

BAHÁ'Í JOURNAL

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Bahá'í Year 103

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ORGANISING ON A NEW BASIS

Dear Bahá'í Friends,

As the Six Year Plan gathers momentum, it becomes more and more apparent that it is forcing us to reconsider our association as fellow believers in the glorious mission of Bahá'u'aaáh. The N.S.A., seeing an overall picture of our work, is very conscious of this new need, which has been most clearly stated in the Guardian's recent directive of May 29th. (Bahá'í Journal No. 57).

"The Guardian takes the keenest interest in your Six Year Plan, and he wishes me to point out to you certain things in this connection: if the important goals of new assemblies are to be achieved, he feels you will have to organise the work on a new basis. England stands, one might say, on the brink of a new phase of Bahá'í life; the long years of war are over, the friends are not only awakened to a sense of their responsibilities, but have increased in numbers, in zeal, and in unity; there are a number—a growing number—of people who are anxious to do pioneer work. What is needed is a planned and consistent form of teaching and administrative support of the activities your assembly is inaugurating."

The N.S.A., as explained in the last Journal, is earnestly striving to develop these new methods. Our every meeting is a fresh effort to co-ordinate more fully the work of National Committees, to provide channels of consultation between the local and National Assemblies, to dedicate the resources of the National Fund to the Six Year Plan, to encourage a new efficiency and vigour in all branches of the national work, and to seek within our own body and with the friends as a whole a higher standard of unity and loving action.

Following the Guardian's clear instructions, contained in this same letter, we have directed and empowered the N.T.C. to offer every assistance, both financial and moral, to those who will arise to pioneer; at the same time enlisting

and supporting the efforts of an ever-increasing army of travelling teachers. No longer need any volunteer in Bahá'u'lláh's army work alone and unaided, but rather will he find the full and unstinted resources of the Cause at his back. To the utmost of our ability we are striving to fulfil the Guardian's behest: "The National Assembly, through and with its National Teaching Committee, should take immediate steps to get pioneers out into the Goal Towns and teachers circulating about, to not only support and inaugurate the new work, but to stimulate the existing assemblies and groups, and help them to expand." But as always in the work of the Cause, this new campaign needs the fullest support of every individual.

FROM THE GUARDIAN.

From Summer School the following cable was sent:

Summer School greets beloved Guardian, loving devotion. Attendance 110; 30 non-Bahá'ís. 9 Goal Towns, Scotland and Ireland represented. Friends from Holland, France, Egypt, Persia, many youth. School distinguished unity in diversity, dedication serious purpose. Beg prayers worthiness fulfil your hopes this pivotal year.

To which the Guardian replied on August 8th: Overjoyed. Praying ever increasing success. Deepest appreciation high endeavours.—Shoghi. From the National Assembly meeting on August 19th this cable was sent:

Summer School produced five new believers. Sixteen now required achieve objective five Goal Towns. Loving Devotion.

To which the Guardian replied on August 25th:

Delighted. Urge utmost sacrifice provide requirements Goal Towns. Praying success.—Shoghi.

What is increasingly borne in upon us is the organic nature of the community. That is to say, we are one living body, in which every believer is a cell, every group and every assembly an organ. The full effort of every single unit in that body is needed for the maximum effect, and these efforts must all be unified and directed to the same end. Its no use a leg trying to go one way, an arm saying "I'll do it in this way" and so on; organic effort is needed, and that is only achieved through the Administrative Order.

We ask you to bear this continually in mind, so that whenever opportunities for service present themselves, you will consult with the appropriate committee. For instance, some believers have offered to spend their holidays teaching. In consultation with the N.T.C., plans were worked out with them, so that their efforts were applied at the best points to serve the Plan. By doing this instead of going off on

their own, a much greater service has been rendered.

We should always remember too, that our work in the British Isles is part of the world activity of the Cause. All over the world the Cause of God is on the march, and we are a unit in that army. Our particular job is the Six Year Plan, and unless we win it we shall be dragging back the world community.

Teaching reports of the past few months show that a large number of believers have served as pioneers, teachers, chairmen, with exhibitions, and in many other ways. This is most encouraging, and the results prove what will happen when every single believer becomes active. "All must arise." None need be a passenger in this ship; all can do some useful work. Unified action is the key of this "new basis," and through it a great community effort will achieve the goals of the Six Year Plan.

NATIONAL SPIRITUAL ASSEMBLY.

"ORGANISE YE SPIRITUAL ASSEMBLIES."

Since our last report in mid-July, important progress has been made toward the achievement of goals for this Bahá'í year. We can catch a glimpse of the growing momentum in the list of pioneer settlements since Convention, at least eight of which should be accomplished by the time this record is published:

- | | | |
|-----------------------|--|-----------------|
| (1) Walter Wilkins | Birmingham | July 14th |
| (2) Alma Gregory | Northampton | August 20th |
| (3) Una Townshend | Dublin | September 16th |
| (4) Robert Cheek | Bournemouth | September 24th |
| (5) David Hofman | Birmingham | October 3rd |
| (6) Marion Hofman | Birmingham | October 3rd |
| (7) Philip Hainsworth | Nottingham | During October |
| (8) Claire Gung | Northampton | By November 2nd |
| (9) Isobel Locke | (Coming from U.S.A. by the Guardian's wish). | |
| (10) Prudence George | (Coming from Canada by the Guardian's wish). | |

In addition, the Teaching Committee is delighted that Jack Harper has settled permanently in Blackburn, one of our goal towns.

On the eve of departure Robert Cheek shared these heartening words with us: "I've heard it said of the British worker that he would rather lose his life than his job, even a bad one, and in a sense there's a lot of truth in it. We do not like changing our jobs, but if I lose my 'old life' I know I shall find a fuller new one." And later: "I know if I can succeed in this task, I shall have learned and grasped much, that normally might have taken years."

From DUBLIN Una Townshend has shared the good news of a job and flat. With the valued reinforcement of her father, Archdeacon Townshend, and already some teaching help through a holiday visit and new contacts from Lila G. Miller, Dublin gives promise of future Bahá'í

victories.

In Scotland regular teaching has been initiated by Dr. M. Said, our Egyptian brother who so endeared himself at Summer School. On September 25th, Philip Hainsworth visited EDINBURGH to assist with the opening fireside, eight attending. These included 6 contacts who "are very promising" and there are at least 6 others interested. A public meeting is planned for November, and the Committee hopes to be able to send a pioneer to help Dr. Said.

There are now seven organised Bahá'í Groups in the goal towns, with new Groups formed since Summer School in Birmingham, Leeds, Liverpool and St. Ives. (Northampton, Blackburn and Nottingham were already formed). Officers have been elected, Nineteen Day Feasts are celebrated, and regular meetings are held, thus giving the Groups valuable preparation for their functioning as Spiritual Assemblies. The true significance of our work in the goal towns can be glimpsed in these mighty words by Abdu'l-Bahá: "*Organise ye Spiritual Assemblies: lay ye the foundation of union and concord in the world: destroy ye the fabric of strife and war from the face of the earth: construct ye the temple of harmony and agreement.*" While mankind trembles at the prospect of war, the believers clear the way to enduring peace!

In the eight weeks from August 11th to October 6th, there have been 45 meetings in every goal town and Assembly using 13 outside teachers working in co-operation with the N.T.C. We are especially indebted to Hassan Sabri who assisted nine communities in North and South during his summer vacation, including a teaching project of two weeks in Liverpool; to Jack

Harper, just returned from India, who has shared his valuable experiences with the friends in six Northern towns; and to Richard Backwell who assisted the Northampton Bahá'í Seminar and the Altrincham Exhibition, in addition to other meetings. We welcome Una Coward to the travelling teaching field, and are pleased to enlist Walter Baines, Joan Smith and John Hargraves in our teacher training programme. Hugh McKinley and his mother had planned to devote a week's holiday to teaching in Liverpool and the North, and we feel greatly the temporary loss of their service because of Hugh's accident.

The spirit which moves this growing band of teachers is vividly phrased by Muriel Matthews: "This is the first time that I have done Exhibition work and hope it will not be the last. May those who are rather shy of doing public work have no fear, just take the step and help will be given if one has the desire to give the Message. It is a duty we have to God and man."

Mr. and Mrs. Herbert Stone, of Bradford, are contributing to our work through Braille transcriptions of Bahá'í literature. They have just completed the pamphlet, "The Bahá'í Faith."

The following teaching bulletins are ready and will soon be distributed:

Bulletin No. I.—"Contacts with Individuals and Groups."

Bulletin No. II.—"The Rostrum Technique of Training Bahá'í Speakers."

As a suggestion from Summer School, we are developing a schedule of regular meetings held by Assemblies, Groups, and other goal towns in the British Isles. When completed it will greatly facilitate interchange of visitors between our Bahá'í communities and should strengthen the work of the Plan.

Now for a few highlights from the communities:

NORTHAMPTON has provided a new teaching pattern in its Bahá'í Seminar, August 31st–September 6th. Activities embraced an opening picnic, a Brains Trust, public meeting at Carnegie Hall, an intensive study course on the Faith for four consecutive nights (the Seminar), and three firesides. Some notable results were the deepening of the believers through study and practice teaching, the participation of 26 non-Bahá'ís in the informal and study meetings (excluding the public ones), the development of several promising students, and further broadcasting of the Faith in the community. Speakers and teachers included Hasan Balyuzi, Richard Backwell, Philip Hainsworth, Marion and David Hofman and Una Coward; while non-Bahá'í Brains Trusters were Mrs. Lucy Todd, a Friend, and W. J. Bassett-Lowke, eminent engineer.

ALTRINCHAM is holding a Bahá'í Exhibition from October 1st–6th, sponsored by the Manchester Assembly. It is being opened by a showing of films related to Bahá'í principles, with commentary by Louis Rosenfield; and a

public meeting with Richard Backwell will also be held. Other speakers sent by the N.T.C. since August include Hassam Sabri, Marcel Mihailoff, and Jack Harper.

TORQUAY carried out intensive teaching from September 17th to 23rd, when six meetings here and in Exeter were held. These included a public meeting at Pengelly Hall, a joint service of Free Christians and Bahá'ís in the Unitarian Chapel, and talks for the Fellowship of Reconciliation and a holiday conference of the Christian Endeavour. Our warm friends, Mr. and Mrs. Townsend, arranged the outside dates. Bahá'í speakers were Marion and David Hofman and Hasan Balyuzi.

BOURNEMOUTH is the "target area" of our new settler, Robert Cheek, whose addition will be an immeasurable help to the consolidation of this Assembly as desired by the Guardian. In mid-September two successful firesides were held at Mrs. Cranmer's, addressed by Hassan Sabri, attracting 17 and 13 respectively, "and nearly all were new contacts."

LIVERPOOL has held monthly public meetings with the help of Hassan Sabri, Evelyn Baxter, and Jack Harper, arranged an outstanding date for Hassan with the IFL section of the Esperanto Group (20 present); is holding a weekly study class, and is carrying on intensive individual teaching with several contacts.

BIRMINGHAM held two firesides in September, addressed by Walter Wilkins and Una Coward, and also sponsored a Bahá'í picnic with outside guests. Speaking dates with the City of Birmingham Conservative Association and the West Bromwich Discussion Group have been arranged by courtesy of Dennis Ward for late October, while Walter Wilkins has been carrying out individual and group contacts.

NOTTINGHAM has conducted fortnightly meetings with local friends sharing the platform, and Vivian Isenthal spoke on September 29th. In Ilkeston, Mrs. Lacey, Ernest Lacey, and Hassan Sabri have been co-operating with a promising youth group, resulting in some interesting publicity and a fireside at the Lacey home.

LEEDS Group is meeting twice weekly, for business and firesides, and many inquirers are consistently attracted. Mr. Scott has made a promising contact in South Wales while on holiday.

ST. IVES attracted 14 non-Bahá'ís for a public meeting with Hassan Sabri, Bernard Leach, and Ursula Newman as speakers, accompanied by excellent newspaper accounts.

BLACKBURN and BLACKPOOL have recently presented Jack Harper and Hassan Sabri in fireside meetings, and Blackburn's public fortnightly meetings have been resumed.

BRISTOL reports the exciting news of a new believer, Mrs. Mary Lambert, who opened her home on September 21st for a fireside attended

by nine. Dora Weeks is advertising weekly for inquirers and has placed Bahá'í books in the Bristol Public and University Libraries. Both friends have joined adult classes to increase contacts. Writes Mrs. Weeks: "We are being assisted from all sides, and it makes one feel so supremely happy and confirmed."

Beloved friends, are not the promises of the Master being visibly fulfilled on every side?

"... Each of these souls shall be regarded as one thousand persons and the waves of this greatest ocean shall be considered as the army of the hosts of the Supreme Concourse."

NATIONAL TEACHING COMMITTEE.

New Believers.

Registration cards have now been received from the following, whom we welcome into the community: Mrs. Evelyn Brown and Miss Doris Gould of Manchester; Mr. Eric Manton of Northampton; Mr. George Hainsworth, Mrs. Lizzie Hainsworth, and Miss Marjorie Wood of Bradford; Mr. Walter Baines and Mr. Marcel Mihailoff of Leeds; Mrs. Emmeline Townsend of Torquay; Mr. Brian Townshend of Eire and London; and Mrs. Mary Lambert of Bristol. We welcome also Miss Mahboubeh Shakib from Persia, who is studying in Birmingham; Mr. M. Javid and Miss P. Ettehadieh, also from Persia, who are on an extended visit to London.

BAHÁ'Í YOUTH.

Most of the friends will already have seen the first number of the Bahá'í Youth Bulletin by the time this Journal appears. Should anyone not have seen it, copies can be obtained from the Business Manager, Miss Janet Howes, 22, Kingsley Road, Northampton, at 6d. each. This number of the Bulletin has been widely circulated both at home and overseas.

The Committee is now planning a Youth Conference to take place some time early in 1947. Its objects will be to stimulate youth activities, attract the attention of other youth organisations and generally to obtain the views of Bahá'í Youth.

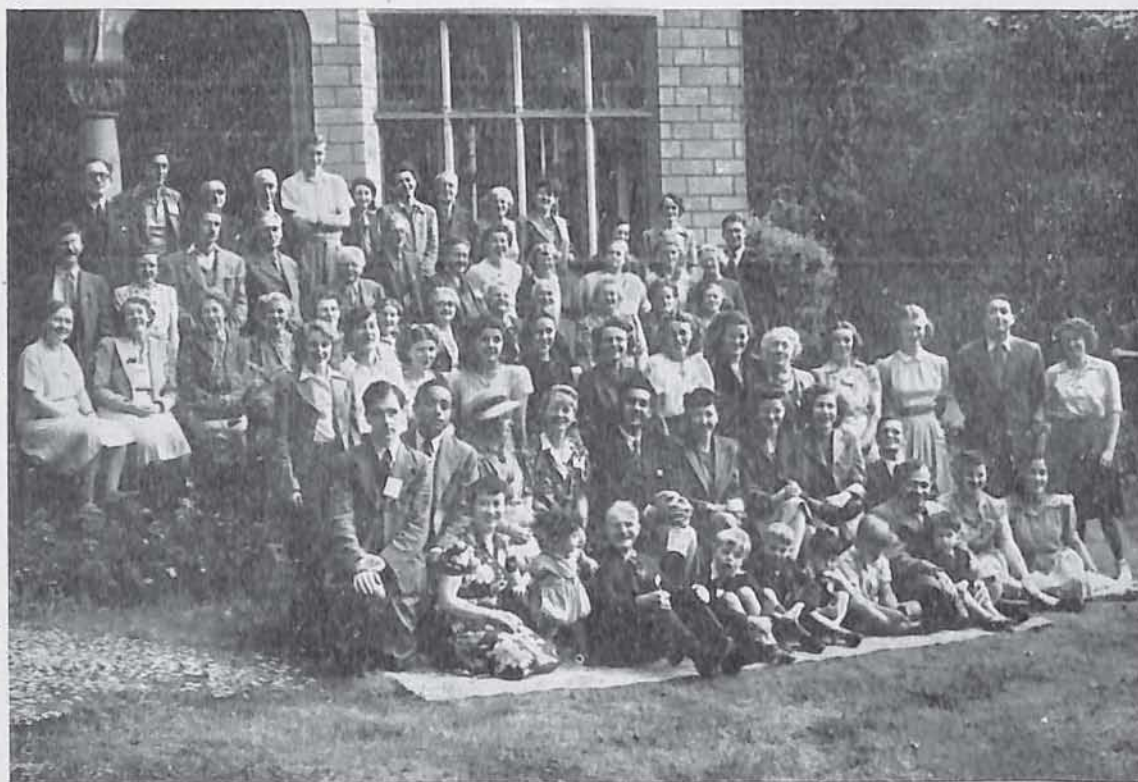
Meanwhile the Committee has circulated two letters to the Bahá'í Youth of this country and has been carrying on a large correspondence with Bahá'í Youth overseas. Countries contacted include India, Germany, Egypt and Persia.

NATIONAL YOUTH COMMITTEE.

Summer School Committee.

A committee has been appointed to take full responsibility for organising Summer School next year, including the taking of a suitable place. The members are as follows:—

D. Hofman (Chairman); A. Norton (Vice-Chairman); Mrs. D. Ferraby (Secretary); H. M. Balyuzi, Mrs. M. Hofman, H. McKinley, Mrs. M. Matthews, P. Wilkinson, and Miss N. Winstanley.



BAHÁ'Í SUMMER SCHOOL, 1946. CROMFORD COURT, MATLOCK BATH—FIRST WEEK.



BAHÁ'Í SUMMER SCHOOL, 1946. CROMFORD COURT, MATLOCK BATH—SECOND WEEK.

IMPRESSIONS OF SUMMER SCHOOL.

The Bahá'í Summer School held at Cromford Court, Matlock Bath from July 27th–August 10th. We print below the impressions of one of the 110 people who attended it.

Summer School provides the unique experience of living in a Bahá'í community. The spirit of unity and love is so strong that all material and human shortcomings disappear and the true expression of unity in diversity remains. All kinds of temperaments and tastes were represented; several nationalities, counties and accents; old and young, quiet and boisterous; artists, musicians, actors, dancers, athletes, philosophers and business men; English, Irish, Scottish, French, Dutch, American, Persian, Egyptian and German believers and a number of interested friends.

The programme had been carefully and wisely planned and the lectures were, on the whole, of a higher standard than at previous Summer Schools. Discussion was lively and not confined to one or two speakers. The series of talks on "The Way of God" was both interesting and instructive. At these sessions it could be realised that a Bahá'í Summer School is the embryo of the Bahá'í Universities of the future.

The course devoted to the Six Year Plan was very constructive and made us all feel deeply involved in its responsibilities. One was con-

cious that the whole community had woken up, stretched itself and after the spiritual refreshment of Summer School would set out to fulfil its obligations with renewed vigour.

The evenings were very varied and unsuspected talent was brought to light, as well as music and songs from those who are known for having these gifts. Community singing filled in every space. There were three dramatic readings and the last, devoted to the Heroines of the Faith, combined miming by Molly Balyuzi and incidental music by a small choir trained and led by Arnold Van Ogtrop.

Saturday, August 3rd, was Youth Day, and was a great success. The day was mainly devoted to a serious programme, but finished with a triumphant parade of impromptu fancy dress.

The weather was not too kind but was fine both Wednesdays when we went for day excursions and explored neighbouring caves and the beautiful countryside.

The last evening was a fitting climax to the fortnight. After three talks on the pioneers of Egypt, Persia and America by nationals of these countries, Lucienne Migette from France and Arnold Van Ogtrop from Holland told of the terrible war years in these countries, and Jacqueline Cristi spoke in English with charm and sincerity. The evening closed with prayers and readings in English, Egyptian, French, Dutch and Arnold Van Ogtrop sang a beautiful Swedish prayer.

The only sad thing about Summer School was saying good-bye to so many friends—but there is the joy of meeting again next year to look forward to and plans are already afoot for Summer School, 1947.

Summer School—Lost Property.

Three items, sent on by the staff at Cromford Court, await claimants. A towel, with embroidered initial S in blue, a man's white shirt with no size or markings, a pair of ladies' navy blue kid shoes, small size.

Please write to: The Secretary, Summer School Committee, Bahá'í Centre, 1, Victoria Street, S.W.1.

TEACHING CONFERENCE.

Teaching Conference this year will be held in Manchester on January 4th and 5th. Last year's Conference was said by the Guardian to mark a turning point in the Six Year Plan; it is hoped that as many people as possible will attend this year and make the Conference equally successful. Those wishing accommodation to be booked for them should let the Secretary of the Manchester Assembly (Bahá'í Centre, 39, High Street, Manchester 4) know before 13th December.

National Reference Library.

The National Assembly has decided to start a national reference library which will be made as complete as possible.

National Lending Library.

The following books have been added to the National Lending Library: "The Earth One Country," by Emeric Sala; "Bahá'u'llah and the New Era," German and Polish editions.

O PEOPLE OF BAHÁ

"O friends! Be not careless of the virtues with which ye have been endowed, neither be neglectful of your high destiny . . . Ye are the stars of the heaven of understanding, the breeze that stirreth at the break of day, the soft-flowing waters upon which must depend the very life of all men, the letters inscribed upon His sacred scroll."

"O people of Bahá! Ye are the breezes of spring that are wafted over the world. Through you we have adorned the world of being with the ornament and the knowledge of the Most Merciful. Through you the countenance of the world hath been wreathed in smiles, and the brightness of His light shone forth. Cling ye to the Cord of steadfastness, in such wise that all vain imaginings may utterly vanish. Speed ye forth from the horizon of power, in the name of your Lord, the Unconstrained, and announce unto His servants, with wisdom and eloquence,

the tidings of this Cause, whose splendour hath been shed upon the world of being. Beware lest anything withhold you from observing the things prescribed unto you by the Pen of Glory, as it moved over His Tablet with sovereign majesty and might. Great is the blessedness of him that hath hearkened to its shrill voice, as it was raised, through the power of truth, before all who are in heaven and all who are on earth . . .

O people of Bahá! The river that is Life indeed hath flowed for your sakes. Quaff ye in My name, despite them that have disbelieved in God, the Lord of Revelation. We have made you to be the hands of our Cause. Render ye victorious this Wronged One, Who hath been sore-tried in the hands of the workers of iniquity. He, verily, will aid every one that aideth Him, and will remember anyone that remembereth Him. To this beareth witness this Tablet that hath shed the splendour of the loving-kindness of your Lord, the All-Glorious, the All-Compelling."

THIS IS THE DAY.

"The purpose underlying all creation is the revelation of this sublime, this most holy Day, the Day known as the Day of God, in His Books and Scriptures—the Day which all the Prophets, and the chosen ones, and the holy ones, have wished to witness."

"This Day a door is open wider than both heaven and earth. The eye of the mercy of Him Who is the Desire of the World is turned towards all men. An act, however infinitesimal, is, when viewed in the mirror of the knowledge of God, mightier than a mountain. Every drop proffered in His path is as the sea in that mirror. For this is the Day which the one true God, glorified be He, hath announced in all His Books unto His Prophets and His Messengers."

"This is the day in which to speak. It is incumbent upon the people of Bahá to strive, with the utmost patience and forbearance, to guide the peoples of the world to the Most Great Horizon. Every body calleth aloud for a soul. Heavenly souls must needs quicken, with the breath of the Word of God, the dead bodies with a fresh spirit. Within every word a new spirit is hidden. Happy is the man that attaineth thereunto, and hath arisen to teach the Cause of Him Who is the King of Eternity."

(From "The Advent of Divine Justice").

In Memoriam.

"Ascend unto My heaven, that thou mayest obtain the joy of reunion, and from the chalice of imperishable glory quaff the peerless wine."

Miss C. Teal, Bradford—August, 1946.

STUDY COURSE.

The Study Course Committee has prepared an elementary course, designed for contacts studying the Faith or pioneers holding fireside meetings. The course consists of twelve lessons dealing with various aspects of the Teachings, and is based on three books: "Bahá'u'lláh and the New Era," "Paris Talks," and "The Unfoldment of World Civilisation." It is hoped to have it ready for distribution by the time this Journal appears, if not orders will be booked and filled as soon as possible. Send your orders to the Bahá'í Publishing Trust. The cost of the course alone is 6d., but a set of the course and the three books used can be had for the reduced price of 5/-.

Bahá'í News.

Owing to printing delays, the last issue of the Journal did not appear until after September 1st, by which date those wanting to receive the American Bahá'í News were asked to send their names to the National Secretary. As some friends may have thought it too late to write, the closing date has been extended to November 29th. Those already receiving Bahá'í News should send in their names if they wish to continue receiving it.

WORLD SPIRITUAL CONGRESS.

Brussels.

While Summer School was still on I was on my way to another International Religious gathering in Brussels. I was delegate for the British Bahá'ís to the World Spiritual Congress. This was a congress planned during the war after the Atlantic Charter had been declared, by some Belgian Theosophists and others to produce a Spiritual Charter for Humanity.

There were 65 delegates from Holland, France, Belgium, England, Italy, Portugal, Brazil and Java. There were three days of discussion

when papers were read representing the views of various religious organisations and an account of the Bahá'í Faith was read in French. After this a Committee drafted the final form of the charter from which the following are excerpts.

"Considering that so-called Christian society has been driven to the edge of a precipice through having systematically abandoned the laws of human solidarity and followed only material interests, completely neglecting the superior claims of the spirit. . . The World Spiritual Congress proclaims the following principles and rules constituting the Spiritual Charter of Humanity.

Religion Principle 3. "There is a similarity of doctrine in the fundamental principles of all religions and that of the highest morality. . .

Principle 4. The believers belonging to existing Churches should consider their common doctrines and search the veiled meanings of their Scriptures so that they can better practise the law of universal love in mutual love and understanding."

Science Rule 2 "True Religion is the Divine language by which the soul of the universe talks to the soul of man, true philosophy is its grammar, true science its technique and true art a demonstration of it."

Education Rule 3. "A real chance of developing the latent powers within should be given to each child without consideration of the financial or social position of its parents, and all systems of education should be conceived with the aim of awaking in the students a greater consciousness of the duties and responsibilities necessary to raise them to the rank of a World Citizen in the highest and noblest sense."

The congress decided to form a permanent bureau and to hold another congress next year. There was a very real spirit of desire for unity and to be the means of starting a spiritual revival, and there was a true feeling of Internationalism.

CONSTANCE LANGDON-DAVIES.

THE BAHÁ'Í WORLD

ABYSSINIA. An article on the Bahá'í Faith appeared on the front page of a newspaper published in Addis Abbaba in Arabic and Aramaic.

AUSTRALIA AND NEW ZEALAND. Three Summer Schools have been held during the past calendar year, two at Yerinbool and one at the Bahá'í Centre, Auckland. Attendances at Yerinbool were 15 and 24 respectively. On each occasion a non-Bahá'í accepted the Message while attending the school. Six new members have been welcomed into the community during the half-year ending April, 1946.

EGYPT. The passing on 1st March of two old

believers of Isma'iliyyih was made the occasion of a huge anti-Bahá'í demonstration. Notices were distributed, more than three thousand persons approached the house of the deceased to remove and destroy the body. It required a large force of armed police to disperse the crowd, which attacked houses belonging to Bahá'ís and stoned their business premises. The police escorted the body to the Bahá'í cemetery where it was buried according to Bahá'í rites, in spite of efforts made by relatives to inter it in a Moslem cemetery.

The remains of Mirza Abu'l Fazl, the great Bahá'í teacher, and of the pioneer Mrs. Lua Getsinger, were at last transferred to the Cairo

Bahá'í cemetery on 6th January. Their adjoining tombs face one east, one west, as directed by the Guardian. A special monument will be raised over them with design already approved. A feature of the monument will be a group of nine columns, forming one column, surmounted by a globe.

GERMANY. Two German Bahá'ís, prisoners of war in France, were sent Bahá'í books from the Geneva Bureau. One of them wrote, "Personally, it is a deep joy to me to receive letters from Bahá'ís, a ray of sunshine in this dark period, and a keen impulse to live for the Faith. How grateful I am to the Creator that He has permitted me to learn so early of His Cause! It has been my fortress and my refuge at the time when my comrades were sunk in despair and felt rudderless and despondent after the collapse of the Nazi religion. In those days, however, I did not dare to speak of the Faith and of love of one's fellow beings. It is only now that one begins occasionally to see some friendly faces, though even now not very often . . . I consider it God's greatest gift to me that at my eighteen years of age He has already permitted me to serve Him and bring real and enduring happiness to some souls."

INDIA AND BURMA. In India and Burma there are now 25 local assemblies, including the four re-established during the first three months of their 4½ Year Plan, i.e. by Ridván, 1946. Objectives for this year are to turn 12 groups into assemblies, develop 8 groups and consolidate three already established assemblies.

Fuller information is now available about Burma. In Rangoon, the Haziratu'l-Quds was destroyed. Those friends that were left, eighteen persons in all belonging to six families, met for the first time in four years on 20th October last for the anniversary of the Birthday of the Báb. The Mandalay Assembly Hall escaped destruction, but the property given to the Cause by Mustafa Roumi is in ruins. There are now 900 Bahá'í men, women and children in the village of Daidanaw. After the Burmese dacoits raided the village on 13th March, 1942, burnt down the school, the Haziratu'l-Quds and the houses of the Bahá'ís and murdered eleven Bahá'ís including Siyyid Mustafa Roumi, the Bahá'ís were scattered for a year before returning to rebuild.

IRAN. By permission of the Guardian the first annual convention of Bahá'í teachers was held this year in the National Haziratu'l-Quds at Tihlán during Ridván. Nineteen travelling teachers, seventy-one teachers of Tihlán and twenty-one local members of teaching and pioneer committees took part.

The Unity of East and West Committee has been given two tasks; to communicate with the press as well as scientific and literary societies

and institutions in foreign countries about the Baha'í Faith, and to get in touch with individual believers in places where no spiritual assembly exists.

For the year 102, very great activity was recorded of which only a few aspects are reproduced here. Abadih area, which has 14 assemblies and 19 groups, established four assemblies, formed six youth committees and started character training classes in twelve centres. Babul area distributed books and stationery among poor Bahá'í students, formed an adult class for illiterate Bahá'í women, maintained sixty-three children at the Bahá'í orphanage, administered fifteen character training classes. Isfahán area held two hundred weekly discussion groups making a hundred and ninety new contacts, organised eleven study groups for women and seven for men, each of five persons, held regular weekly evening debates, conducted thirteen weekly classes for children with a total regular attendance of nearly two hundred. Their youth committee now has seven sub-committees and runs active English and Arabic classes; it has formed three teaching groups, given twenty Bahá'í books to new libraries in Iran, and held the annual youth symposium with two hundred young Bahá'ís during the Intercalary Days. The Tihlán Teaching Committee organised seventy-five to eighty-five weekly meetings for the study of Bahá'í Teachings which seventy-eight new enquirers accepted during the first part of that year. The youth committee of Tihlán met at least four times a week and formed fourteen sub-committees; the Teaching Sub-Committee could draw upon nearly a thousand Bahá'í youth. The Relief Committee helped sixty families financially and otherwise, and distributed clothing and medicine. Doctors attached to the Health Committee treated 1,229 patients during the year, many with free medicaments. The assembly of Tihlán now has thirty-two committees in all and meets regularly five times a week.

IRAQ. A translation committee of educated young Bahá'ís has been formed to translate Bahá'í literature from foreign languages into Arabic and has already finished a number of works.

NORWAY. The Kitáb-i-Iqán has been translated into Norwegian.

SWITZERLAND. The Swiss Bahá'ís held their annual meeting at Zurich on July 14th, using the "Volkhaus," a public hall. There followed a social reunion at Mr. Bernhard's home at Seebach where Arnold Van Ogtrop of Holland was guest. The group, too widely scattered for an assembly, elected a committee. The editor of the economic weekly "Freies Volk" has offered it as a forum for Bahá'í publicity.