

# BAHÁ'Í JOURNAL

*Published by*

NATIONAL SPIRITUAL ASSEMBLY OF THE BAHÁ'ÍS OF THE BRITISH ISLES  
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Bahá'í Year 103

September, 1946

## FROM THE GUARDIAN

LETTER DATED MAY 29TH, 1946.

Dear Bahá'í Brother,

Your letters (and those previously written by Mrs. Ferraby as secretary) dated March 19th and 21st; April 12th and 23rd; and May 2nd and 11th as well as their enclosures, have been received, and the Guardian has instructed me to answer them on his behalf.

Regarding the various points which have been raised in these letters:

As he already informed you by cable, he sees no objection to substituting some other town for Cardiff if that has proved too unpromising.

People who for years have ceased to either attend meetings or show the slightest interest in the Cause can be dropped from the voting list; but any who are unable to attend meetings, but still consider themselves to be Bahá'ís and are desirous of keeping up their contact with the Faith, should naturally be kept on the voting list.

He feels at the present stage of the Cause's development in England it is perhaps wiser not to make any hard and fast rules about the boundaries of towns for assembly purposes; however you should bear in mind that in the future some proper delineation will be necessary.

As to the question of the Publishing Trust about quoting excerpts from some of the meditations; there is no objection to this at all.

He hopes you will be able to find some suitable quarters in London for your Bahá'í Center; he considers that at the present time, with the heavy and essential teaching programme you have undertaken, it is out of the question to purchase headquarters.

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 organize

the work on a new basis. England now stands, one might say, on the brink of a new phase of its 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.

He feels the time has come when the British Bahá'ís' resources are sufficient to enable them to embark on their teaching campaign in a manner similar to that already followed by the American and Indian Bahá'ís. In other words pioneers who volunteer for work, if they are not able to support themselves, should be supported by the National Fund until they either find work or their task is completed.

Likewise travelling teachers should be assisted financially to carry out the "projects" assigned to them. The friends should not for a moment confuse this type of support with the creation of a paid clergy. Any Bahá'í can, at the discretion of the N.S.A., receive this necessary assistance, and it is clearly understood it is temporary and only to carry out a specific plan. Bahá'u'lláh Himself has not only enjoined on every one the duty of teaching His Faith, but stated if you cannot go yourself, to send someone in your stead. 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.

He hopes that your Assembly, unitedly and with complete dedication to the great work that lies ahead of you, will concentrate all your forces on the teaching work. You may be sure he will



pray for your success in the Holy Shrines, and that all the British Bahá'ís may realise to the full their historic responsibilities and arise to discharge them.

With Bahá'í love and greetings.

R. RABBANI.

### THE BAHÁ'Í JOURNAL.

The Committee appointed to produce the Bahá'í Journal is trying to make the Journal more interesting reading as requested by the delegates at Convention. Our plans include an increase in the size of the Journal whenever sufficient paper can be obtained. Each issue will contain a letter from the National Spiritual Assembly, which will help to keep the believers in touch with what the Assembly is doing, as was also requested at Convention. The activities of national committees are important and it is hoped to publish more statements from these than has hitherto been possible. Will committees please note that such statements should be sent to the Assembly with their report and should have been approved either by the whole committee or by a specially appointed sub-committee. Another plan is to increase the amount of world news published, since it is expected that the amount of world news received will be continually increasing.

Another plan of the Journal Committee is to publish periodically a supplement to the Journal containing stories of individual teaching experiences, interesting trips made for the Cause, interesting contacts, successful teaching methods used and all those informal and often humorous items which are discussed when Bahá'ís meet together. This will only become possible if the friends keep us well supplied with material for publication. Please send anecdotes and accounts of experiences to Mrs. Cranmer, 182, Seabourne Road, Southbourne, Bournemouth. It doesn't matter if they are not well written—this Committee will put them into a suitable form for publication.

BAHÁ'Í JOURNAL COMMITTEE.

Dear and valued co-workers:

The activities of the English Bahá'í community, in pursuance of the Plan which in its scope and potentialities is wholly unprecedented in the history of the Faith in the British Isles, are now approaching a critical stage, and will, if not relentlessly expanded and consolidated, fall far short of their ultimate objective. They have now entered the third year of their Plan, and the work that still remains unaccomplished is considerable but not beyond what their united and sustained endeavours can accomplish. The utmost support, if the Plan is to yield its promise, should be continually and increasingly extended to every pioneer, both moral and financial, who will arise to contribute his or her share to its success. All the institutions of the Faith, so laboriously erected since the inception of the Formative Age, most of the financial resources of the community that have been accumulated, the deliberations of the elected representatives of the entire body of the believers, both local and national, should henceforth be dedicated to the vital requirements and noble aims of an enterprise which, if successful, will pave the way, and provide the necessary agencies, for the proclamation of the Faith to the masses throughout the British Isles.

The Faith is too circumscribed at present, its resources too limited, its range too restricted, and the number of its active supporters too few, to allow a systematic and nation wide campaign, designed to awaken the masses, to be effectively inaugurated. The present Plan is but a stepping stone which must lead eventually the English believers to execute so tremendous and meritorious an undertaking. The duties and responsibilities now facing them, must, however, be fully discharged. No time or effort should be wasted. All, young and old, must be aroused to a new consciousness of their collective responsibilities. A greater measure of self sacrifice, a greater audacity, a greater reliance on the sustaining grace of Bahá'u'lláh, are required to lend the necessary impetus to the progressive unfoldment and ultimate fruition of this dynamic process which the followers of Bahá'u'lláh, labouring in the heart of a world encircling empire, have set in motion. May signal success crown their historic labours.

SHOGHI.

CABLE DATED 7TH JUNE, 1946.

Delighted latest report teaching activities. Present year crucial fortunes Plan. Concentrate five most promising Goal Towns, also exert utmost re-establish Torquay, Bournemouth Assemblies. Success immediate plan will necessitate increase Convention delegates British Isles to twice nineteen. Upon consummation entire Plan further increase to three times nineteen will become essential. Cabling five hundred pounds



for travel, settlement pioneers. Prospects bright; redoubled effort absolutely essential. Exertions youth vital. Forthcoming gathering Summer School should devote special attention requirements Plan. Ardently praying triumphant success first stage collective effort dearly beloved English believers.—SHOGHI.

CABLE DATED 6TH JULY, 1946:

Delighted bright prospects. Achievement this years goal will constitute turning point fortunes plan, landmark British Bahá'í history. Sustained concentration essential. Convey pioneers, travelling teachers assurance loving appreciation, abiding gratitude noble response. Urge exert simultaneously efforts establish this pivotal year

nucleus future Assembly both Scotland, Ireland. Praying continually increasing evidences nation wide expansion, progressive consolidation dearly beloved English Bahá'í community.—SHOGHI.

The last cable was in reply to one sent by the N.S.A. from its meeting on 30th June:

Assembly renders loyal gratitude beloved Guardian's generous gift, guidance. Birmingham, Northampton, Nottingham, Leeds, Liverpool chosen attainment assembly status this year. Five new pioneers Gregory, Hainsworth, Wilkins, Joe, Elsie Lee. Eighteen travelling teachers circulating June, July. Youth work organised. Summer School registration broken all records. Sending plan organisation teaching. Humbly begging prayers.

## NATIONAL SPIRITUAL ASSEMBLY

Beloved Friends:

A "dynamic process" has been set in motion "in the heart of a world-encircling empire." The test of its vitality will be made this year, for the crucial months are those before next Convention. The prospects are bright; their fulfilment hinges upon our faithful effort. Such are the terms of the Guardian's remarkable messages quoted in this issue, which each of us will study again and again as a clear guide and our best reinforcement.

We have come a long way since Convention. With the Guardian's counsel, and detailed study by the Teaching Committee, a teaching policy has been evolved which the National Assembly adopted at its meeting of June 28th-30th. The nine goal towns of the first stage have been finally settled, and the "five most promising" towns have been chosen for the organisation of Local Spiritual Assemblies by next April 21st. The five towns of our choice are NORTHAMPTON, LEEDS, NOTTINGHAM, BIRMINGHAM and LIVERPOOL. The size of our task is shown in this latest tabulation:

Goal Town.			Now.	Needed
Northampton	...	...	8	1
Leeds	...	...	7	2
Nottingham	...	...	5	4
Birmingham	...	...	3	6
Liverpool	...	...	3	6

Sub-Total for 5 Towns	25	20
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Goal Town.			Now.	Needed
Altrincham	...	...	5	4
Blackburn	...	...	3	6
St. Ives	...	...	2	7
Blackpool	...	...	1	8

Total for Nine Towns	36	45
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The Guardian has added two further goals for this "pivotal" year—the establishment of a nucleus for a future Spiritual Assembly in both Scotland and Ireland. Nor are we to forget the existing Assemblies, to be stimulated through travelling teachers, especially the smallest ones in Bournemouth and Torquay.

It is clear that we are faced with tremendous tasks claiming the whole strength of our national community. The Guardian himself assures us that "all the institutions of the Faith, . . . most of the financial resources, . . . the deliberations of the elected representatives of the entire body of the believers, *both local and national*, should henceforth be dedicated" to the needs and aims of the Six Year Plan. This means that the Plan is the first business of the National Assembly, all National Committees, every Local Assembly, every Nineteen Day Feast, the Summer School, the Annual Teaching Conference, the Annual Convention, and the General Fund.

The outcome of such dedication will be glorious for the Faith in Britain. We are paving the way for the proclamation of Bahá'u'lláh's Message

### BYE-ELECTION

to the National Spiritual Assembly.

Following the resignation of Mr. P. Wilkinson from the National Spiritual Assembly for health reasons, Mr. D. Hofman was elected to the Assembly in July. The voting was as follows:—

D. Hofman	5
Miss U. Newman	3
D. Millar	2
R. Backwell, P. Hainsworth, L. Rosenfield...	1 each

Votes cast ..... 13



to the masses. And already the Guardian has given us a glimpse of the future orientation of the Administrative Order, when Assemblies, like shining lights, will brighten every section of these islands. With the completion of our immediate plans, the Convention delegates will be doubled to 38; and with the completion of the full quota of 19 new Assemblies, our delegates will number 57. Representing all parts of the British Isles, and trebled in strength, who can foresee the far-reaching projects which future Conventions will be enabled to adopt for the spiritual redemption of Britain?

Pioneers are the first fruits of victory, and their selfless sacrifice of daily routine generates a new life and momentum which confirms us all. The National Assembly will give preference in the settlement of pioneers to the five towns chosen for concentration this year, until their status as Assemblies by April 21st, 1947, is assured. We are overjoyed to announce that Walter Wilkins moved to Birmingham on July 15th. Alma Gregory is moving to Northampton in August. Philip Hainsworth will settle in Nottingham in October. And Joe and Elsie Lee are working on plans to move to Liverpool. The Guardian has cabled his "abiding gratitude" to these dear friends. He has assured us that "there are a number—a growing number—of people who are anxious to do pioneer work." The doors are now wide open to such service. Funds have been provided by Shoghi Effendi for their travel and settlement, and the National Fund will extend support "until they either find work or their task is completed." The National Assembly urges all those who carry in their hearts the hope of pioneering to communicate at once with the Teaching Committee, which is prepared to consult on all details and develop pioneer projects in the spirit of the Guardian's instruction.

Careful thought is being given to every phase of our national work, to see how the Six Year Plan may best be served and our methods made more effective. Each of the goal towns having two or more believers has been asked to organise as a Bahá'í Group, to gain experience for future functioning as a Spiritual Assembly. Close co-operation has been worked out between the Teaching Committee and the Youth Committee and Publishing Trust. The National Assembly is planning to consult with each of the Local Assemblies this year, and to hold at the same time regional conferences with the friends in such area. Steps are being taken to provide adequate clerical help in national secretarial work.

May we not take heart from these signs of increasing consolidation, and from the reports of our continually-expanding teaching? Spurred on by the thrilling progress of the Faith throughout the world, shall we not arise to win

for the British Bahá'í Community a befitting place in the annals of this century?

With loving Bahá'í greetings,

NATIONAL SPIRITUAL ASSEMBLY.

### Resolutions of Convention. Ridvan 103.

(These were omitted in error from the last issue of the Journal and are now inserted for permanent record with the decisions about them brought up to date).

Recommended to incoming N.S.A. to appoint a committee with full powers in charge of finding suitable premises for a new Centre. *(Adopted).*

That the N.S.A. meets only once in London and the rest of the time in different parts of the country where we have groups and assemblies. (To bring the N.S.A. more into contact with the believers and generate that spiritual power in different parts of the country). *(Special meetings with the existing committees will be arranged).*

Recommended that in future the previous year's figures should be given on the income and expenditure account for comparison. *(Adopted. The Auditors have been consulted and agree this can be done).*

That a national committee for dramatic presentations be appointed, to collect scripts for use by assemblies and groups. *(Held over for discussion with other committees not yet appointed).*

Recommend to incoming N.S.A. to examine ways of making the Journal more interesting reading. *(The Journal Committee will do its best).*

That this Convention pledges itself that by next Convention, five of the goal towns will have functioning assemblies and not more than two years will be taken to complete the nine. *(Adopted).*

That in future at big Bahá'í gatherings each person wears a slip with his name and home town, also that at Convention delegates should wear a distinguishing sign. *(Adopted and passed to the Summer School Management Committee for their attention).*

Recommend to the N.S.A. to investigate fully the possibilities of using a caravan for mobile teaching. *(In view of the Guardian's recent letter it was decided not to adopt this idea for the present).*

That the believers be kept in touch with what the N.S.A. is doing through the Journal. *(A letter from the N.S.A. will appear in each issue of the Journal).*

That we seek the Guardian's guidance on teaching points, as to changes in goal towns and as to what help should be given to other towns and whether any further development should be undertaken until this is completed. *(Adopted).*

### Committees.

The following Committees have been appointed—changes up to July 1st are incorporated:



TEACHING. Mrs. M. B. Norton (*Chairman*); Mrs. M. Hofman (*Secretary*); Mr. P. Hainsworth, Mr. D. Hofman, Mr. L. Rosenfield, Mr. W. Wilkins.

PUBLISHING TRUST. Mr. D. Hofman (*Chairman, Editor and Production Manager*); Miss D. Lovell (*Secretary and Business Manager*); Mrs. K. V. Brown, Mr. J. Ferraby, Mrs. M. Basil Hall, Mrs. C. Langdon-Davies, Mr. A. Norton.

YOUTH. Mr. P. Hainsworth (*Chairman*); Mrs. A. Gregory (*Secretary*); Miss S. Farnsworth, Mr. D. Faux, Miss J. Howes, Mr. H. McKinley, Mr. H. Sabri.

NEW WORLD ORDER. Mrs. W. Basil Hall (*Editor*); Mr. R. Backwell, Mr. H. M. Balyuzi, Miss U. Newman, Mrs. I. Slade.

REVIEWING. Miss F. Pinchon (*Secretary*); Mr. H. M. Balyuzi, Mrs. C. Langdon-Davies.

ARCHIVES. Mr. H. M. Balyuzi, Mr. A. Dehkan, Miss S. G. Kilford.

STUDY COURSE. Mrs. D. Ferraby (*Secretary*); Miss A. E. Baxter, Mr. J. Ferraby, Miss V. Isenthal.

BAHÁ'Í JOURNAL. Mr. J. Ferraby (*Secretary*), Mr. R. Backwell, Mrs. E. P. Cranmer, Mr. F. P. Wilkinson.

CHILD EDUCATION. Mrs. M. Matthews (*Chairman*); Miss U. Newman, Mrs. R. White.

### National Lending Library.

The books below are in the National Lending Library and may be borrowed by any of the friends who has not access to a copy locally. Requests for books should be addressed to the National Secretary.

BY BAHÁ'U'LLÁH.

Kitáb-i-Iqán.

The Hidden Words.

Gleanings from the Writings of Bahá'u'lláh.

BY 'ABDU'L-BAHÁ.

The Bahá'í Peace Programme.

Some Answered Questions.

Paris Talks.

'Abdu'l-Bahá in London.

BAHÁ'U'LLÁH AND 'ABDU'L-BAHÁ.

Selections from Bahá'í Scripture.

BY SHOGHI EFFENDI.

God Passes By.

The Dispensation of Bahá'u'lláh.

The Promised Day is Come.

The Unfoldment of World Civilisation.

The Goal of a New World Order.

Bahá'í Administration.

BAHÁ'Í COMPILATIONS.

Bahá'í World Vol. VIII.

Bahá'í World Vol. IX.

Bahá'í Procedure (1st Edition).

### SPECIAL PUBLICATIONS.

The Bahá'í Temple.

Indian Centenary Book.

American Centenary Book.

British Centenary Book.

### BOOKS ABOUT THE FAITH.

The Bahá'í Faith and Islam.

Bahá'u'lláh and the New Era.

Bahá'u'lláh and the New Era (Esperanto).

The Promise of All Ages.

Security for a Failing World.

The Chosen Highway.

The Heart of the Gospel.

### NEWS FROM THE GOAL TOWNS.

Teaching in the goal towns and smaller Assemblies is steadily progressing, both in number of meetings held and reliable attendance. We have already outgrown our space in the Journal and can only report a few highlights, with an accompanying log of the special meetings and firesides. From May 1st to July 18th, there were 47 such meetings, plus a ten-day exhibition, making use of 23 outside teachers. We give a special welcome to Una Townshend, Philip Hainsworth and Richard Backwell, who have joined our teaching force; and thanks to Captain Henry Jarvis on leave from the American Army in Germany, and to Manutchehr Zabih of Tihiran now visiting in England.

ST. IVES at the tip of Cornwall—home of that early Bahá'í pioneer, Daniel Jenkyn—has been challenged by the Faith. Our two local believers, Ursula Newman and Bernard Leach, have carried out a ten-day programme, July 8th–17th, including an attractive exhibition on a main street, a public meeting at the Curnow Hotel, and an open-air meeting on the Wharf by the Lifeboat Slipway. Writes Miss Newman: "When I started about 30 people stopped to listen; by the end we had quite 300 and many of these stayed for the 1½ hours we spent there . . . (A friend) said she had never had a more exciting experience and wants to write about it . . . . Nearly an hour later people were still discussing it all over the town." The help extended by Muriel Matthews as hostess and Hugh McKinley as outdoor speaker, both of Torquay, is a harbinger of future regional co-operation as the Cause grows stronger in the South. Another achievement was the newspaper publication of a one-column article on the Faith written by Mr. Leach. Doubtless this campaign will prove a turning-point for St. Ives and its theme, "World Civilisation Depends upon Spiritual Unity," will echo throughout these islands for years to come.

The South had another period of intense activity in May, during a week's campaign in TORQUAY and EXETER, May 12th–17th. A visit by David and Marion Hofman was occasion for two public meetings in Torquay, a tea and



public meeting in Exeter which reached 14 new contacts of outstanding calibre, and a talk for the Rotary Club of Newton Abbott. Four openings for talks to outside groups are available as a result of this campaign, and interest was aroused in a wide circle through the posters and a column-long newspaper account. The wife of a Unitarian minister was chairman of the largest meeting, and both she and her husband will attend Summer School. The tea in Exeter owed its success to the help of Mr. Hawkens, who suggested this plan to interest his friends, having been moved by the patient persistence of the Bahá'ís week after week.

LEEDS has begun to reap the harvest of its April exhibition, welcoming on June 30th two new believers who first met the Bahá'í teachings at that time. A cordial welcome goes to these new friends, Walter Baines and M. Michelloff, who are already exerting a real influence in the spread of the Faith. The return of Philip Hainsworth to Bradford brings added strength, and he will devote three months until October to the work in this area. Keen interest was aroused by the return to Leeds of Sam Husdan on July 7th, and by his brilliant talk, among his circle of old friends.

NOTTINGHAM put forth its first big public effort in June, in arranging a youth rally to which 22 youth organisations were invited. Although only a small number attended, supported by visiting believers from Birmingham, Leeds and Northampton, the Group is confident that a foundation was laid for future work. Regular fortnightly meetings are now held in the Board Room of the Elite Cinema, thus ending a long search for suitable quarters. Mr. Maxfield has been elected chairman of the Group.

We are thrilled and heartened by the developments in BIRMINGHAM and LIVERPOOL. Viewed as the weakest of goal towns at the Teaching Conference last January, they have steadily expanded their teaching work until they have qualified to be chosen among the "five most promising" towns for concentration this year.

BLACKPOOL also is forging ahead. Special mention is due to the three Liverpool Bahá'ís, Arthur Cole, Joan Smith and John Hargraves, the last two having entered the Faith this spring and enlisted immediately in devoted service. Details of the meetings in these and all the goal towns will be found in the accompanying summary (see back page).

A report on pioneers is given by the National Assembly and will not be repeated. We pray that they may be the vanguard of a rapidly-growing Bahá'í army, who will arise to fulfil every promise of our beloved Guardian.

NATIONAL TEACHING COMMITTEE.

## BAHÁ'Í PUBLISHING TRUST.

Dear Bahá'í Friends,

The main items of our report, which has been approved by the N.S.A., are as follows.

### TWO POINT POLICY.

This has been adopted. (1) To give all aid to the Six Year Plan; (2) To build up a complete list of all basic Bahá'í literature.

We are giving effect to point (1) by providing free literature for the goal towns, at the request of the N.T.C. In addition we have organised three displays of literature, packed in steel boxes, and have made them available to the N.T.C. for use at public meetings in goal towns. Literature is sold from them and replaced before the display is used again. More will be added as the need grows. An exhibit of low priced teaching and introductory literature at Summer School has also been arranged with a counsellor to give information about each item.

Under point (2) we visualise gradually producing all the basic books of the Cause. As a start this year we are producing "Kitáb-i-Iqán," "Bahá'í Procedure," and the section from "Some Answered Questions" called "Some Christian Subjects." This latter is regarded as of great help to our teaching work. "Bahá'í Procedure" is essential for the community itself, and "Kitáb-i-Iqán" has been called by the Guardian Bahá'u'lláh's weightiest book. It will be very reasonably priced.

### PRAYER BOOK.

We are glad to tell the friends that it is hoped to have copies on sale at Summer School. Later in the year, an augmented edition will be published, containing in addition to the excellent selection of the new book, the essential prayers for Bahá'ís.

### DIVINE WISDOM.

This selection of passages from Scripture, rather on the style of the old "Divine Art of Living" will be available soon; price about 3/6.

### RENEWAL OF CIVILIZATION.

The first edition of this book has been exhausted, and a new edition with a cheaper cover, will soon be available at 2/6.

### INTERNATIONAL WORK.

One of the most interesting sides of our work is now beginning to open up. The Guardian has instructed the European Committee of the American N.S.A. to co-operate with us, and with the German Publishing Committee, in providing literature for the highly important work in Europe. We are in touch with the American friends over this, and hope to work out a satisfactory means of giving them help. The friends from India have also asked us to print books for them, and we are examining the possibilities here too.

Faithfully, BAHÁ'Í PUBLISHING TRUST.



## BAHÁ'Í YOUTH.

The newly appointed National Youth Committee held its first meeting in London, June 29th and 30th, 1946, under the most happy conditions.

Our objects, as given to us by the National Spiritual Assembly are: (1) To stimulate youth activities in Bahá'í communities. (2) To prepare Bahá'í Youth for the responsibilities of Bahá'í life. (3) Do all in our power to further the aims of the Six Year Plan. Keeping these objects before us throughout our meeting, we discussed the specific tasks, also given by the National Spiritual Assembly, by which our aims may be successfully fulfilled.

Due to the time factor, we first completed plans for Youth Day at Summer School, the final details of which are included in the Summer School Programme.

The remainder of the session, the Committee concentrated on the production of the proposed Youth Bulletin, as it was felt that this is to be the first and most important contribution of the youth to the furtherance of the Six Year Plan. The detailed plans for this were presented to and approved by the National Spiritual Assembly on the Sunday afternoon. An Editorial Committee has been appointed and the policy of the Bulletin is to encourage Bahá'í Youth to be conscious that this is their medium for self-expression and to contribute freely and regularly according to their capacity. An important feature of the Bulletin will be a section entitled "Laboratory Work" which is to be devoted to the study, experiment and analysis of methods of pioneering and teaching. Publication of the Bulletin will be quarterly, commencing March 21st. Strenuous work is now going on for the publication of Volume 1, No. 1 on September 21st, of this year.

Detailed plans for Regional Youth work are to be made at a later date and will be carried out in conjunction with National and Local Assemblies and the National Teaching Committee. The appointment of the Chairman of the Youth Committee to the National Teaching Committee has made the fullest co-operation possible.

Throughout the whole session the Committee was extremely conscious of the immensity of its task, the great responsibility resting upon it and the individual weakness of each member, but was strengthened and fortified by the wonderful spirit of co-operation which pervaded the meeting. This was so powerful that, despite the widely differing temperaments, the many varied ideas and the inexperience of its members every final decision was unanimous and on no point had a vote to be taken.

NATIONAL YOUTH COMMITTEE.

## CHILD EDUCATION.

The newly formed Child Education Committee has been examining the question of the teaching of religion to the young. Until now, there have been no books about the Faith giving the message in a form suitable for children, except for a very small number imported two years ago from America. The Committee is hoping soon to be able to provide some suitable literature, and work has already been started on the first book. We will be very glad if the friends will send us their own ideas on teaching the Cause to young people.

It is not only the children of Bahá'ís who are in need of such teaching. The Torquay friends have had considerable success with Social evenings, at which a short time is spent giving the message in a simple way. The parents of the children who attend the meetings are not themselves Bahá'ís, but have been introduced to the Cause through their children. The children are of very varied ages, being from 6 to 18 years old.

In Manchester, regular meetings for children of Bahá'ís are held; being organised by a Bahá'í youth of 17.

Others of our friends will have interesting ideas and experiences of teaching the Cause to young people, and the Child Education Committee would like to hear all of them. Please write about it to Mrs. M. Matthews, Ythan Bank, Torwood Gardens, Torquay.

CHILD EDUCATION COMMITTEE.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS.

### New Believers.

We welcome to the community the following: Lucy Lee, Sydney Brown, Emily and John Moorhead, Stella Mintz, Mary Tavernor, all of Manchester; Doreen St. Barbe Baker of Punccknoll, Dorset; Prudence Curwen (Youth) of Blackpool; George Maxfield, of Nottingham. We welcome also Nuran Fatheazam, now Nuran Dehkan, who came from Persia to marry Abbas Dehkan of London; and Richard Backwell, who declared his faith in Bahá'u'lláh while in the R.A.F. in India, and who has now returned to London.

### European Contracts.

As the friends already know, the Guardian has given the Americans another Seven Year Plan which includes teaching in Europe. It would help their plan if the British Bahá'ís would send to our own national secretary for transmission to America the names and addresses of any contacts they have in the designated countries who might be interested to hear more of the Faith. The countries concerned are: Holland, Belgium, Luxembourg, Switzerland, Spain, Portugal, Italy, Norway, Sweden, Finland, Denmark.

### Correspondents wanted.

The East and West Committee in Persia has asked us for the names of friends who would like to correspond with individual Bahá'ís in Persia. The youth of Persia especially wants to correspond with youth in this country. Will those who would like to take part in such correspondence please let the secretary know.

### Committee Travelling Expenses.

Will members of committees please note that claims for travelling expenses in connection with a committee meeting should be submitted to the national treasurer through the secretary of their committee. The treasurer will then send cheques directly to the claimants.

**Visitors.** We are happy to announce that visits to this country have been made by Captain Henry Jarvis of the American Army in Germany, and Mr. Manutchehr Zabih of Iran who came here to seek permission to enter the British Zone in Germany in order to visit the Bahá'ís there. Both have made a tour of this country, meeting many of the friends.

### The Spirit of Victory.

We would like to share with the friends an example of devotion to the Cause of Bahá'u'lláh demonstrating the spirit which will ensure the success of the Six Year Plan. A believer, who has reached the age qualifying her to receive her Post War Credit this year, wrote the National Assembly that she would like to contribute this money to a fund for a future Mashriqu'l-Adhkar in the British Isles, a project which was very close to her heart. It was explained to her that in the view of the Assembly the building of a Temple in the British Isles could best be furthered by the success of the Six Year Plan, for the Guardian has said that all the Bahá'í institutions in this country depend upon its

success for their future development. This loyal believer then wrote:

"I quite see that the Six Year Plan is far more important than any building fund, at the moment, and therefore, as soon as I have received my Post War Credit, I will post you a cheque for the General Fund; it is absolutely imperative, I think, for all true Bahá'ís to support the Cause whether they *think* they can afford it or not; all other uses for any surplus cash should be secondary to that call of our Beloved Guardian."

The spirit of this believer, who not only was willing to make such a sacrifice, but loyally subordinated the project dear to her heart in order to follow the instructions of the Guardian, should be an example to us all.

### BAHÁ'Í NEWS.

As a result of the growing size of the British Bahá'í community it has become necessary to rearrange the distribution of the copies of "Bahá'í News" we receive from America. There are not enough for everybody to have one and it is proposed in future to send "Bahá'í News" only to those who have asked to see it. Will everybody who wants to be put on the list please send a postcard to the National Secretary before September 1st. **Everybody**, including those who now receive individual copies and also members of local communities should do this. The copies will be apportioned so that all who have sent in their name see one, and there are not likely to be copies left over for those who omit to sent in their name.

### IN MEMORIAM.

"It is evident that the loftiest mansions in the Realm of Immortality have been ordained as the habitation of them that have truly believed in God and in His signs."

Madame Marie Vistona (Mrs. Gumly)—July, 1946.

## THE BAHÁ'Í WORLD

**Abyssinia.** A number of outstanding Abyssinians have recently embraced the Cause. The Abyssinian Government has at last granted permission for Sabri Effendi Elias, the Bahá'í pioneer in Addis Ababa, to live in Abyssinia permanently.

**Czechoslovakia.** The first meeting of Czech Bahá'ís occurred on May 17th. Vuk Echtner has spoken in Pilsen and Prague on Bahá'í Teachings and says that in April a new book about the Cause was published there. He hopes it will not be long before an assembly is founded in Prague.

Vuk Echtner also took the opportunity, when arranging a small show window exhibition of

Esperanto in Prague, to display a portrait of 'Abdu'l-Bahá and several Bahá'í publications in Esperanto. He has prepared a correspondence course in Esperanto wherein he recommended the world language in words of 'Abdu'l-Bahá and added something about Bahá'í Teachings.

**Egypt.** One of the Arabic papers attacked the Cause, attributing a number of falsehoods. The N.S.A. asked that their reply be printed, but without success, and notified the police and Ministry of the Interior so that security measures could be taken if the article incited persecution. The authorities investigated and proved willing to do everything possible to keep order.

A large mob attacked Bahá'í property and business premises in Tanta, Lower Egypt, with



sticks and stones. The believers behaved with calm and fortitude in face of every form of provocation. The N.S.A. wrote to the authorities explaining Bahá'í teachings on love, unity and loyalty. The ringleaders of the disturbance were firmly dealt with and required to sign a statement of good behaviour.

The first Bahá'í Summer School in Egypt was successfully held at Port Said last summer.

**Germany.** The Guardian's following cable to Germany will rejoice all hearts:—"Bahá'í Wilmette, Cable Eichenauer following: Greatly rejoice news convention election National Assembly. Deeply appreciate reaffirmation undivided loyalty beloved friends. Heart filled hope tremendous, unprecedented expansion, consolidation, Bahá'í activities. Will transmit ten thousand pounds collected for national fund as soon as possible. Sum should be devoted relief, promotion teaching work, multiplication Centres, expansion literature, establishment Faith Austria and renting or purchase as soon as possible adequate house in Frankfurt as Hazratu'l-Quds, designed become focus Bahá'í activity all German, Austrian believers. Praying abundant blessings. Eager receive reports progress community destined develop, as prophesied by 'Abdu'l-Bahá, into most powerful centre spiritual illumination entire European continent. Deepest love."

Mr. A. Lorey has written that it will soon be possible to bring out again the Bahá'í Esperanto magazine "La Nova Tago," of which he was the Editor. He invites all Esperantists to write to him direct at Kreidach, ub/Waldmichelbach i/Odw., am Bahnhof, Germany, and encourage him in his hope to make the magazine "a mouthpiece for the Bahá'í Message to the Esperanto World."

**India.** In India the 4½ year plan, inaugurated in January, to establish 63 centres, i.e., 43 new assemblies or about five every six months, by July, 1950, has shown good progress. The entire country, including Burma, was divided into nine zones and Goal Towns chosen from among the most important towns of British India and the major Indian States. With the encouragement of £1,000 from the Guardian, preparations are well founded; thirteen pioneers have set out, four more are promised and there are ten offers to make short tours. The five new assemblies promised for this last Ridván included two re-established Centres at Rangoon and Mandalay, but there are four more large enough Groups to be reasonably certain of assembly status for next year. Four travelling speakers achieved an average audience of 500, mostly college students, on six occasions.

Over 4,000 books and 11,000 pamphlets were sold or freely distributed last year; eighteen articles were specially prepared and 108 other articles on Bahá'í matters also reported from the

local press in different parts; books were presented to twenty-nine different libraries; new publications consisted of three books in eight languages and five pamphlets in four languages.

Nine local assemblies have now created Youth Committees. Summer School in October had a maximum of 88 students from 11 places. The new Bahá'í school hostel, projected in August, has twice since then required expansion as it outgrew its premises. Poona has been chosen as headquarters of the N.S.A. for one more year.

**Iran.** Mr. Manutchehr Zabih, recently arrived from Persia *en route* to Germany, tells us that newly married Bahá'ís in Persia are still faced with the choice of some months' imprisonment or payment of a fine, since Bahá'í marriage is not yet recognised officially and there is no civil registry. Many are the youths who choose the former alternative.

Bahá'í libraries have been established by the friends in nine new centres.

**Japan.** News that some of the Japanese are still alive has been received. Mr. H. S. Fughita is at Janai, some 300 miles south of Tokyo. He is working as interpreter for the American Army at a railway station.

**Norway.** Mrs. Aargot Ramsli, of Kristiansund, has translated the "Gleanings" into Norwegian. It took four months.

**Palestine.** Aqa Ali Asghar Qasvini passed away on 10th July, 1945, after nearly 25 years service at Haifa. He arrived in the Holy Land during 'Abdu'l-Bahá's last days and remained there for the rest of his life. Learned, enlightened, alert, sociable, a gifted composer of verse, Ali Asghar unremittingly served the Holy Household, looked after the pilgrims and carried back and forth to the Post Office the Guardian's voluminous mail. The rank of most distinguished server at the International Centre of the Faith is well deserved. The Guardian himself attended the funeral service and Ali Asghar was buried in the Haifa Bahá'í cemetery at the foot of Mount Carmel and under the shadow of the Holy Shrines.

**Sudan.** The Bahá'ís of the Sudan plan to establish a Centre at Khartoum and in April were reported as looking forward to their first Spiritual Assembly in that town.

**Switzerland.** An article entitled "Bahá'u'lláh," by Mr. A. Alexander of Paris appeared in a Swiss weekly. Acknowledgement from the Geneva Bureau drew a reply from one of the editors offering to place the paper at the disposal of the Bureau for publicity purposes.

Mr. Albert Joseph, of Manchester, recently visited Zurich. A reunion with friends from three parts of Switzerland who "chanced" to be there was productive of much fruitful discussion and advice for future activity.



NATIONAL TEACHING COMMITTEE.  
SPECIAL MEETINGS AND FIRESIDES.  
MAY 1ST—JULY 16TH, 1946.

<i>Date.</i>	<i>Town.</i>	<i>Meetings and Attendance.</i>	<i>Outside Teachers.—</i>
<b>MAY.</b>			
5th.	BLACKBURN	... Friends' Meeting House (11)	... Arthur Norton
5th.	NORTHAMPTON	... Friends' Meeting House (21)	... Una Townshend (M. Hofman)
6th.	BIRMINGHAM	... Tea and Co-operative Hall (14)	... Marion Hofman
12th.	BOURNEMOUTH	... Theosophical Centre (24)	... Evelyn Baxter
12th.	TORQUAY	... Bahá'í Centre (20)	... David Hofman
14th.	TORQUAY	... *Rotary Club, Newton Abbott (30)	... David Hofman
16th.	BOURNEMOUTH	... *Esperanto Society	... Evelyn Baxter
16th.	TORQUAY	... Pengelly Hall (40)	... Marion Hofman
17th.	EXETER	... Tea at Imperial Hotel (21)	... David Hofman
17th.	EXETER	... Unitarian Chapel (11)	... Marion Hofman
23rd.	ST. IVES	... Special Fireside at Leach Pottery (14)	
24th.	EXETER	... Unitarian Chapel	... Ursula Newman
26th.	TORQUAY	... Bahá'í Centre	... Ursula Newman
<b>JUNE</b>			
2nd.	BLACKPOOL	... Fireside at Curwens' (15)	... David Hofman
2nd.	LIVERPOOL	... Stork Hotel (14)	... Marion Hofman
2nd.	NORTHAMPTON	... Friends' Meeting House (17)	... Vivian Isenthal
3rd.	BIRMINGHAM	... *Public Opinion Action Association (350)	... Marion Hofman (in a panel)
4th.	BIRMINGHAM	... *Electrical Association of Women (25)	... Marion Hofman
5th.	LEEDS	... Y.M.C.A. (18)	... Marion Hofman
6th.	BLACKPOOL	... Special tea at Curwens'	... (Alice Curwen)
15th.	BLACKPOOL	... Fireside tea at Curwens'	... Jessica Young
16th.	BRADFORD	... Bahá'í Centre (23)	... Marion Hofman
16th.	NOTTINGHAM	... Youth Rally, Co-operative Hall (17)	... Janet Howes, Hassan Sabri Peter Wilkinson
19th.	LEEDS	... Fireside at Wilkinsons'	... Philip Hainsworth
23rd.	BIRMINGHAM	... Garden Meeting at Eastgate's (11)	... Vivian Isenthal
25th.	BLACKPOOL	... Fireside at Curwens' (11)	... Geraldine Cooper
30th.	BLACKBURN	... Friends' Meeting House (10)	... Kathleen Brown
30th.	BRADFORD	... Bahá'í Centre (48)	... David Hofman
<b>JULY</b>			
2nd.	BRADFORD	... *5th South Bradford Rover Crew (20)	... Philip Hainsworth
4th.	LEEDS	... Fireside at Wilkinsons' (14)	... Philip Hainsworth
7th.	LEEDS	... Public Meeting (43)	... Sam Husdan
7th.	LIVERPOOL	... Stork Hotel	... Louis Rosenfield
7th.	NORTHAMPTON	... Friends' Meeting House (14)	... John Ferraby; also M. Zabih and R. H. Backwell
7th.	NORTHAMPTON	... *Peace Pledge Union (20)	... Marion Hofman
7th.	NOTTINGHAM	... Elite Cinema Board Room (7)	... Evelyn Baxter, Una Townshend
8th.	BIRMINGHAM	... Garden Meeting at Eastgate's (15)	... Henry Jarvis, M. Zabih
8th.	ST. IVES	... Opening of 10-day Exhibition	... Muriel Matthews, hostess
9th.	MANCHESTER	... Bahá'í Centre	... Henry Jarvis, M. Zabih
10th.	LEEDS	... Fireside at Wilkinsons' (25)	... Henry Jarvis, M. Zabih
11th.	BRADFORD	... Bahá'í Centre (approx. 20)	... Henry Jarvis, M. Zabih
11th.	BLACKBURN	... Special Fireside at Coopers'	... (Geraldine Cooper)
12th.	NOTTINGHAM	... Fireside at Browns'	... Henry Jarvis, M. Zabih
12th.	EXETER	... Unitarian Chapel	... Richard Backwell
12th.	ST. IVES	... Curnow Hotel (20)	... Marion Hofman, Bernard Leach
13th.	ST. IVES	... Open Air Meeting, the Wharf (300)	... Hugh McKinley, Ursula Newman
14th.	TORQUAY	... Bahá'í Centre	... Richard Backwell
14th.	BOURNEMOUTH	... Fireside at Cranmers'	... Evelyn Baxter
16th.	BOURNEMOUTH	... *Esperanto Society	... Evelyn Baxter

NOTE.—These are Meetings for which the N.T.C. provided outside speakers, talks to outside groups, and other special meetings. All were under Bahá'í auspices, except those starred. In addition, weekly firesides are held in Leeds and Northampton, and public meetings weekly in Exeter and fortnightly in Nottingham. No attempt is made to report the activities of Local Assemblies.