

"ARTAXERXES"

"Artaxerxes," the musical drama given by the pupils of the Moses Montefiore Hebrew school last Sunday evening at the Lyceum, proved a pleasant surprise to the audience. Little was known of the play, except that it had been written by Rabbi E. Horowitz especially for the pupils.

The author has given the story of Esther in dramatic form. In the first act the king (Allen Rachlin) attended by courtiers, orders his prime minister, Haman (H. Gershold), to bring his queen, Vashti (Miss T. Berkstrom), to court. She refuses to come and is therefore deprived of her title, and the king chooses Esther, the daughter of Mordecai, the Jew, for his queen. Haman is shown to be the chief plotter against the life of the king, and his wife, Zeresh, is as ill-disposed toward the Jews as Haman himself.

The second act, at Mordecai's home, shows Esther kindling the lights for the Sabbath. The saloon scene in this act indicates that here the plot against the king's life was formed.

The synagogue scene in the fourth act was notable. Jews and Jewesses with their children were gathered to pray, and the conversation between parents and children was delightful, the rest of the act falling below this part in excellence. The drama was one to give plenty of scope to mature and professional actors, so that the work of the children was praiseworthy and at times excellent.

Master Abe Oreckowsky read the prologue, and between acts Miss Eva Salk, Miss Sadie Gingold, Nathan Cook and H. G. Lovicjk gave musical selections that were highly appreciated.

The cast was as follows:

King, Allen Rachlin; Haman (prime minister), H. Gershold and Sam Cook; jesters, Isidor Usan and Harry Levin; Bigson, H. Rachlin; Eunuch Seresh, N. Asin; Mordecai, Jacob Tsan; officer, M. Altman; counsellors Joe Horowitz, S. Meyers, M. Oreck, D. Oreckowski, G. Cassimir, M. Rosenberg and A. Rosenberg; Valsoso, (Haman's son) H. Gershold; saloon keeper, Sam Cook; bartender, S. Slotkowsky; scribes, P. Cassimir and S. Meyers; chamberlain, L. Sanders; guards, S. Shore, B. Tobak, T. Garon, Charles Green, S. Singer, B. Shore, Ab. Rosenberg and B. Zlotkowsky; Queen Vashti, Miss T. Berkstrom. Queen Esther, Miss T. Berkstrom; maids of honor, Doris Gatkin, A. Price, A. Littman, Abe Littman, B. Harris, E. Seidel; Seresh (Haman's wife), Rose Meyers; mother, Lena Stein; father, N. Asin; their children, David Silver, Sam Cassimir, Jack Shusterman, M. Oreck, Doris Gatkin, Lilly Welner and Lena Singer.