

Capetown Notes.

(From Our Own Correspondent)

A charming performance of "A Midsummer Night's Dream" was given last night in the Normal College Hall by the boys and girls of the Cape Town High School, most of the principal characters in the play being impersonated by Jewish children, the hall was filled with school children and their parents and teachers and others, specially interested in the school as a young educational institution, who watched the play with an absorbed interest and laughed heartily at the three-centuries-old jokes. A dignified and handsome Duke Theseas was that of Elias Zacks, and his Amazon bride, clad in a leopard skin, and looking very much the part in miniature was Zelda Stone. Egeus played by a young Shapiro was a lively and dramatic personation, whilst one of the lovers and all the common men—"the hempen homespun" with the exception of one, were Jewish boys, who played the rehearsal and the interlude with much spirit and humour, particularly Bottom (Leonard Cohen) who kept the audience in roars of laughter. Here was a dainty Puck, (Hannah Benson), and charming fairies in assorted sizes.

The performance arose naturally out of the literature and elocution classes, the pupils having shown much interest in the study of the play. The credit of the production is due almost entirely to Miss Cecile de Banke, who is the visiting elocution teacher. Miss de Banke cleverly worked wonders in a very short time. She not only taught the actors and charmingly produced the play, but attended to all the detail of costume, make-up, properties and all the thousand and one make-shifts that a school dramatic production entails. The huge canvases freely and gaily decorated with cupids and streamers by Miss Irma Stern for the Fairyland Fete, and afterwards kindly presented to the school by the committee of the Fete proved invaluable as curtain and backgrounds for the show. The play which was specially abbreviated for the occasion, was preceded by a short Afrikaans comedy written and produced by Mr. Benthuis the Dutch master, and by a number of interesting items by various pupils.

The Rev. A. P. Bender has left for East London where he is to lay the foundation stone of the new synagogue. During his visit to East London the Jewish order whose recently instituted lodge is named after Mr. Bender has arranged for his formal installation.

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"Wanderer" in the Cape Argus comments very favourably on the work of Mr. Moses Kottler, the sculptor. "Sculptors are rare in South Africa" he says "and for that reason I was particularly pleased to meet yesterday, afternoon the best sculptor in South Africa, Mr. M. Kottler.

I had heard that he was at work upon a bust of the late W. P. Schreiner, a bust which is to be placed in the Houses of Parliament here as a memorial. Kottler agreed to let me see it.

We walked over to his studio, talking about Japanese art, in which Mr. Kottler seems particularly interested. Then we came to the studio, and entered.

I was shown the bust which is rapidly approaching completion. I was also particularly interested in some native heads of which the sculptor seemed to have made a special study. They are quite the finest examples of their kind that I have seen anywhere.

Looking round at the various busts displayed, some complete, some ready for casting, others wet and sticky. I recognised several well-known Cape Town features—W. H. Bell, Mr. Holtzer, Lady de Villiers, Mrs. Benjamin and others.

A short talk with Mr. Kottler in his delightful cottage, with its Japanese prints and Oriental Buddahs, revealed him as a shy and sensitive artist, who preferred to talk about art rather than himself.

His work is gradually permeating the best circles in South Africa.

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The appointment of Mr. David Dainow a local Zionist to the secretaryship of the Keren Hayesod (Palestine Foundation Fund) for South Africa has created some interest in Zionist circles. Mr. Dainow came here from England 18 months ago to take up the post of Director and Secretary of the Cape Jewish Orphanage. During this period he displayed ability as an organiser and an administrator. A greater scope for his ability has been now offered him. Mr. Dainow leaves on November 15th to take up his new duties in

Johannesburg, but expects to return to the Cape shortly to assist in organising the Zionist Conference, which will probably be held in Capetown.

The Conference this year will be of great importance, and will be specially notable by that fact that in all probability Mr. Nahum Sokolow, the President of the Executive of the World Zionist Organisation, will be present. Mr. Sokolow's visit here will be an event of great importance for South African Jewry.

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On Saturday evening Miss Miriam Kirsch gave a dancing display in conjunction with the Municipal Orchestra. Fifty children took part, and it proved a most interesting programme. Miss Isabella Leslie has composed a charming ballet, "A Woodland Idyll", and this occupied the second half of the programme. Miss Kirsch is leaving shortly for Europe, and she hopes to come back with the latest ballroom dances.

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A concert will take place at the Railway Institute on Thursday evening, under the auspices of the Daughters of Zion. The funds realised will go towards the "Oriental Wonderland" as a contribution towards the building fund of the new Zionist Hall. Among the many artistes who will appear there will be Adelaide Newman, the brilliant pianiste. Miss Kirsch and her pupils will give dancing displays.

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Mr. C. W. A. Coulter the S.A. Party candidate for the Gardens Division for election for election to the Provincial Council addressed the electors in the Zionist Hall, Hope Street. Mr. M. Rosen was chairman and amongst the speakers were Advocate Herbststein and Mr. I. Schwartz.

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In aid of the Save The Jewish Children Fund a Bridge and Rummy Drive was held in the Rawene Tea Rooms on Wednesday evening. This was the of a series that is being held for the same object.

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