

## OUR CHILDREN'S CIRCLE

Conducted By COUSIN HELEN.

"A little child shall lead them."

—Isaiah xi, 6.

### Our Motto:

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

P.O. Box 2000,  
Cape Town.

My Dear Little Cousins,

Many of you have no doubt been to hear the talented young Shura Cherkassky play the piano. You have also been to the Eisteddfod concerts, when you heard our young medallists play their little pieces. You enjoyed all the performances, but noticed one essential difference between the great artist Shura Cherkassky and our less gifted aspirants in the same art. Nearly every young boy or girl who walked on to the City Hall platform looked as if his or her thoughts were more concentrated on his or her own appearance than upon the music that was to be played. But not so Shura Cherkassky. He faced the overcrowded Opera House with the simplicity of a child, and the repose of the master musician he later proved to be.

We all felt very proud of him—proud to feel that here was yet another great artist to add to our national pride. But our newspapers have all called Shura Cherkassky a great Russian pianist, and none have called him a Jew. In a way they were right. Cherkassky had his early training in Russia. It was as a Russian that he faced the audiences of the world. Only the musicians who will come from Erez Israel to sing the real song of Israel will be acclaimed as Jewish artists. Already there are many of them, and who can tell but that Cherkassky himself may yet one day devote himself to Hebrew music.

*Why the Donkey's Ears are Long.*

There is a Spanish folk tale that explains to the satisfaction of all children why the donkey's ears are long. We in South Africa are particularly interested in donkeys, and may also like to know why their ears are long.

At the very beginning of the world long, long ago, as each animal was put upon the earth he was given a name which he was to bear for all time. One day after all the animals had been named and placed, the king of the animals called them all together, all the beasts and the birds, to attend a meeting. The birds came flying first, then came the deer. The lion and the tiger were followed by all the others, and last of all came the beaver, the bear and the tortoise.

When they were all assembled he made his announcement: "I have called this meeting," said the king, "to find out if you have remembered the name bestowed upon you when you were placed upon the earth. Come, one at a time, and speak clearly."

One by one each animal passed before the king, and bowing low, repeated the name that had been given to him. The bear, the horse, the tiger, the lion, the cow, and so on all down the line, each one passed the test.

At last came one who had forgotten his name. He stood awk-

wardly before the king, not knowing what to do or say. "Speak," said the king. "Why do you keep us waiting?" Still the poor animal shuffled uneasily from one foot to the other, and did not know what to say.

This made the king very angry. He took the dull animal by the ears and pulled them far out from his head. "Now, remember you are called *Donkey*," he said. And the donkey's ears have been long ever since.

### CORRESPONDENCE.

*Louis Jochelson, Cape Town:* I was very glad to hear from you again, and thank you for your interesting letter. I was sorry to hear you had not been well lately, and think you've done splendidly to come third in class after having missed five weeks' schooling.

I thank you for your congratulations, and was glad to see that you read other parts of the paper as well. I suppose you are already too big to enjoy "*Two Little Strangers Meet*" or "*Donkerpoort*." Have you read them?

*Now for a Little Competition.*

Now follow the instructions carefully:

*Example:* Behead *Costly*, and leave a part of the head—D-ear. (*Costly* is dear. When you behead dear you are left with ear.)

Now you try these, and send me your results.

- (1) Behead *Dry*, and leave *to free*.
- (2) Behead *a number*, and leave *belonging to us*.
- (3) Behead *a precious national possession*, and leave *to loiter*.
- (4) Behead *a sign*, and leave *human beings*.
- (5) Behead *to risk*, and leave part of the verb "*to be*."
- (6) Behead *the Russian name for John*, and leave *a vehicle*.
- (7) Behead *placed* and leave *help*.

I hope you will all try hard to puzzle out these "beheadments." Show me that you are keen on our competitions.

Keep on enjoying your holidays.

Your loving

COUSIN HELEN.

[To become a member of our Circle write down your name, age, address and anything else you choose, and send it to Cousin Helen.]

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### LONDON LETTER.

(Continued from page 403).

Petersburgh, and that he should practice in the Russian courts, and his speciality should be making violent attacks upon the Jews.

"Marshall Hall said he had not attacked the Jews, but the Judge roundly contradicted him, and I got a verdict. In the robing room Marshall Hall came up to me and said in a delightfully kind manner: 'My dear Abinger, I had quite forgotten that you yourself were a member of that very ancient faith.'

"'I accept what you say,' I replied, smiling, and quite mollified, 'but I bear upon my countenance (pointing to my nose) the signs of a race nearly six thousand years old, and it is really difficult to imagine you should have missed so conspicuous a feature!'

"We remained the best of friends until his recent death, which I, along with many thousands of others, deeply deplore."

### LEGAL POSITION OF THE JEWESS.

The annual report of the Council for the Amelioration of the Legal Position of the Jewess has just been issued. The objects of the Council are:

To press only for such measures of relief as would bring practical help to women who, under existing laws, would be liable to suffer serious hardship, leaving aside all such smaller grievances as might prejudice the main issue; to consult with Jewish communal workers in all lands respecting the legal difficulties of Jewesses; to consult with Jewish scholars as to the best methods and arguments to employ in order to obtain the desired results; and to lay women's considered demands ultimately before a Conference of Orthodox Rabbis. After surveying the various activities of the Council during the year, the report concludes:

The Council wishes to lay stress upon the fact that it is composed entirely of Orthodox communal workers, some Zionist, some non-Zionist, striving in unison for the improvement of conditions both in Palestine and other lands. The Council feels that all well-wishers should be greatly encouraged by the course which has been adopted by the Conference of Anglo-Jewish preachers and by the Board of Deputies of British Jews, in urging that the initial steps may be taken for convening a Universal Rabbinical Assembly. Such an Assembly would have power to deal with the legal disabilities of Jewesses all over the world; and it is hoped that this project will receive the moral and financial support of all who can help even in the smallest degree to bring it to fruition.

Prominent representatives of the Protestant, Catholic and Jewish faiths in Germany have formed a joint council of religious communities to constitute the German Branch of the Universal Religious Peace Conference.

Professor Albert Einstein, Rabbi Dr. Leo Baeck, and Herr Oscar Wasserman are among the Jewish signatories to the appeal which has been issued asking for support of the work of the new Council, and the Catholic signatories include Prince Max of Saxony.

### MATTERS COMMUNAL.

(Continued from Page 403).

She is accused of having called the Russian workers in the factory "Dirty Tartars."

The Communist group in the factory decided that the offence comes under the heading of chauvinism, and at a general meeting decided that she should be dismissed from her employment and that the State Attorney should be asked to prosecute her. This is the first trial on the charge of Jewish chauvinism, and is intended to serve as an example to warn other Jewish workers against this particular offence.

At the same time Sima Michalevskaya, a Jewish worker in a shoe factory in Minsk, has been expelled from the factory and from his trade union, and will have to stand for political trial because he called a non-Jewish worker an ass!

### LICENSING HEBREW TEACHERS.

I gather from an American Jewish journal that a board is about to be established in New York for the granting of licences to Hebrew teachers. I learn that, among other things, the object of the board will be to set a standard of requirements, and paid examiners will be employed to carry out its functions. The movement is a step forward in constructive stabilisation, and will go a long way to alter conditions which have up to now caused considerable criticism. I learn from the same source that out of 375,000 Jewish children in New York City 103,000 are receiving a religious education, 27 per cent. to be exact. However, it is encouraging to note that the tendency is upwards; there are now 25,000 more children enrolled than there were seven years ago. Each city has its own problem of keeping the household of Israel even partially together.

The Prague Jewish community has resigned as a protest against the action of the authorities in compelling it to give burial in the Jewish cemetery to the cremated remains of the Jewish actor Oscar Egerer.

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