

"From Slavery to Freedom."

Children's Play at the Jewish Guild.

All concerned with the production of the historic play performed in a series of sketches entitled "From Slavery to Freedom," that was presented at the Jewish Guild on Thursday evening last, are to be sincerely congratulated on the manner in which the performance was carried out. It is to be hoped that, as mentioned at the function, this will be the first of a series of such performances, for apart from the mere theatrical "show," such a function must be of incalculable benefit in improving the knowledge of Jewish history and Hebrew of those children participating therein.

The function was held under the auspices of the Johannesburg Women's Zionist League and the performance was given by the members of the Young Zionist Association. Miss B. Ben Jacob was the authoress of the play, Miss Irene Holloway the producer, and Miss Grace Guinsberg was responsible for the graceful dances. Miss Ben Jacob assisted by Mrs. Ahrens were the teachers, and Mrs. Mierowsky and Mrs. Tager gave valuable assistance in training the choir.

An introductory address was given by Mrs. O. Guinsberg. She pointed out that the performance might not be a finished one in the professional sense of the word but the main object was to bring home to the children their past Jewish history as a living force. They intended bringing the history down to modern times, and this play dealing with the redemption from Egypt and the settlement in Palestine was only the first of the series. Mrs. Guinsberg proceeded to pay a tribute to the work of Miss Ben Jacob, the authoress of the play, who for two years had tried to get people interested in the idea. Whilst this play was given partly in English and partly in Hebrew Miss Ben Jacob looked forward to the next play being entirely in Hebrew. Mrs. Ahrens, said Mrs Guinsberg, was the main mover in getting the play produced.

All who participated in the production, including the children, were presented with bouquets and other gifts.

The prologue was a scene before the Red Sea in which the dancing of Miriam (Florette Ahrens) was specially noteworthy.

There were seven scenes in all, the others being "The Ten Commandments," "The Twelve Spies," "The March to Palestine," "Chalutz Scene and Song," "Seder, the Celebration of Freedom in Palestine," "Shepherd Scene in Palestine," "The Offering of the First Fruit to the Priests."

The singing of Miss Maida Lazar in "Seder, the Celebration of Freedom in Palestine," was creditable, as was also her singing generally.

Thanks are due to Miss Kathleen Goldfoot, who so kindly painted the scenery for the "Shepherd Scene in Palestine."

The cast were as follows:—John Hayman, Florette Ahrens, Oscar Sachs, Theodore Guinsberg, Manfred Karnovsky, Fay Adelson, Maida Lazer, Lelia Ahrens, Sydney Karnovsky, Marion Bernstein, Leslie Colman, Eileen Sachs, Geoola Cornfeld, Hadassa Levy, Zea Rosenberg, Ethel Duchon, Prudence Hayman, Tehia Cornfeld, Alice Ullman, Anne Hayman, Melanie Hilson, Maisie Mathews, Sadie Faiga, Zillah Freedman, Enid Braun, Myra Meyerowitz, Basil Mendelssohn, Seymour Faiga, Grisha Mundel, Laurence Lazar and Joe Braude, all of whom creditably acquitted themselves.

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Talmud Torah Meeting in Cape Town.

A New Building Contemplated.

The report and balance sheet presented to the annual general meeting of the Talmud Torah last Sunday morning told a story of excellent work accomplished and steady progress made, but of serious financial difficulties encountered. The balance sheet revealed a deficit of £264 10s. 7d. This amount might have been greater if not for a special campaign held during the year and of the unusually active part taken by certain ladies, notably Mrs. M. Zuckerman and Mrs. M. Cohen, in the interests of the institution.

The discussion on the report centred mainly round the question of finance. The treasurer, in pessimistic vein, forecasted a year of yet greater economic pressure, and while some agreed with him, others held that a more cheerful view should be taken. Ways and means of improving the situation were suggested, and in almost every case the lack of workers was deeply deplored.

A heartening speech was delivered during the morning by Rev. A. P. Bender. One should look towards the future, he urged, optimistically. One did not hear business men prophesying that the next year would be a bad one—they always said it would be good. And the same attitude should characterise those in charge of the Talmud Torah. Jewry would never go off the gold standard in their dispensation of charity. And in any case the Talmud Torah was not a charitable institution—it was an insurance against the future. No nationally-minded Jew would ever refuse to pay his insurance fee for the preservation of Jewish religion and tradition.

Speaking of the future, Rev. Bender stated that a new school building was necessary. The one in use was not nearly up-to-date enough. He had discussed the matter with Mr. Rosen and Mr. Liberman, who, with him, were trustees of a fund left by a certain gentleman, and it was almost definite now that the money would be spent on a new building for the Talmud Torah. The building would in all likelihood be put up during the course of the ensuing year.

The election resulted in the following being chosen for the committee:—Messrs. S. H. Friedland, B. Chideckel, I. Mauerberger, W. Harris, J. Bernstein, M. Cohen, M. Gurland, A. Silbert, I. V. Altshul, Leon Sacks, H. Sacks, L. M. Sacks, P. M. Clouts, M. Rosen, M. Rabie, Rabbi M. Ch. Mirvish, J. Jaffee, Rev. Kirschner, J. Gitlin, S. Bernhardt, M. Aronson, A. Liberman, and Mrs. M. Cohen and Mrs. M. Zuckerman.

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