

# OUR CHILDREN'S CIRCLE

Conducted by COUSIN HELEN

## OUR MOTTO:

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

"A little child shall lead them."—Isaiah xi., 6.

My Dear Little Cousins,

In Galicia there lived long ago a man and his wife, who wished very much for a child. An old story tells that one day an angel of God came to them, promising them a child in their old age who should be named "Israel" since he would bring light to the eyes of all Israel. When the boy was born the parents named him Israel and waited anxiously to see whether he would indeed become a great and wise man in Israel. But they died while he was still very young.

Little Israel who was cared for by some kind people, did not care very much for books. When his teacher tried to explain the Torah to him, he used to steal away by himself and sit under a tree in the woods, thinking of many things. As he grew older, he was given the work of taking some little children through the woods to their Hebrew school every day. As they walked through the woods he used to teach them beautiful songs about God and sing with them.

One day on their way through the forest they met a wolf. When the fathers of the children heard of their danger, they said they would not allow them to go through the woods any more until the wolf was killed. But Israel told them not be afraid. He remembered the story his father had told him just before his death, of the coming of the angel and God's promise that He would always protect and guide the helpless child. "I am not afraid of the wolf," said Israel.

The next day when he took the children to school and reached the middle of the forest they saw a wolf again, standing in the path, bristling and snarling. Israel raised the club he had brought with him and went fearlessly towards the beast. For a moment the wolf glared at the boy with his wicked, hungry eyes; then his tail drooped between his legs and he ran away howling in fear. Israel and the other children continued on their way to school. Nobody ever saw the wolf again and many people believed it was no wolf but some evil spirit sent to prove Israel's courage and teach him to trust in God.

When Israel grew older he became a great leader of the Jewish people, especially in Galicia. Although he had never studied with the other children, but always alone and in secret, he showed great wisdom in all he said and did. But Israel

always said that learning was not as important as the Jews had always believed. Up to that time, the rabbis there had taught that an ignorant man who does not understand the Torah, cannot know God. But Israel said that loving God was worth more than all the wisdom a man could learn in all the Jewish schools.

Because he could heal the sick through his prayers and seemed to possess such wonderful power, Israel was called *Baal Shem—Tov* (the master of the Good [Divine] name). People came to him from all parts of the country; they were happy if they were allowed even to look upon him. They went back to their own homes to tell the many wonders he had performed.

Perhaps the greatest thing the Baal Shem did for the Jewish people of his day was to teach them that God was not only in the Holy Books but that he is everywhere and always lives close to his children. He taught them also that if we really know God we are gay and happy. That is why the Chassidim, Israel's followers, still worship God by dancing and singing happy, merry songs just as they used to do at the feasts of the Great Master of the Name many years ago.

Your loving,

COUSIN HELEN.

## AT HOME TO VISITING ZIONISTS.

(Continued from page 14)

new modern expressions of thought. The University on Mount Scopus was the pride of world Jewry. Jerusalem was now the centre of Hebrew culture with the largest library in the Near East, collections of value, laboratories, students and great international professors. The University was the centre of Jewish tradition and Jewish science. Jewry could now be proud of being able to serve the Allies in their efforts to win the war. No Zionist was a real Zionist if he belittled cultural activity. Mount Scopus was the greatest pride of all Jewry. In the work of the Hebrew University one could witness the renaissance of the Hebrew culture.

Mrs. T. Gordon (Springbok), speaking on behalf of the country visitors, thanked the B'nai Zion Association for their hospitality and said how glad visitors from outlying districts were to meet fellow Zionists from all over the Union.

Mrs. Israel Abrahams thanked Dr. Fischel for his most interesting address.

Mrs. L. Segal thanked the artist, Miss Cassel.

## Zionist Youth Activities.

### CAPE ZIONIST YOUTH EXECUTIVE.

*Camp.* The 15th Annual Y.I. Camp at the Strand was officially opened by Rabbi Israel Abrahams on Monday, 1st January, 1940. A very large crowd consisting of campers, their relations and friends and many visitors from practically every province in South Africa attended. The Totzeret Ha-aretz Stall was popular and brisk business was done throughout the afternoon. The visitors were entertained to a lively sing-song of Hebrew and Jewish songs by the campers, after which tea was served.

A full report of the camp-fire welcome by the Mayor of the Strand, Mr. De Jongh details of the official opening and the various functions will be published next week.

Societies are reminded of the special Council meeting which takes place at Camp at the Strand on Sunday morning, 7th January. All societies are urgently requested to send their representatives to this important meeting. Mr. Israel Dunsky will deliver an address.

*Camp Ball.* A Grand Camp Ball will be held at the White House Hotel, Strand, to-morrow night (Saturday, 6th January, 1940). Full orchestra in attendance.

### WORCESTER.

Mr. Michael Schochat conducted a successful Tree Fund Canvass for the Jewish National Fund, the amount of £3 15s. 6d. being collected.

The following contributed towards the Fund: Mr. Hertzberg, Schochat family, M. Rabinowitz, I. Green family, B. Lipman family, M. Donnen, P. Zackon family, R. Shandling family, I. Jaffe family, W. Heller, R. E. Shandling family, R. Sackinofsky, Mr. Block, H. Abramowitz and T. Wurwand.

### GREEN & S.P. JEWISH GUILD.

The guild held a very successful meeting on Monday evening, 18th ult., a very large crowd being present.

During the earlier part of the evening a Chanukah play-reading produced by Miss R. Woolf took place. Those taking part were Miss N. Woolf, Mr. Henry Newman, Mr. S. Horwitz, Mr. M. Robinson. After this the crowd indulged in heckling for a little while.

Dancing then commenced, the music being supplied by Miss L. Kohn and her brother Mr. M. Kohn. During the evening tea was served.

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