

BAHÁ'Í JOURNAL

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Bahá'í Year 104

August, 1947

A REVITALISED COMMUNITY

Dear Bahá'í Friends,

Those of us who can remember the Cause here, in the past, "when it only had two or three spiritual assemblies and seemed to be practically standing still, will see that a great change has come over the work in England during the past year."

Letters and cables from the Guardian up to now stressed that "all should arise" to serve the Cause. By February, 1947, he refers to "the magnificent, spontaneous and collective response of almost the entire community of the English believers!" and in May he writes: "The success that has crowned the strenuous efforts exerted by the entire British Bahá'í Community in the course of this crucial year, has raised immensely its prestige in the estimation of its sister communities in East and West" This reference to the activities of the *entire* community, coupled with the raising of our prestige amongst the communities, are signs that the "Cause in the British Isles is now operating on an entirely new footing." Let us not waste time vainly regretting "a certain lethargy which seemed to have retarded its progress in the past," for Shoghi Effendi declares that we "have thrown it off once and for all time."

The new attitude which pervades the community is apparent both in teaching and administrative work. Our "many and active committees" have been singled out by the Guardian for special comment. The National Teaching Committee, the National Youth Committee, the Summer School Committee, the Assembly Development Committee and the others are all planning and executing their work with a zeal and efficiency of which Committees of the past did not ever dream. Particular mention must be made of our extremely active National Teaching Committee which, aided by the experience of Marion Hofman on the American National Teaching Committee, was the first to be affected by the revitalisation which seems almost one of the miracles of the Cause of Bahá'u'lláh.

Our attitude to teaching and pioneering has also changed. More than one-tenth of the community are already pioneers. We realise that help is needed in settling in a goal town and that one goal town can absorb several pioneers. We know now that pioneering is one of the greatest services which it is possible to render to the Cause of God and through the Cause, to humanity.

We are growing more and more to appreciate the meaning of the Plan for the whole British people, to see how their destiny is linked with its unfolding and to understand that we, the few who have so far recognised Bahá'u'lláh, are executing it on their behalf.

Our increasing consciousness of the true station of the Guardianship and our greater efforts to understand and follow the guidance he gives us, our growing appreciation of the need to develop the World Order of Bahá'u'lláh through following correct administrative procedure in all our Bahá'í activities—these make us ever firmer in the Covenant of Bahá'u'lláh and form a spiritual springboard from which great leaps forward may be achieved.

Thus we are advancing. The result is seen not only in the achievement of last year's goals, not only in the many teaching meetings being held all over the British Isles, not only in the long hours of consultation needed by the National Assembly and its Committees, but above all in these words of the Guardian:—"The success that has crowned the strenuous efforts exerted by the entire British Bahá'í Community . . . merits the praise and blessings of the Concourse on High, and particularly our beloved Master, who in the course of two successive visits showered His loving kindness on the English believers, and chose the capital city of their country as the scene of His first public appearance before a Western audience."

NATIONAL SPIRITUAL ASSEMBLY.

A MEMORABLE DECISION

With greatest joy the National Spiritual Assembly communicates to you the following news. Very soon our dear friend, George Townshend will be free to devote all his energies to the service of the Cause. Archdeacon Townshend is too well-known to you to need any introduction. The services which his able pen has rendered to the Cause are monumental. Now he has resigned from the position he holds in the Church, thus forfeiting all his sources of income including his pension, which at 71 is indeed a great sacrifice. Before long he will be in the pioneer field.

The National Assembly sent this news to the Guardian in a cable, the full text of which read as follows:

"Joyfully report Townshend resigned, intends settle Dublin, facing serious housing problem. Mailing this year's adapted Plan. Fred Stahler, Prudence George pioneering

Cardiff, Norwich. Assembly humble enormous tasks earnestly entreats prayers. Loving devotion."

And the Guardian's answer was:

"Overjoyed Townshend's memorable decision, noble example, commendable determination settle Dublin. Ardently praying success, protection, removal difficulties. Delighted Stahler's, George's pioneering, supplicating abundant blessings. Cherish bright hopes fruition Assembly's historic task. Deepest love, appreciation.—Shoghi."

Dear Friends, these are great days in the life of our Community. Let us keep in front of our minds "the noble example" of our dear Bahá'í brother and pray for the unfailing bounties of Bahá'u'lláh. To George Townshend we send a message of love and gratitude.

NATIONAL SPIRITUAL ASSEMBLY.

SIX YEAR PLAN

Beloved Friends,

With the completion of last year's goals, the first part of the initial phase of the Plan was accomplished. It now remains to complete this phase by next Convention. As you will remember, the Convention of 1946 adopted the resolution to establish nine Spiritual Assemblies within two years, and it was this resolution which was later characterised by the Guardian as the initial phase of the Plan, so we have four more Spiritual Assemblies to establish this year.

The selection of towns for this honour was discussed throughout the community, as well as by Convention, and more specifically by the National Teaching Committee. Very quickly, however, after Convention, a directive from the Guardian settled the problem for us in a manner which none of us had visualised, but which we now see bears the unerring stamp of that guidance which we look for in our beloved Guardian.

He asks us to develop the nuclei established last year in Cardiff, Dublin and Edinburgh into "Fully fledged Assemblies ere the expiry of the present year." Here then are three of our goals for this year, and the N.S.A. has approved the Committee's recommendation that Bristol be the fourth, so that these four towns will complete the initial phase of the Plan.

This, then, is our main task. You have already received the circular appeal for pioneers which we addressed to everyone of you, setting out the present status and needs of these four towns.

They will achieve the status of Spiritual Assemblies in two practical ways only:—(1) Sending pioneers; (2) Intensive teaching work.

Our plans for the first part you already know. With your help, we intend to have five resident believers in each of these towns straight away. Regular teaching work is already under way, and will continue throughout the year.

Pioneers.

The first pioneer to arise this year was Fred Stahler, of Manchester. He came to meet the Committee, and it was agreed that he should settle in Cardiff. This he did within a few days of meeting the Committee, and he is now settled there in work, and our latest news is that he has found a permanent place to live, and will be moving in at the time of writing.

Mrs. Prudence George has removed from Blackburn to Norwich. The Blackburn Assembly is strong enough to release her, and although Norwich is not one of the towns within the initial phase of the Plan, it is scheduled for development to Assembly status later on. Ethel Bird, who is already resident in Norwich, Mrs. George and her daughter, Patsy, will now form the Bahá'í Group there.

Goal Towns

BRISTOL.

The four believers in Bristol, Mrs. Sheila Worrall, Mrs. Mary Lambert, Mrs. Mabel Hall, and Mrs. Dora Weeks, are very active and hard-working. They have a very good list of contacts, and their firesides and meetings are well attended.

Philip Hainsworth spoke there on April 27th, Mrs. Mottahedeh on June 11th, when the attendance was 17, Mr. Balyuzi spoke on June 22nd to an attendance of 12. On July 2nd, Mrs. Marion Little, of New Orleans, addressed a public meeting in the Grand Hotel. Dick Backwell is scheduled for July 23rd and 24th, and the Committee intends to keep this goal town constantly supplied with our best teachers.

The immediate need for Bristol is a male pioneer. This will bring the Group up to five, which is our immediate requirement, and the Committee is eager to receive offers for this post.

CARDIFF.

The nucleus was established here last year, with Mrs. Rose Jones and Mrs. Joan Giddings, pioneer from Bradford. Fred Stahler is already settled there, and the Committee has agreed with Mrs. McKinley and Hugh that they shall move there immediately they can be released from Torquay. Here is a splendid opportunity for some believer to serve the Plan, who does not feel able to pioneer in one of the goal towns. By settling in Torquay, the membership of the community will be sufficiently increased to enable the McKinleys to move to Cardiff. The Committee would heartily welcome any offer for this service.

The teaching work in Cardiff has not yet got under way, as Joan Giddings has only recently settled in, Fred Stahler even more recently, and the friends have been able to do little else but meet each other and hold the Feasts and celebrations. They are finding it extremely difficult to obtain a meeting place. This being a virgin territory, we start with no headway and have to do everything from scratch. For instance, there is no list of contacts on which to work. None of the societies in the town know of us, in fact the Faith is completely strange to this city. It will require initiative and active devotion to achieve success here, and the Committee intends to give the fullest support in its power to an intensive teaching campaign. Dick Backwell is speaking there on July 21st and 22nd, and Alma Gregory on July 30th, to fireside meetings.

DUBLIN.

The nucleus established by the settlement of Doris Gould and Ursula Newman is shortly to be reinforced by the settlement of Mr. George Townshend. This is a great delight to the Committee, as it must be to the friends throughout the world, and we look for wonderful results from this fine action by Mr. Townshend.

The two friends have been very active, and have made a considerable number of contacts; meetings have been held in the Theosophical Society's Hall, as well as firesides in the home of

Doris Gould. Philip Hainsworth spoke there on June 11th, and Mrs. Basil Hall is flying over on July 9th. A surprise visit from Mr. Mason Remey, of Washington, was very fortunate, particularly as he was able to address the meeting at the Theosophical Hall. 11 were present at this meeting and 19 at the meeting on June 11th.

Our policy here is to send a speaker once a month, but more pioneers are required.

EDINBURGH.

The Group in Edinburgh consists of Isobel Locke, Mr. J. L. Marshall and Dr. Said. They are very active, and have held some fine meetings. Their list of contacts is close to one hundred, built up chiefly by the week's project in April, when Dick Backwell was the visiting teacher, by newspaper publicity and, by no means least, by Isobel's personal contacts. Immediate plans for Edinburgh include the following:—July 4th, 5th and 6th, a visit by Mrs. Marion Little, public meeting on the 4th, firesides on the 5th. Isobel will conduct a discussion meeting on the 6th. July 17th to the 21st, Hassan Sabri will be the visiting teacher, when a public meeting and firesides and discussion groups have been arranged. A Seminar is being worked out for some time in November. The friends here also wish to use the Bahá'í Exhibition, and once a suitable date is agreed upon, it will be sent there.

Mr. Mason Remey made a trip to Edinburgh on his way to the Scandinavian countries, and met with the friends.

PROGRESS IN THE GOAL TOWNS.

Town	Convention 1947	July 1947
Bristol	4	4
Cardiff	2	3
Dublin	2	2
Edinburgh	3	3

Other Teaching

In addition to the four goal towns, the following meetings have been arranged:—

May 6...	Torquay	Peter Wilkinson
" 7...	Exeter	Peter Wilkinson
" 5-16...	Torquay	Exhibition
" 11...	Bournemouth...	Vivian Isenthal
June 12...	Birmingham ..	Rafi Mottahedeh
" 17...	Northampton...	Mildred Mottahedeh
" 22...	Liverpool	Mary Coulson (and Joan at the piano)
" 29...	Nottingham ..	Vivian Isenthal
July 3...	Birmingham ..	Marion Little
" 7...	Nottingham ..	Marion Little
" 8...	Northampton...	Marion Little
" 17...	Birmingham ..	Mildred Nichols
" 18...	St. Ives	Richard Backwell
" 20...	Torquay	Richard Backwell
" 27...	Northampton...	Vivian Isenthal

Local communities, in Assemblies and Goal Towns have conducted meetings in addition to these without the help of the N.T.C. Bristol, Edinburgh and Dublin conduct public meetings and firesides on their own resources, in between the visits of teachers.

Bahá'í Exhibition.

The friends who were present at Convention will have seen the new shape and set up of the Bahá'í Exhibition. The Committee is prepared to send it out to any town which can use it and supply the necessary helpers. It is generally considered that a week, at least, is necessary to have it on display, and that there should always be someone in attendance.

NATIONAL TEACHING COMMITTEE.

CORRECTED TRANSLATION

In reply to a question addressed to him by the Indian National Spiritual Assembly about a word occurring in line 9 of page 315 of "Some Answered Questions," the Guardian replied as follows:

"He suggests the word 'capacity' be substituted for 'wants' in the paragraph about strikes, as this conveys the thought of 'Abdu'l-Bahá.'"

The passage should read as follows:

"Therefore, laws and regulations should be established which would permit the workmen to receive from the factory owner their wages and a share in the fourth or the fifth part of the profits, according to the capacity of the factory; or in some other way the body of workmen and the manufacturers should share equitably the profits and advantages."

TREASURER'S STATEMENT.

Dear Friends,

Our financial year started on March 21st at Naw Ruz, and since that time we have spent £1,464.

Of this amount £930 has been the responsibility of the National Teaching Committee, £111 the responsibility of other Committees, £112 has been spent on National Assembly travel and £145 on duplicating and other secretarial expenses, £70 on rent, etc., the remaining £96 on miscellaneous expenses.

During this period we have received in donations from the Community £339. Our expenditure therefore exceeded our income by £1,125.

Expressing this deficit another way, the Guardian made us a generous gift in April of £1,000. In the first four months of the financial year we have already used the whole of this gift.

Dear Friends! The Six Year Plan needs funds as well as effort. Sacrifice is of many kinds.

NATIONAL TREASURER.

"Vie ye with each other in the service of God and of His Cause."

Between April 21st and July 12th, the following Assemblies have contributed to the National Fund:

Birmingham
Manchester
Northampton
Torquay

ASSEMBLY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

After only two meetings of our newly formed Committee, we enthusiastically report work accomplished and constructive plans in operation! The A.D.C. welcomes this opportunity, not only of presenting a report, but of greeting all the friends in the British Community. The task entrusted to us by the National Assembly is a thrilling and responsible one and the Committee is undertaking its work with the utmost devotion and a full realisation of the import of the Guardian's words to the believers in this land.

The consolidation of the new Assemblies; the "safeguard(ing) of the prizes won," is of immediate importance if we are to realise the glorious tasks ahead of us, a glimpse of which the Guardian has given us in his letter dated May 8th, 1947.

The A.D.C. is to work in close co-operation with the National Teaching Committee, under the National Spiritual Assembly, but its primary function is, as its name indicates, to work with and to assist, by every means in its power, the new Assemblies, in their development and consolidation, and to respond to appeals from the older, longer established Assemblies.

A circular letter of introduction and greeting has been sent by the Committee to the Local Assemblies, and a bi-monthly bulletin is now being compiled for issue to all members of the Assemblies. This will contain carefully constructed plans and decisions of the Committee; articles on general administrative matters and the uses and function of the various Bahá'í Institutions. By this means the A.D.C. hopes to establish close contact between itself and the Local Assemblies.

Summer School being still a recent memory, it would seem fitting for the A.D.C. to stress the importance of this particular Institution of the Faith. Of the three annual gatherings, it is at Summer School only that the friends are afforded the opportunity and time in which to deepen the existing ties of the scattered Bahá'í family by daily contact with its members; exchange ideas

and enter into prolonged discussion of ways and means of strengthening themselves and thus the Communities; and to further their knowledge and understanding of the Teachings and Administration by attendance at lectures given by our most experienced teachers and speakers.

The needs of the Six Year Plan and the achievement of the goals for this year are uppermost in all our minds. That the strength and virility of the newly established Assemblies is vital to the successful conclusion of these aims is apparent. Whole-heartedly, the A.D.C. calls to the Bahá'í Communities to "vie with one another" in progressive expansion and activity. "Theirs is an unspeakably thrilling task, an awe-inspiring obligation, a priceless opportunity."

NATIONAL YOUTH COMMITTEE.

The first meeting of the National Youth Committee was held in Manchester on June 7th and 8th, and a great deal of work was done. This included the planning of Youth Day at Summer School, discussion of the establishment of three new Local Youth Committees, and studying the possibilities of holding another Regional Youth Conference.

Youth Day at Summer School was held on Saturday, August 23rd. The Youth attendance at Summer School broke all records; a full report will be included in the next issue.

The programme was as follows:

10.00—11.00 a.m. Symposium of Youth Speakers; Theme: "Youth in the Modern Age."

11.15 a.m.—12.45 p.m. Youth Correspondents Reports; "The Functioning of the National Youth Committee."

Afternoon. Organised Outdoor Recreation.

8.00—9.00 p.m. Dramatic Script and Pianoforte Recital.

9.00—12.00 p.m. Late entertainment, possibly dancing.

The fourth issue of the Bahá'í Youth Bulletin, Vol. 2, No. 2, has now been distributed. Over 400 copies were dispatched in the first instance and further orders have been promised from Persia and India. Of a total of over 1200 copies of the Bulletin sold in this country to date, 6 Groups and Communities have sold less than 50 each; the largest number has been sold by Nottingham—nearly 350 copies. Eritrea and Addis Ababa have been added to our overseas list, bringing the total of countries reached up to 38.

A travelling record for the Faith in this country was set up by our Chairman recently, who travelled over 1000 miles in 10 days. This included travel to an N.S.A. Meeting in London, an N.Y.C. meeting in Manchester, an N.T.C. meeting in Birmingham and a Public Meeting in Dublin—to which he had to go by air!



MEMBERS OF THE FIRST SPIRITUAL ASSEMBLY OF THE BAHÁ'IS OF BLACKBURN

MEMBERSHIP OF NATIONAL COMMITTEES

NATIONAL TEACHING COMMITTEE. Mary Basil Hall (*Chairman*), David Hofman (*Secretary*), Robert Cheek, Connie Langdon Davies, Philip Hainsworth, Walter Wilkins.

ASSEMBLY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE. Richard Backwell (*Chairman*), Alma Gregory (*Secretary*), Hasan Balyuzi, Dorothy Ferraby, Vivian Isenthal, Betty Reed.

SUMMER SCHOOL COMMITTEE. Hasan Balyuzi (*Chairman*), Dorothy Ferraby (*Secretary*), Richard Backwell, Reg. Coulson, Hugh McKinley, Muriel Matthews, Nellie Winstanley.

NATIONAL YOUTH COMMITTEE. Philip Hainsworth (*Chairman*), Janet Howes (*Secretary*), Florence Bladon (*Assistant Secretary*), Nancy Cooper, Gerald Lee-Hill, Hassan Sabri.

BAHA'I JOURNAL COMMITTEE. Richard Backwell (*Chairman*), Betty Reed (*Secretary*), John Ferraby (*Editor*).

CHILD EDUCATION COMMITTEE. Geraldine Cooper (*Chairman*), Lizzie Lacey (*Secretary*), Walter Baines, Annice Hainsworth.

NATIONAL SCRIPTS COMMITTEE. Hasan Balyuzi (*Chairman*), Mary Basil Hall (*Secretary*), Kathleen Hyett.

NATIONAL ARCHIVES COMMITTEE. Hasan Balyuzi (*Chairman and Secretary*), Abbas Dehkan, Susan Kilford, May Cheesman.

REVIEWING COMMITTEE. Florence Pinchon (*Secretary*), Richard Backwell, Hasan Balyuzi, Constance Langdon-Davies.

LITERATURE FOR THE BLIND COMMITTEE. Mrs. George H. Hainsworth (*Chairman*), Marjorie Naylor (*Secretary*), Mr. and Mrs. Herbert Stone.

BAHA'I WORLD COMMITTEE. David Hofman (*Chairman*), Betty Reed (*Secretary*), Richard Backwell.

CONTACTS COMMITTEE. Alfred Sugar (*Chairman*), Ada Williams (*Secretary*), John Hargreaves, Walter Wilkins.

CONVENTION ARRANGEMENTS COMMITTEE. Dorothy Ferraby (*Chairman*), Donald Millar (*Secretary*), Mina James.

BAHA'I PUBLISHING TRUST COMMITTEES

EDITORIAL COMMITTEE. David Hofman (*Chairman and Secretary*), John Ferraby, Kathleen Hornell.

BUSINESS MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE. David Hofman (*Chairman*), Reginald Coulson (*Vice-Chairman*), Betty Yool (*Treasurer and Secretary*), Robert Yool.

PREPARATION OF NEW BELIEVERS

In preparing an applicant for membership of the Bahá'í Community, it is essential that he should be given the Will and Testament of 'Abdu'l-Bahá to read and it is strongly to be recommended that an experienced Bahá'í should go through the Will with him, explaining any points about which he is not clear. This should not be done, however, until the student has achieved a sound understanding of the Cause and his faith in its truth is awakened. Loyal and steadfast adherence to every clause of the Will is laid down by the Guardian, as one of the qualifications needed for acceptance into the Bahá'í Community. It is inadmissible to make any further conditions beyond the ones contained in this passage, namely:

"Full recognition of the station of the Forerunner, the Author and the True Exemplar of the Bahá'í Cause, as set forth in 'Abdu'l-Bahá's Testament; unreserved acceptance of, and submission to, whatsoever has revealed by their Pen; loyal and steadfast adherence to every clause of our Beloved's sacred Will; and close association with the spirit as well as the form of the present day Bahá'í administration throughout the world."

No Assembly may insist that an applicant read a certain book nor that he should have an understanding of some arbitrarily selected teaching. It is necessary, however, to be sure that he understands the things he declares he believes. The Guardian has himself written a commentary on these points under the title "The Dispensation of Bahá'u'lláh." In the opinion of the National Assembly, while the reading of the book cannot be made a condition of membership, it is highly desirable that any applicant shall be familiar with the contents of "The Dispensation of Bahá'u'lláh."

It is clear that a mere intellectual acceptance of what are sometimes called the "principles" of the Faith is not sufficient. Something far deeper than this is required, a spiritual realisation of the Message of God for this age. One who has fully achieved this spiritual acceptance of the Cause will want to obey every one of the teachings of Bahá'u'lláh. This is made clear by the Guardian in the "Advent of Divine Justice" where he says, addressing the future pioneers of the first American Seven Year Plan: "Let him refrain, at the outset, from insisting on such laws and observances as might impose too severe a strain on the seeker's newly-awakened faith, and endeavour to nurse him, patiently, tactfully, and yet determinedly, into full maturity, and aid him to proclaim his unqualified acceptance of whatever has been ordained by Bahá'u'lláh. Let him, as soon as that stage has been attained, introduce him to the body of his fellow-believers . . ."

It is possible to accept Bahá'u'lláh as a Manifestation of God without having a full understanding of His teachings. Who can claim to have fathomed the depths of His Revelation? To accept the divine station of Bahá'u'lláh without also accepting all his teachings is not possible, but it is important to distinguish between accepting the teachings and obeying them. A man who says that he believes in Bahá'u'lláh but thinks He was wrong about spiritualism cannot be a true believer; the man who accepts Bahá'u'lláh but finds himself incapable of giving up drinking may believe in Bahá'u'lláh with his whole being. No one save 'Abdu'l-Bahá ever lived a perfect Bahá'í life, nor will anyone succeed in doing this in the future. In the case of grave moral misconduct, however, it is the National Assembly's understanding of the Guardian's instructions that the applicant may be asked to reform his ways before he is admitted into the Bahá'í community.

Finally, let us remember that the preparation of a new believer for acceptance is only the first step in his education as a Bahá'í. The Guardian, in the passage from the "Advent of Divine Justice" quoted above, does not stop at the point when the new believer has been introduced to the community but instructs the pioneers to "seek through constant fellowship and active participation in the local activities of his community, to enable him to contribute his share to the enrichment of its life, the furtherance of its tasks, the consolidations of its interests, and the co-ordination of its activities with those of its sister communities. Let him not be content until he has infused into his spiritual child so deep a longing as to impel him to arise independently, in his turn, and devote his energies to the quickening of other souls, and the upholding of the laws and principles laid down by his newly adopted Faith."* Where there is an established local Assembly it must surely be the duty of the Assembly to aid new believers to develop in this way!

**The whole of this passage is quoted in its context in Bahá'í Journal No. 56 for June, 1946.*

ADDITIONS TO THE COMMUNITY.

We regret that the names of new members of the British Bahá'í Community have been inadvertently omitted from the Journal since the January issue. Registration cards have since then been received from the following, whom we welcome into the community:

Mrs. Stella Mintz	...Manchester
Mr. Frank Leetch	...
Mrs. Annie Mitton	...Birmingham
Mrs. Mabel Hall	...Bristol

Mrs. Catherine Turnbull	...Manchester
Mr. William Goldsborough	...
Mrs. Beatrice Ingham	...
Mr. Harold Ingham	...
Miss Florence Bladon	... (Youth)
Mrs. Minnie Rowbottom	...Bradford
Mrs. Annice Hainsworth	...
Mr. John Henshaw	...Nottingham
Miss Vajdiet Mohtadi	...Birmingham (from Iran)
Mr. Kiumars Ostovār	...St. Mary Cray (Youth, from Iran)
Mr. George Rowley	...Birmingham
Mr. Fred Stahler	...Manchester
Mr. Gerald Lee	...Leeds
Mrs. Theodora Leetch	...Manchester
Mrs. Ellen Sutton	...
Mrs. Muriel Watkins	...Blackburn
Mr. H. Robinson	...Manchester
Mr. Theodore Twycross	...Bournemouth
Mr. Cedric Hargreaves	...Blackburn
Mrs. Ada Norman	...Bournemouth
Mr. George Mabbutt	...London

Secretarial Assistance

The Administrative work of the Faith is increasing to such an extent that, now David Hofman is no longer doing full time work for the Cause, it has been necessary to engage a secretarial assistant. Betty Reed, of Northampton, has agreed to undertake this work. She will be used by the National Teaching Committee and will spend part of the week in the same town as the Secretary of that Committee.

BYE-ELECTION TO THE NATIONAL SPIRITUAL ASSEMBLY

A Bye-election to the National Spiritual Assembly became necessary as Marion Hofman was prevented by domestic ties from attending Assembly meetings. The voting was as follows:

Connie Langdon Davies 4
Louis Rosenfield 3
Robert Cheek 3
Isobel Slade 2
Walter Wilkins 2
Alma Gregory 1
Kathleen Hornell 1
George Townshend 1

Two delegates did not vote.

NOW READY

KITÁB-I-IQÁN (BOOK OF CERTITUDE) BY BAHÁ'U'LLÁH.

Bound in cloth with gilt lettering—7s. 6d.

THE BAHÁ'Í WORLD

ABYSSINIA. Sabri Elias, pioneer in Addis Ababa, recently wrote a brief account of the development of the Cause in Abyssinia. An Egyptian of Alexandria, unschooled, a Bahá'í of 25 years standing, now aged 40, Sabri Elias first went to Abyssinia in 1934, remained two years, achieved an Assembly and had books including "Bahá'u'lláh and the New Era" printed in the Abyssinian language. When that country was invaded he had to go back to Egypt. On return to Abyssinia early in 1946 he found the few believers were dispersed and only one, the former Chairman, firm in the Faith, living at Asmara. Since his return many have been attracted and some become believers. He has high hopes of an early reconstitution of the Assembly in spite of adverse conditions.

AUSTRIA. U.S. Forces in Austria have given permission for the propagation of the Bahá'í Faith.

BULGARIA. Miss Jack recently wrote: "Four or five of the women, and some of the men from Roberts College, Constantinople, seem deeply attracted to the Cause. Time will tell how much."

GERMANY. Believers in Stuttgart now number more than 120. A recent stirring youth report contained the following special points:—In the beginning of 1946 there were 3 Youth Groups and 20 youth, now there are 8 Groups and 120 youth, mostly in the U.S. Zone. In the British Zone the only reported activity is in Hamburg. The report spoke of "few connections" in the Russian Zone, "promising efforts" in the French Zone. The first Youth Summer School was highly successful, "the turning point of the last year." A 93 page typewritten compilation from books about Bahá'í History has been prepared for circulation, a fact that illustrates the acute shortage of literature, due to severe lack of printing paper and licenses to print. The Bahá'í Youth Letter has an authorised circulation of 100 copies for the one issue so far permitted.

INDIA. National Headquarters has now moved to New Delhi and a deal has been effected for purchase of a property for National Haziratu'l-Quds for Rs. 600,000 (approximately £45,000) of which about half has so far been collected. The transfer of headquarters, the consequent centralisation, the purchase of Hazira and the transfer of national committees to it "must synchronise with a remarkable, and indeed unprecedented, intensification of effort . . . designed to arouse the masses . . ."

"The purpose underlying the revelation of every heavenly Book, nay of every divinely-revealed verse, is to endue all men with righteousness and understanding, so that peace and tranquillity may be firmly established amongst them. Whatsoever instilleth assurance into the hearts of men, whatsoever exalteth their station or promoteth their contentment, is acceptable in the sight of God."

Gleanings from the Writings of Baha'u'llah.

The Guardian cabled "Opening phase historic Plan victoriously concluded." Goals for this year are (1) Strengthen 13 established communities, (2) Establish 14 new communities, and (3) Strengthen or create Groups at 15 places.

During the year 103, books sold or distributed numbered 4370 and pamphlets 18,600.

At Convention a most moving scene was witnessed as the following extract from the report will show: "There was a blending of the different views, all focussed toward one common aim—service to God's Cause . . . It needed an outlet for expression. That offered itself in the subject of the National Haziratu'l-Quds. . . One of the friends offered a property which represented all his life's savings. One Assembly offered to bear the total cost of the next Convention and later accepted the suggestion to divert this sum to the National Haziratu'l-Quds Fund. A gold ring was offered by one Bahá'í to him who contributed the highest amount to the . . . Fund. The winner of this prize, the Bahá'í who contributed the cash proceeds of the sale of his property, turned over the ring to the N.S.A. to be submitted to our beloved Guardian in humble token of this memorable occasion. A Bahá'í girl offered her gold necklace which was bought up by another Bahá'í for a sum of Rs. 1000 and offered to the N.S.A. for dispatch to Haifa in like remembrance of this auspicious day. Other children brought in their gifts to be sold and dedicated to the National Haziratu'l-Quds Fund. So intense was the enthusiasm and love and unity that animated the delegates that a three-hour session almost doubled itself without the friends being aware of it or yet prepared to leave."

ITALY. Bahá'í strength is now six believers, with Philip and June Marangella newly arrived pioneers to reinforce the two first pioneers and the brothers Augusto and Rodolfo Salvetti, first enrolments under the new Seven Year Plan.

MOROCCO. Marie Claudet, Swiss by birth, French by marriage, and a former member of the Assembly of Guayaquil in Ecuador, has gone to join her parents in Oued Yquem in French Morocco, where she hopes to pioneer.

SWITZERLAND. Many friends well known here have been visiting Geneva. They include Bruce Davison, Johnny Eichenauer, Muriel Matthews and Manoutchehr Zabih.

"From the exalted source; and out of the essence of His favour and bounty, He hath entrusted every created thing with a sign of His knowledge, so that none of His creatures may be deprived of its share in expressing, each according to its capacity and rank, this knowledge. This sign is the mirror of His beauty in the world of creation."

Words of Bahá'u'lláh.