

Our Children's Page

CONDUCTED BY AUNT RACHEL.

My Dear Children,

I hope you have all enjoyed your holidays, and have returned to school and Chedar fresh and ready for another term's hard study. I have had very few letters in the holidays. I know there was plenty of sickness about, and hope that is not the reason for your silence.

The Basle Zionist Congress is over. There was a very free exchange of opinion, and a lot of bitterness as Zionists showed their disappointment in the slowness of progress as compared with the tremendous amount of effort put out. There are many who are dissatisfied with the part played by the British Government in carrying out the conditions of their Mandate (governing power) over Palestine, and as a result of the discussions about this and that, Dr. Weizmann has resigned his Presidency of the World Zionists, and has been succeeded by Mr. Sokolow. Leaders change, leaders die; but if the movement is a right and true one, it goes on, and on. Argument and airing of opinions are good, but dissention and quarrels and bitterness are bad.

Two points are before us. We must have more land to develop in Palestine. We must have a safe working contact with the Arabs. For these two, and the emigration and development of the country that depend on them, we have to work, with all our heart and soul. You think perhaps you are too young, or Zionism is not for you. It is not so. Zionism is just for you children—the future Jews and Jewesses.

It is interesting to note that at this last Congress, there were a large number of young people — Jewish Student Organisations, Jewish Sport Organisations and other Jewish youth from all over the world. Many of these youths from Palestine cycled all the way to Basle. There were members of the Society known as Brith Trumpeldor, wearing the uniform; the Revisionist Youth Organisation, and the Labour youth organisation. This speaks well for the future of Zionism and for our Jewish youth in all parts of the world.

Anyhow, the future of Zionism is in your hands, young people, so be up and doing, learning and understanding all the intricate workings of this historic movement. You will read a full account of what was done at the 17th Congress at Basle in the last few numbers of the *Zionist Record*.

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I am reproducing here a copy of the letter from the General Israel Orphans

Home for Girls, Jerusalem, to which £25 was sent in your name.

GENERAL ISRAEL ORPHANS' HOME FOR GIRLS, JERUSALEM.

June 24th, 31—Tamuz 5691.

The Secretary,

South African Zionist Federation,

P.O. Box 18,

Johannesburg, Transvaal.

Dear Sir,

We thankfully beg to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of May 20th, together with the draft for the sum of £25/0/0 (Twenty-five pounds), our official receipt for which please find enclosed herewith.

Same has been entered in our Grand Book on Page No. 72 as being the result of a collection made by "Aunt Rachel" amongst kind-hearted South African Jewish boys and girls through the medium of the "Zionist Record."

Kindly convey our hearty thanks and blessings to "Aunt Rachel" on behalf of her "New" 250 orphaned little nieces who find shelter and protection at this great and singular Girls' Orphanage in our Holy Land.

Also, will you please be so kind as to ask "Aunt Rachel" to tender our sincere appreciation and gratitude for the above generous help to all those who participated in its collection.

May He above, Father of Orphans, who alone knows the full value of your kind interest and sympathy, reward you and all those who contributed towards the raising of the donation accordingly, and grant you all long, healthy and happy life.—Amen.

Thanking you very kindly once again, we remain, with blessings from the holy places in Zion,

Very truly yours,

Directors,

(Sgd.) W. MINZBERG.

J. WEINGARTEN.

You know, don't you, that we are saving another £25 for the Kfar Yeladim, so please do what you can to hurry it on.

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Have any of you been lucky enough to hear any of the Grand Operas that are now in South Africa?

I wonder how they will impress you. In Europe, Grand Opera is fairly common. As a rule the choruses of 50 or more people are magnificently trained and for the soloists they have the world's best singers. Many of these are familiar to you doubtless, through the gramophone, and a lucky few of you may have been sung to sleep with the beautiful melodies from opera, as well as from the Yiddish plays.

Our Jewish people love music, and love it of the best. Our Chazonim are as familiar with opera as with Chazon-outh; and many an opera trill or run somehow creeps into the minor melodies of our prayers. Perhaps it is the other way round, and the sad Hebrew tunes

found their way unconsciously into opera, for there are many Jewish composers, and undoubtedly, Temple and Hebrew music have at certain periods influenced the music at least of Europe.

How strange music is, how soothing, how uniting. Music seems to be a universal language. It brings together people of different nationalities, and they forget their hatreds and differences and all are equally thrilled by the glorious voices, and the soul-stirring tragedies which they convey. For Grand Opera is always tragic and sad. There is the lighter touch in the ballets and songs of villagers, but the principals in these musical dramas, are in the grip of tragedy, of fear, remorse, revenge, jealousy, love, hate, and in the magnificent song and dramatic pose they portray the passion of the human soul.

If you have the chance try to hear at least one opera. I mean, of course, you older ones, and if you do, let me know what you think about it. It is so different from modern music (so called) with its rythm, its blare and noise. The conversation in the opera play is in song-recitative, something like oratoria, the beautiful sacred music which differs from opera in that there is no action, no scenery—simply singing. Yes, I would like to know which one you see, and what you think about it, if you do. Try to see Cavalleria, and Pagliacci, or Carmen or Faust. Il Trovatore has magnificent music, so has Madam Butterfly. Anyhow, if you live in a town, hear just one.

ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

(Really there are none.)

I have to acknowledge through the Zionist Federation, the receipt of 10s. from Mr. S. Swatt, Windhoek, for his grandson, Solly Silberman, on his 6th birthday.

Very many thanks. I hope Solly will be able to write himself one day.

I have had a nice letter from the Secretary of the S.A. Jewish Orphanage, thanking my nephews and nieces for their help to that Institution.

AUNT RACHEL'S FUND.

Solly Silberman (Windhoek) £0 10 0

Previously acknowledged . 263 1 3

Total (2nd £1,000) . . .£263 11 3

The suspense account now amounts to £13 13s. Please try a little harder to make it £25, quickly.