

## Special Chanukah Service

At the Great Synagogue.

The Park Synagogue in Johannesburg was thronged on Sunday last when a special Chanukah Service was held in accordance with annual custom. A large congregation included a number of members of the Jewish Ex-Service League, who wore their service and other medals.

Chief Cantor Inspektor officiated, assisted by the choir under Mr. G. Grosberg, with Miss Esme Ratzker at the organ.

Dr. J. L. Landau (Chief Rabbi) offered up the Prayer for the Royal Family, and delivered an eloquent and forceful sermon.

In the course of his address, Dr. Landau said that great historic events must not like phenomena in our social life be viewed from a narrow angle nor judged according to the impression received at the moment. The story of Jacob and Joseph in the Books of Moses illustrated that statement. Jacob received a message that Joseph was alive, and his spirit was revived. Jacob heard that Joseph was a ruler in Egypt, and thanked God at the realisation of his son's dream. The whole of the family travel to Egypt. They leave a free country to go to Egypt. Little does he dream that that was the first step towards the slavery of future generations. Little does he think that that was the first step towards the first Golus. The oppression and persecution of the Israelites in Egypt reached the darkest hour when the decree of Pharaoh that all the male children were to be drowned in the Nile was given, and it seemed that the last hour of Israel's destiny had struck. But out of that darkest hour there shone a star, the first and most glorious of our Prophets, our Redeemer from Egypt.

Pointing to the electric lamps, the preacher said that they were the product of modern science, yet let them try and kindle a match against those lamps and see whether it would burn. But if a small bit of wire were to snap or an insignificant little screw were to get loose all that great blaze of light would fade and they would be in darkness. But let them take a candle. Not only would the candle light itself, but they could kindle from it numberless torches after torches until they could kindle a light not only for their synagogue, not only for Johannesburg, but for all the world. That was the lesson of their Festival of Chanukah. Like the great and mighty nations of old were the powerful electric lamps. A little screw loosened, a little wire snapped, and the whole great world of those ages disappeared, sunk into darkness. But the little Asmonian family, like the little candle, set aflame the whole civilised world, and continued to burn and light the world. The Jews' little candle could not be destroyed or drowned. Such a little isolated candle was Herzl when he first rose to spread the light of his ideals, when at first great and powerful rabbis and millionaires ridiculed him. He was only a lonely candle that could not be compared to those powerful electric lamps. Those others, however, vanished into oblivion, but Herzl's light continued to burn in tens of thousands of souls, in the Parliaments of great nations. Never before in the last seventeen or eighteen centuries did men like Lloyd George arise in a Parliament of nations to proclaim and defend the Jewish rights in Palestine. It was due to that insignificant candle, Herzl, that had set aflame those torches that were now spreading light throughout the world.

They had experienced in the last months much disappointment. Their feelings had been very severely tried, and they had reason to deplore the fact that men who were the guardians of the destinies of great nations had not kept their promises. But still the little flame of the candle would not be destroyed; the same flame that our martyrs had fed with their blood. For he believed in the triumph of truth and justice, and he believed that the future would vindicate their people, the cause of Herzl, the cause of the Asmonians.

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## SCHOOL CHILDREN'S CHANUKAH CELEBRATION

At the Orpheum Theatre.

It was an excellent idea of the United Hebrew Schools of Johannesburg to give a children's entertainment by the pupils of the different schools under its control on the Eve of Chanukah.

To have the whole programme in Hebrew was an even more ambitious undertaking. That both the idea and the programme were excellently carried out is to the great credit of all concerned, especially the teachers, who must have worked very hard, and the pupils, who, judging from the admirable manner in which they acquitted themselves, must have given themselves over heart and soul to making the function a success. All the more is it a pity that the programme did not mention the names of the children—at least of those who took leading parts in the different plays, songs and recitations, with which the afternoon's programme abounded.

The Orpheum Theatre was filled by parents, pupils and members of the United Hebrew Schools, and the applause that was given at the end of each item was well deserved by the young artistes.

The pupils of the Doornfontein School began the programme with the Kindling of the Chanukah Lights, followed by the children of the Jewish Orphanage classes with a speech on the Festival. The Hebrew High School children gave three songs, and then came the Bertrams children with a dramatic sketch, "The Diligent Boy." A tableau, "The Little Gardener," with children as flowers, was presented by the Ophirton School. A scarf drill was given by the Hebrew High School, after which the Doornfontein School presented a play, "Chanukah Money." The La Rochelle School performed a play, "Childish Pranks," after which came the Doornfontein pupils with a tableau, "The Teacher." Recitations by the Berea and Yeoville Schools and followed by songs by the pupils of the Hebrew High School, and a tableau, "Mattathias," by the Orphanage children, concluded the programme.

"Hatikvah" and "God Save the King" brought a most interesting and enjoyable afternoon to a close.

### ORPHANAGE (BEREA BRANCH).

Mrs. H. Light, the hon. convener of the branch of the Orphanage, assisted by Mrs. Sachs, Miss Light and Mrs. Moed, carried out the clearance of the Orphanage boxes in this district, as a result of which £24 0s. 1d. was realised for this institution. Included in this were the following amounts taken from the boxes at the residences of the people mentioned:—Mrs. Zinn, £8 6s. 6d.; Mrs. Goott, £1 15s. 9d.; Messrs. Heymann & Gordon, £5 6s. 9d.; Mrs. Goldberg, £1; Mrs. M. Colman, £1; Mrs. Mellman, £1 1s. 6d.; Mrs. Friedman, £1 2s. 6d.

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