

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 just received the good news that you have passed your music examinations. Heartiest congratulations to you, and I hope you will be just as successful, if not even more successful, next year, and the years that follow.

In the music examinations, the Jewish little girls and boys always do very well. So much so that we are being told that they come from a musical people. It is up to us to hold that reputation. This year the winner of the principal scholarship is a Jewish boy, and we hope that he will become a big musician one day.

A little time ago we had the pleasure of hearing Shura Cherkassky, the clever pianist. Everybody was then enthusiastic over the brilliance of this young artist. This week, we have had the pleasure of hearing a much younger and even more brilliant little musician—Yehudi Menuhin.

With the last mail, there arrived in Cape Town last week a collection of new gramophone records. Amongst these were violin solos by Yehudi Menuhin, and the records are so excellent that everybody seems eager to buy them.

Yehudi plays with marvellous ease two very difficult pieces of music. His playing gives such intense pleasure when heard through the gramophone that one may well imagine the joy it would give when heard directly.

You must all be interested to hear a little more about this young genius.

Yehudi Menuhin was born on 22nd January, 1917, in the crowded city of New York. He is 12½ years old now. (If he were in Cape Town, I am sure we could make him join Our Circle.) His parents were poor Jews who had come from Russia in order to find a better place to live in for their children.

When Yehudi was a tiny boy, he already began to love music. As he grew older, this love for beautiful sounds developed with him, and when he was four years old he was given a tiny violin.

A great violinist was attracted to Yehudi when he first heard the child scraping on his instrument. It was then that the young boy's studies began in earnest.

At the age of six, the little boy played at a school concert, and everybody became astonished at his talent. People then went to Yehudi's parents and asked them to allow their son to play at big concerts. But they refused. They said that there were heaps of time for the boy to begin to play at concerts. In the meantime he had to study hard or he would never become a true artist.

So for four years the world did not hear of this clever child. His parents wanted to keep the boy away

from the public platform a much longer time, but the people of America could wait no longer.

Two years ago one of the largest halls in New York was overcrowded with thousands of people—all anxious to hear the musician of the age. They were not disappointed either! Yehudi's playing satisfied the critics of the world beyond expectation. His parents became delighted. They no longer had to work hard for their little boy; he began to earn enormous sums of money.

For a year and a half young Yehudi travelled about in America, giving concerts at all the principal cities. Everywhere he was received with wild enthusiasm, and, before long, he was recognised as a genius—as one of the most marvellous violinists that had yet been born in the world.

Yehudi was already famous when he left America for a tour in Europe. At Dresden the young boy played with one of the world's best orchestras, and for a long time the musical people of Austria could speak of nothing else but of the genius of Yehudi Menuhin. After Austria, Yehudi played at the big halls of Germany and France. In two months' time, he will visit London, when he will give concerts at the Royal Albert Hall. I am sure we shall yet hear a great deal more about these performances. Yehudi will have seen much of the world when his Barmitzvah comes next year. We hope that in his joyous life he will receive a blessing for good from everyone to whom he has given pleasure with his playing.

CORRESPONDENCE.

...Olga Cohen.—So glad you enjoyed our last story. I hope you read our columns every week. Quarterly exams. are a nuisance—I quite agree. I never liked exams. much; but sometimes they are good fun, when one can answer all the questions. Don't you think so? Write soon again.

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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IN AND AROUND THE PENINSULA.

(Continued from page 619).

in compact little clusters interspersed with reeds, shrubs and grasses. The effect was that of the veld at its best. Besides looking very charming this arrangement had the distinct advantage of being easily visible to a large number of people at the same time. Great credit is due to the organisers for this brilliant idea.

The Malmesbury Show was more formal and not quite so interesting. The display of chinchinchees was exceptionally good, the heads being tall, sturdy and closely packed and the open flowers of great size and beauty. The yellow ixias of a pale butter colour were very charming, as were also the multi-coloured gousblom. Both shows were most enjoyable.

Mr. Nathan Levi.

I met one solitary Cape Town Jew at the shows on Saturday, the well-known journalist, Mr. Nathan Levi. He was taking a little relaxation in between his strenuous labours at Stellenbosch, where he is reporting the heresy trial for the "Argus." Mr. Levi did not anticipate an early ending to the trial, but thought that it would go on for at least another two weeks. Asked whether he was enjoying himself, he said that though the audience sometimes expressed their mirth, the reporters never did. We are told that Mr. Levi has been congratulated by members on both sides of the case for his impartial and truthful translation and report of their words.

Mystery Verses Revealed.

In this week's Sedra, Deuteronomy, Chapter 29, verse 29, we read: "The secret things belong unto the Lord our God; but those things which are revealed belong unto us, and to our children for ever, that we may do all the words of this law."

Those who have noticed this verse in the Hebrew version will remember that the words "Lonoo U-ivah-neinoo" unto us and to our children" has eleven dots over them. In the few instances in the Bible where we find dots placed over the words the usual reason is that it signifies caution or insincerity. Such is the case in Genesis, Chapter 33, verse 4, where the word "Vayishokeihos" ("and he kissed him") has several dots over it, and Rabbinic comment is that the kisses that Esau gave Jacob were hypocritical. Other instances could be mentioned. In this case, however, there is no reason given for the dots.

When one looks round and notices the controversy that is now raging with reference to Higher Criticism on the Bible, the Jew has the satisfaction of knowing that authority for research was given to him by Moses himself. A Jew was never expected to accept things which were "Nigloh" ("revealed") as "Nistor" ("secret" or "mysterious"). The Rabbis throughout the ages considered it as their duty to turn Nistor into Nigloh, namely, turn mysterious things into revealed, but never did they attempt to turn Nigloh into Nistor, things which could be understood by common sense were never turned into mystery. The dots, however, indicate caution. There is a great danger in handling Biblical matter and at-

tempting to simplify things which are really mysterious. Hence the dots call attention to the great care that is required in such matters. Judaism has always taken up the middle road. It was always realised that there was a great need for a strict division between things mysterious and things revealed and no more than one has authority to put down all things to mystery, in the same way no one has the authority to claim everything as revealed.

The object of striking the difference between things secret and revealed was "that we may do all the words of this law."

A LOCAL WEDDING.

The marriage was solemnised on Sunday, the 15th inst., at the Gardens Synagogue between Beck, eldest daughter of Mrs. A. Cohen, 27, Camp Street, Cape Town, and Harold Weiner, of Fransch Hoek. The ceremony was performed by the Rev. A. P. Bender, assisted by the Rev. Kirschner and the Rev. Kibel. During the ceremony "The Blessing" was sung by Oscar Cohen, cousin of the bride. The bride was given away by her uncle, Mr. Abel, of Lynedoch.

The bride looked beautiful in a frock of white satin and silver lace flaired frills. She wore a tiara of orange blossoms, from which hung her veil, and carried a bouquet of white carnations and white heather.

The unterfuhrers were Mrs. A. Cohen, Mr. and Mrs. Abel, and Mr. and Mrs. J. Steinberg. The bride was attended by little Yvonne Jacobs, who looked sweet in an Early Victorian frock of peach satin and silver lace, carrying a posy of pink carnations. The four bridesmaids attending the bride were the Misses Esther Cohen, Rubye Futerman, Sadie Steinberg and Lily Cohen, who were attended by four groomsmen, the Messrs. M. Jaffe, C. Immerman, Max Cohen and C. Domerezsky. The bridesmaids looked charming in frocks of peach silk faille, with headdress of peach satin, and they each carried bouquets of pink carnations and roses.

The reception was held at the Zionist Hall, and was attended by over seven hundred friends of both bride and bridegroom.

Mr. and Mrs. Morris Kibur, of Bloemfontein, sister and brother-in-law of the bridegroom, were amongst those present.

The young couple left for Durban on the Kenilworth Castle, where the honeymoon is being spent.

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