

My dear Children,

Last Sunday I went to a concert. It wasn't the usual sort of concert held in a big hall. In fact, it wasn't given by grown-ups at all. It was a concert in which only children took part. Very small children they were too, for their ages were from three to six years.

I still haven't told you, though, the thing that made this concert different from all the other concerts I've been to in Johannesburg. Most of the items given by these tiny tots were in Hebrew!

Perhaps some of you will say, "Well, I suppose they come from Palestine!" No, my dears, these children don't come from Palestine. They live in Johannesburg, but they can sing Hebrew songs because they go to a Hebrew Kindergarten. They go to the new Hebrew-English Kindergarten in the Yeoville Synagogue.

Some of you may think to yourselves as you read this, "But I'm not interested in Kindergartens." Still, I'm sure if you'd been at this concert, you would have longed to be able to go to this Kindergarten.

I had been invited to come to the concert, and when I got there I found the audience packed together as tightly as sardines in a tin! The walls were prettily decorated with Mogen Davids, little blue and white flags, pictures and drawings that the children had done as part of their schoolwork.

The first item was in celebration of Shevuoth and the little girls and boys came marching in waving flags and carrying fruit and vegetables which, they told us in Hebrew, they were taking up to Jerusalem for the harvest festival. One of the little girls had on a real Palestinian frock which comes from Eretz Israel itself.

Then there came two songs, also in Hebrew, one about a bird who is very busy all day long dancing and twittering and building her nest. When her work is done, she falls asleep, and is woken up by the crowing of a cock.

The other song was about a rose. When a good child asked to be allowed to smell her, she gave him gladly of her lovely scent. But when another boy said he would pluck her, she answered, "I'll prick your naughty little hands with my thorns!"

Aren't those sweet songs? Just imagine how jolly it must be to be able to sing them in Hebrew! Jewish children thousands of years ago must have sung songs just like these in Hebrew.

Afterwards came some English items. There were two funny recitations. One was about the two best Doctors in Nurseryland. Their names were Dr. Stitchem and Dr. Glue! And when accidents

OUR CHILDREN'S PAGE

Contributed by
AUNT SARAH

happened to any of the toys, these two Doctors were always ready to make them whole again!

The second was about a little boy Alec, who went to post a letter for his Daddy, and posted himself as well as the letter! The postman came to clear the box and took the big parcel (Alec) to its house. But the Daddy couldn't see his child, and thought the parcel was only an advertisement. Nobody heard the little boy crying and the postman took him away again. Alec was so frightened that he woke up screaming. Yes! it was all just a dream!

Then there came an English song telling what the fairies go on when they want a ride: bubbles, butterflies, and clouds. The girls and boys had on such pretty costumes. The girls were dressed as fairies and butterflies, and the boys in old-fashioned satin suits.

Between the items I listened to these Kindergarten children talking to each other. They speak English, but whenever they come to a word that they know in Hebrew, they say that word in Hebrew. And you'd be astonished if you could hear how many, many Hebrew words they know! The Kindergarten was only started towards the end of last February.

The little pupils come to school from nine till twelve o'clock. From nine till eleven they have Hebrew, and from then till twelve they have their English lesson. So that when they go to the big schools they'll know a lot of Hebrew, but they'll also be able to read and write English and do sums just as well as all the other children of their age.

Those of my nephews and nieces who reside in Johannesburg, should ask your Mummies and Daddies to take you to see this Kindergarten. You'd love the pretty furniture—little chairs and tables, some red and some blue, and blue and red cupboards in which the books and toys are kept.

I went along one morning, and the children are so happy there and just adore their school. Some of their Mummies told me that when the children have colds, it's terribly difficult to keep them at home, as they hate missing school! Wouldn't those of you who are too small to go to the big schools love to go to such a jolly Hebrew Kindergarten?

A New Member.

I WELCOME this week a new member in the person of little Michael Druker of Parow. He sends me 1s. for his membership fee and he will receive a signed certificate. Master Druker says that "I have been asking some of the Jewish children in Parow also to join with me, but they say they must first ask their parents."

Quite right, too. You should always ask your parents before you do anything of a serious nature. I am sure if those children will ask their fathers and mothers, I shall soon have them all as members of my Circle.

Prize for Competition.

MY nephews and nieces will be pleased to hear that from the amounts I have in connection with the membership fees, I shall be purchasing an interesting book for Master Bertie Segal of Naauwpoort, who won the recent competition dealing with the estimate of the number of Jews in South Africa.

Our Poem Competition.

I AM sorry to have to make a complaint, but very few entries have reached me in connection with my poem competition. You all recollect the interesting little poem by Bessie Pincus which I published in the issue of April 21. Some of my other nephews and nieces can at least make an effort to compose a little poem, which I shall gladly publish, if it is at all of any merit.

Aunt Sarah's Fund.

NOW, come along little children—especially those who used to contribute regularly to Aunt Rachel's Fund. I am sure she would be glad to know that you are continuing the work which she started. All the money raised is being used for good causes. I hope in my next letter to publish an account of further monies received.

I would like all you children to contribute towards the fund which is about to be opened to assist our suffering brethren in Germany. Your parents will be helping, but it would be nice also for you to send me along small amounts so that the members of my Circle will be able to give something for this good cause.

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Page Circle

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