

Our Children's Circle

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,

Quite recently there occurred the 800th anniversary of the death of Yehudah Halevi, the greatest national poet of the Jewish people, and one of the noblest men who ever lived.

Yehudah Halevi was born in Toledo, Spain, in 1086. He practised as a physician, but at the same time wrote poetry, studied the Talmud and produced an important philosophical work called the *Kuzari*. His great love of Zion urged him in his old age to leave his near and dear ones and undertake a dangerous journey to Jerusalem, about whose glories he had dreamt all his life. After a stormy voyage he reached Egypt, where the Jewish communities tried to persuade him to remain. He could not rest, however, and proceeded on his journey. As he reached the Holy City, legend tells, he knelt down to kiss the precious dust and while doing so he was killed by an Arab horseman, even as the immortal "Ode to Zion" was on his lips.

Yehudah Halevi's poetry is full of beautiful thoughts and feelings expressed in beautiful language. Written in Hebrew, they have been translated into many languages. His best known and most admired poems are his "Songs of Zion," in which he expressed all his yearnings and love for the Holy Land.

Your loving,

COUSIN HELEN.

ZIONIST YOUTH ACTIVITIES.

(Continued from page 218).

Youth is awaited and all are cordially invited to attend the meetings.

HASHOMER HATZAIR.

A period of stagnation has been followed by intense activity which has seen the widening of the scope of the movement through an expansion of the older group, and the formation of junior gedudim. The macheneh with the Chug Chalutzi was a success which gave the impetus of renewed energy; organisation defects have, and are being rectified. It is hoped by various schemes to bring the membership to forty by the end of April. Meanwhile meetings, which were not interrupted by the recent vacation are proceeding apace, and fortnightly tiyulim have been held.

OBSERVATORY—MOWBRAY Z.Y.S.

There was a very good attendance at the last meeting which took the form of a Study Circle. Mr. A. Pikholtz presided, and delivered the news-service, making special mention of the festival of Purim. Miss H. Hodes, then gave a talk on "Ussishkin and Henrietta Szold" stressing their mutual interest in the J.N.F. and other similarities in their characters. After refreshments (including "homontashen") had been served, a Hebrew sing-song concluded an interesting meeting.

ODE TO ZION.

Art thou not, Zion, fain
To send forth greetings from thy sacred rock
Unto thy captive train,
Who greet thee as the remnants of thy flock?

Take thou on every side,
East, west, and south and north, their greet-
ings multiplied.

Sadly he greets thee still,
The prisoner of hope who, day and night,
Sheds ceaseless tears, like dew on Hermon's Hill.

Would that they fell upon thy mountain's height!

Harsh is my voice when I bewail thy woes,
But when in fancy's dreams
I see thy freedom, forth its cadence flows,
Sweet as the harps that hung by Babel's streams.

The glory of the Lord will ever be
Thy sole and perfect light;
No need hast thou then to illumine thee
Of sun by day or moon and stars by night.
I would that, where God's spirit was of yore
Poured out unto thy holy ones, I might
There too my soul outpour.

O, who will lead me on
To seek the spots where, in far distant years,
The angels in their glory dawned upon
Thy messenger and seers!

Thy air is life unto my soul, thy grains
Of dust are myrrh, thy streams with honey
flow;

Naked and barefoot to thy ruined fanes
How gladly would I go!
To where the ark was treasured, and in dim
Recesses dwelt the holy cherubim.

Perfect in beauty, Zion, how in thee
Do love and grace unite!
The souls of thy companions tenderly
Turn unto thee; thy joy was their delight,
And weeping they lament thy ruin now.
In distant exile, for thy sacred height
They long, and towards thy gates in prayer
they bow.

Happy is he that watches, drawing near,
Until he sees thy glorious lights arise,
And over whom thy dawn breaks full and
clear,

Set in the Orient skies.
But happiest he who, with exultant eyes,
The bliss of thy redeemed ones shall behold,
And see thy youth renewed as in the days
of old.

YEHUDAH HALEVI
(translated by Alice Lucas).

United Jewish War Appeal Concert.

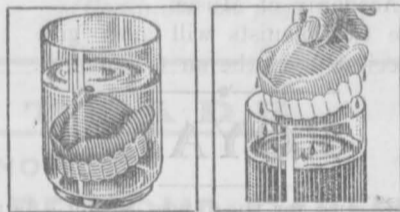
The tickets for the Concert to be held at the City Hall on Tuesday evening, 1st April in aid of the United Appeal are selling well. A most interesting and entertaining programme has been arranged. Pupils of the Elivra Kirsch School of Dancing will contribute a number of dances: a Spanish Tango by Miss Rita Lazarus, and group dances by Rita Lazarus, Andre Revna, Joan Strange and Eve Hurwitz. Cecilia Muller, the well-known coloratura soprano, who has delighted many a audience with her fine voice, will sing "Voices of Spring" by Strauss. Rita Maas as an impersonator is well-known to the Cape Town concert-going public and her items on the programme are most promising. Joyce Kadish, Charles Kreitzer, Samuel Morris and Walter Swanson are among the artists who are appearing at this first-rate concert that is sure to attract the Cape Town public.

A special feature at the concert will be an American Auction by Mr. Henry Hermann of a plot of land at Claremont which has been kindly presented by Mr. A. E. Abrahams. This plot is situated in a fine residential locality, and is valuable.

The public is advised to book early at Pollack's. Admission 3/6 and 2/6.

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