.

All sections of the youth should avail themselves of this handy collection of songs and games, contained in these two booklets which can be obtained from the S.A. Zionist Federation Book Dept., Box 18, Johannesburg, and the Cape Zionist Youth Executive, 6, Barrack Street, Cape Town, Phone 2-1904.

A well attended Children's Service was held at the Somerset West Synagogue on Saturday morning, 6th inst.

Rabbi A. R. Abrahamson gave an interesting address to which the children listened attentively.

Thereafter "Hitamloot" was carried on with a few Hebrew songs.

Zionist Youth Activities.

Following the usual recess of December and January, Zionist Youth Societies have almost without exception already begun their new session's work.

The Executive is undertaking a series of visits to all societies and committees which it hopes to aid societies in drawing up their programmes for three or four months ahead. The first society to be visited was that of Maitland Z.Y.S. on the 5th of February, and during the coming week-end the Oranjezicht B.O.Z.S., the Gardens G.O.Z.S. and also the districts Paarl and Wellington will be visited.

Societies, however, have of their own accord begun the new session with successful meetings. In addition to those reported last week meetings of the Young Poale Zion, the Muizenberg B.G.O.Z.S. and the Cape Town Zionist Youth Society had meetings over last week-end. At the meeting of the Young Poale Zion held at "Rosecourt" on Friday evening the first of a series of lectures was given. Miss Frieda Astrinsky spoke on "Pre-Herzlian Zionism" and a talk on "The Rise of Capitalism" was given by David Sadowsky. The next meeting of the Young Poale Zion will take place this evening at "Rosecourt" and it is hoped that all interested will attend.

A successful function took place at Muizenberg on Sunday night in the form of a reception to past members of the societies who are at present on leave with the First Division.

With the beginning of the University term the Zionist Association of Students will begin its new session. In the near future it is hoped to have a pre-term meeting at which prospective students to Cape Town University will be met and given any advice with regard to University affairs which they might require. Details of this function will be announced.

The Chavurah Massadah will meet on Wednesday, 17th, at "Rosecourt." Mr. A. G. Walt will introduce a discussion on "Zionist Youth, Past and Future."

In addition an Oneg Shabbat has been arranged to take place at the Zionist Hall on Friday, 19th February. Mr. David Dunsky, formerly Chairman of the Transvaal Zionist Youth Executive and at present a prominent member of the S.A. Zionist Youth Council, will speak on "Decisions facing Zionist Youth."

It is hoped that from all these activities Zionist Youth Committees will receive sufficient impetus to enable them to conduct a successful year for their societies.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS.

An Oneg Shabbat organised by the Cape Zionist Youth Executive is being held at the Zionist Hall on Friday, 19th February. Mr. D. Dunsky, a member of the South African Zionist Youth Council, will speak on "Decisions facing Zionist Youth."

The Chavurah Massadah will meet on the 17th instant at "Rosecourt."

The Cape Zionist Youth Executive has called a meeting of the Cape Town Zionist Youth Society at "Rosecourt" on Saturday, 13th February, at 8.15 p.m., to elect a committee for the coming session.