

CONVENTION NUMBER

BAHÁ'Í JOURNAL

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NATIONAL SPIRITUAL ASSEMBLY OF THE BAHÁ'ÍS OF THE BRITISH ISLES

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No. 40

BAHÁ'Í YEAR 100

JUNE, 1943

LESS THAN ONE YEAR REMAINS

Just before Convention we received the following cable from the Guardian:—

"Appeal delegates assembled Convention deliberate prompt effectual measures ensure unprecedented expansion Pioneer Teaching Activities last year century and befitting celebration May 1944 Centenary Faith. Advise prepare outstanding events forty five year history Faith British Isles. Assure friends fervent continued prayers abundant blessings success twofold task. Cabling three hundred pounds contribution towards fulfilment projected undertakings. Deepest love."

To which the delegates assembled at Convention sent the following reply:—

"Overwhelmed your cable and gift. Deeply conscious supreme duty unsurpassed pioneer teaching efforts. Inspired your guidance. Convention wholly dedicated response your challenge. Praying confirmations. Grateful devotion."

Two days later the Guardian sent the following:—

"Delighted response high resolve. Assure Assembly prayers magnificent victories."

The first of these cables has already been circulated to all the believers in the country with a request that they should tell the National Spiritual Assembly that they think about it, but let us consider it once more. It presents us with a twofold task—to expand the pioneer teaching and to befittingly celebrate the Centenary of the Bahá'í Faith in May, 1944. To take the second one first, the N.S.A. has appointed a Centenary Committee to make early and careful plans for suitable celebrations and an Historical

Survey Committee to gather together all existing material in connection with the history of the Faith in this country. More will be said later about these committees when they have started their work.

For the present it is far more important for us to consider the first part of the task set us by the Guardian. To express it in his own words, it was to "deliberate prompt effectual measures ensure unprecedented expansion pioneer teaching activities last year Bahá'í Century" and in his letter, also quoted in this issue, he says that we should aim specifically at developing small groups of believers or interested enquirers so that they may become local assemblies by next April. For this purpose he urges that all those who can move, should settle in places where these small groups exist and work with them. This is a clear and definite call for pioneers. The Guardian has made this appeal in the past few years ever-increasingly to the American believers—now he makes it to us and he waits for our response. Two believers have already offered to move, under the direction of the N.S.A. More are needed. So very little time remains before the close of the century, not even a whole year is left. This matter, indeed every aspect of teaching, is an urgent one—every one of us must act **now**. Let those who can move and help in the expansion of pioneer teaching, make up their minds to do so without delay. Let those who cannot move, redouble and treble their efforts in their present surroundings. There can be no delays any more, there can be no excuses. Bahá'u'lláh calls us now—to help in establishing His Kingdom. Surely there can be only one answer.

Letter from the Guardian.

"The good news you conveyed of the marked success of the various summer schools held last year, pleased him greatly. When the English friends remember that it is not many years since they ventured on their first summer school and now, during war-time, they have managed to hold four successful ones—they should feel very encouraged and proud! It shows that when the determination is strong and the faith firm, the friends can work wonders and surprise even themselves!

"He was also delighted to hear of the successful teaching work and public meetings undertaken in Bradford and Manchester and that the advertisements and publicity which you are sponsoring are meeting with a certain amount of response from the public.

"He hopes that some of the friends will find it possible to move, at least temporarily, to centres where sufficient believers, or interested enquirers, exist to enable a Spiritual Assembly to be formed by 1944. If such work is possible, it is indeed of great importance and well worth the sacrifice involved. This policy of settlement has been fruitful in both India and the United States, and as soon as a determined and active assembly is started it is, of course, much easier to teach and carry on the work of the Cause.

"The burdens everyone has to bear these days are heavy and the way often seems long and hard which we and our fellow men in general are called upon to tread; but we know where it leads and what our work is and what that work must ultimately mean to not only the Bahá'ís, but the whole world. This knowledge strengthens us and enables us to go on with a faith and confidence which cannot but help and inspire others. We are Bahá'u'lláh's army and we cannot fail, as He leads us on.

"The Guardian assures you and all the N.S.A. members of his most loving prayers. The English friends are increasingly dear to him, and he has great hopes for their future achievements.

With warm Bahá'í love,
R. RABBANI."

"Dear and Valued Co-workers,

"The evidences of renewed activity in the teaching field are most encouraging, and the spirit which animates the English believers in these days of stress and peril is highly inspiring. As the first Bahá'í century draws to a close, a supreme effort should be exerted by the believers in order to consummate befittingly the task they have arisen to achieve. I will pray with all my heart that the hopes they cherish may be realised, and their continued labours be crowned with glorious success.

Your true and grateful brother,
SHOGHI."

NATIONAL SPIRITUAL ASSEMBLY, Year 100.

Chairman ...	...	MR. H. M. Balyuzi
Vice-Chairman ...	...	MISS A. E. BAXTER
Secretary ...	...	MISS D. CANSDALE
Asst. Secretary ...	...	MR. J. FERRABY
Treasurer ...	...	MR. A. NORTON
		MRS. K. V. BROWN
		MR. R. COULSON
		MRS. C. LANGDON-DAVIES
		MRS. I. SLADE

DELEGATES TO THE ANNUAL CONVENTION, 1943 (Bahá'í Year 100).

Miss F. Pinchon,	71 Southbourne Road, Bourne-mouth.
Mr. F. Hurst,	12 Linden Grove, Dewsbury Road, Leeds.
Mr. A. Norton,	41 Cranbourne Road, Chellow Dene, Bradford.
Miss J. Wilkinson,	20 Southey Place, Bradford.
Mr. H. M. Balyuzi,	6 Cannon Place, London, N.W.3.
Miss A. E. Baxter,	8 Southview Gardens, Wallington, Surrey.
Mrs. K. V. Brown,	6 Cannon Place, London, N.W.3.
Miss D. Cansdale,	56 Queens Gardens, London, W.2.
Mr. J. G. Ferraby,	39 Kensington Park Gardens, London, W.11.
Miss V. Isenthal,	95 The Avenue, London, W.13.
Mrs. I. Slade,	129 Ebury Street, London, S.W.1.
Miss M. Wellby,	4 University Mansions, Lower Richmond Road, London, S.W.15.
Mr. W. Wilkins,	28 Stavordale Road, London, N.5.
Mrs. M. Coulson,	Oakleigh, Boothroyden Road, Hr. Blackley, Manchester, 9.
Mr. R. Coulson,	Oakleigh, Boothroyden Road, Hr. Blackley, Manchester, 9.
Miss Ada Williams,	294 Barton Road, Stretford, Manchester.
Miss N. Winstanley,	4 Cobb's Close, Middleton Road, Manchester, 8.
Miss J. Young,	34 Palatine Road, Withington, Manchester, 20.

CONVENTION—YEAR 100.

Convention was held once more in London, during Easter week-end. Attendance was not so large as that of last year, which was specially well attended. This time five even of the delegates were not able to come. In spite of this, however, discussion was alive and animated, and more constructive than before. We were fortunate in having at the commencement an inspiring cable from the Guardian, which is quoted on another page. This set the pace for the Convention and gave it two very urgent problems to consider. All aspects were exhaustively considered and a number of recommendations, which are listed below, were put forward to the incoming N.S.A. These indicate quite well without further description the general lines of the discussion. The new N.S.A. has already met and dealt with a number of them.

With the generous help of various friends, the London community provided supper on Satur-

day and Sunday evenings for all the guests, and afterwards entertained them, on the first evening by a broadcast commentary on Bahá'í history.

RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE N.S.A. FROM CONVENTION.

1. That all believers in the country be sent a copy of the Guardian's cable, together with the Five Steps to Guidance given by the Guardian to Mrs. Moffett.—Agreed and already carried out.

2. That the N.S.A. establish personal contact with all pioneer believers and work out with them plans for teaching in their localities, and that this contact be made periodically.—Agreed.

3. That we try to find ways and means of contacting those in charge of education, and that those arranging religious teaching, such as directors of public education and headmasters of private schools, might be sent Bahá'í prayers.—Agreed.

4. That we advertise the Faith in all districts where even one Bahá'í resides. This requires the active co-operation of the pioneers themselves, and the N.S.A. asks all those willing to have their private address used in such an advertisement to write to the secretary of the Publicity Committee at 46 Bloomsbury Street, London, W.C.1. Useful information to include: the best local paper, the best day of the week to advertise if a daily one, prices, suggestions for the advertisement, and if possible a copy of the paper. This is an urgent matter. Please do your best to help.

5. That we make a research into all methods of making the Faith known and draw up a list which can be used, particularly by the pioneers.—Agreed.

6. That the N.S.A. examine the possibilities of pioneer settlement.—Agreed and already taken in hand.

7. That in some of our advertisements we might ask for people who met 'Abdu'l-Bahá to get in touch with us.—Agreed.

8. That the N.S.A. investigate the possibility of finding a piece of land with a building on it suitable for use for summer school, and that eventually a place of worship be built there also.—Deferred for the present, in order that all the energies of the community may be concentrated on teaching and the celebration of the centenary, the twofold task set us by the Guardian.

9. That the N.S.A., in collaboration with the London Spiritual Assembly, go into the question of acquiring a better centre, to be used also as the offices of the N.S.A.—Agreed.

10. That in connection with the Centenary celebrations we try and interest newsreel com-

panies in taking shots of the Temple. That this be done in conjunction with the N.S.A. of America, and that we ask them also whether anything else they are doing might be taken up with the corresponding body over here. Further that we get in touch with all the other N.S.A.'s and try to work out a world plan.—Agreed.

11. That we arrange suitable exhibitions in various places, accompanied by a reception and entertainment, in connection with the Centenary.—Passed to the Centenary Committee.

12. That we get in touch with the B.B.C. about the Centenary.—Deferred till later.

13. That the Centenary celebrations be reported on and discussed at summer school.—Agreed.

COMMITTEES APPOINTED BY THE N.S.A.

Bahá'í Publishing Trust. Mr. Ferraby (manager-treasurer), Mrs. Langdon - Davies (editor), Mrs. Brown, Mr. Hofman.

Teaching. Miss Baxter (secretary), Mrs. Brown and Miss Cansdale as an executive committee to meet frequently; also Miss Newman, Mrs. Rideout and Mr. Hurst for periodic consultation.

Publicity. Mr. Ferraby, Mr. Stevenson (secretary), Mr. Wilkins, Mr. Miller (corresponding member).

Reviewing. Mr. Balyuzi, Miss Pinchon, Mrs. Slade (secretary), Mr. Sugar.

New World Order. Mrs. Balyuzi, Mr. Balyuzi, Miss Cansdale, Mrs. Priest-Shanks, Mrs. Slade.

Temple Publicity. Miss Isenthal, Mrs. Slade, Miss Wellby (secretary).

Literature. Mr. Balyuzi (secretary), Mrs. Coulson, Mr. Lee, Miss Parker, Mrs. Slade, Mrs. Stevens, Mrs. Wilkinson.

Youth Activities. Miss Cansdale, Mr. Coulson, Miss Sumner, Miss Young.

Centenary. Mr. St. Barbe Baker, Mr. Hofman, Mrs. Hyett, Miss Isenthal (secretary), Mrs. Stevens. Bournemouth, Bradford, Manchester and Torquay communities are being asked to appoint a corresponding member of this committee to keep in touch with the national arrangements.

Historical Survey. Mr. Balyuzi (secretary), Mrs. Basil Hall, Miss Pinchon, Mrs. Slade.

Contacts Secretary. Mr. Norton.

—:—

Secretaries of Local Assemblies and Groups.

Bournemouth	.....	MISS F. PINCHON
Bradford	... ..	MISS J. WILKINSON
London	... ..	MR. J. FERRABY
Manchester	... ..	MISS J. YOUNG
Torquay	... ..	MRS. L. STEVENS

ANNUAL REPORT

April, 1942 — April, 1943.

Last year we commenced the Annual Report by speaking of the wonderful love and encouragement which the Guardian was showering on the British Community. He wrote and he cabled his praise of the fact that, in spite of the strain and difficulties of war, we had maintained and consolidated our institutions, that in spite of evacuation, call-ups, and other hindrances, the community retained its form and its national and local assemblies were functioning uninterruptedly.

More than all that, the Guardian repeated over and over again his promise to pray for us at the Holy Shrines, and during this year we have gradually begun to see the beginning of the answer to his prayers. For the British Bahá'í community is definitely moving. In a small way, as yet very small and as yet haltingly and stumbingly, it is beginning the work for which it was destined—to proclaim the Message, to make known the glory, of the Revelation of Bahá'u'lláh, to the people of this country. We are not yet contacting the well-known and influential—the Guardian says that this will come later, after the Faith has been built up and made known. For the moment we must offer the Message far and wide to any who will listen. This we are now endeavouring to do in a constantly increasing way, and by the help of the Guardian's prayers the response has been greater than ever before. Mainly by means of advertisement, we have offered the Faith publicly to all who will enquire into it. Many have done so, and up till now the response shows no signs of slackening. Out of this publicity some will seek further knowledge, and new opportunities for teaching the Faith will arise and new communities will grow up, either soon or later on.

The Guardian, in his wisdom, realised this new life and development almost before it had happened, and, adding to his powerful prayers also practical assistance, sent us two munificent gifts of £200 each to help on the progress of the Faith.

Publicity.

As regards details of publicity, which was dealt with for a time by a committee and later by several members of the N.S.A., advertisements of the Faith have appeared in "The Times Educational Supplement," "Public Opinion," "Time and Tide," "One and All," "The British Esperantist," and "Opus." So far between seventy and eighty enquiries have been received. These enquiries have come from every part of the country—somebody knows of the Faith in dozens of towns to-day, where it was not heard of before. Enquiries were even re-

ceived from so far away as New Zealand and South Africa. In addition to this London alone has had fifty fresh people at public meetings since Christmas, mainly on account of advertising. There has also been local publicity in Northampton and in a Fire-Service journal covering the North-West of England, which produced further enquiries. It is proposed to extend this local advertising to various other towns where the address of a resident believer can be given, and a start has just been made in Ilkeston.

Further efforts in the direction of publicity have been made, firstly by sending a brief but comprehensive statement of the Faith to all the newspapers in the country, to be filed for reference; and secondly by printing economy labels for envelopes with an advertisement of the Faith. Some unsolicited publicity was given to the Cause by the publication in the magazine "Horizon" of an article on America praising the Temple near Chicago and what it stands for.

Another means by which it is hoped to obtain publicity for the Faith is provided by the recent completion, ahead of time, of the Mashriqu'l-Adhkár at Wilmette. The Guardian has asked us to obtain all possible publicity for the Temple in the press of this country, and a committee has been formed which is enquiring into suitable ways of achieving this.

Teaching.

Although we have for the moment put a great accent on publicity, we have not during the year forgotten our obligation to teach the Faith to all who are willing to learn. Both the local assemblies and the National Teaching Committee have done everything they can to foster existing outlets and to create new ones.

The National Teaching Committee's work lies mainly amongst those believers who are not members of a local community. Their name was during the year changed from the lonely word "isolated" to the brave and encouraging "pioneer." Working all by yourself, perhaps without even seeing a fellow Bahá'í for months, is not by any means easy. It takes courage and fortitude to keep on trying, especially if for a long time no tangible results are achieved. It shows the strength of the pioneers and the degree of their faith that out of the nine new believers declared during the year, seven are due to teaching efforts of pioneers or, in one case a group, rather than the work of assemblies. The National Teaching Committee, realising that it is through the pioneers that new communities must come into being, has tried to help them as much as possible, by keeping in touch by correspondence, by giving suggestions, explanations of the Teachings, etc., through the Journal, and by offering to send any help which

might be needed. The response to their efforts has not been quite what was hoped, but this no doubt will gradually change as the Faith becomes known and the pioneers are more and more involved in active teaching. The National Spiritual Assembly has also tried to help the pioneers, to understand their difficulties and to keep in touch with them by sending various of its members to visit different pioneers, to consult and discuss with them, rather in the way that a local assembly consults with the believers at a 19-day Feast.

Believers serving in the Army have done their best to help the teaching work. One has given talks on the Faith to Toc H in Droitwich; one, who is in the Shetland Isles, has written asking for books to be sent. Another, who is in the Midlands, has also been trying everything he can think of. This believer was the main originator of an innovation in the Midlands, when four believers came together at Miss Eastgate's home near Birmingham and for the first time held a Nawruz Feast in that part of England.

A number of fireside meetings have been held in Blackburn during the year, and one was held at Blackpool where a newly declared believer lives.

There has been a good deal of activity in Northampton. A believer has gone to live there and by advertisements in the local press and by personal efforts, a number of fresh people have been contacted, and one has already declared himself a believer. The resident pioneer has held fireside meetings and has also spoken at various meetings, one a very large one.

Other pioneers may not have addressed big audiences or even held fireside meetings, but most of them have taken every opportunity to speak of the Faith here and there, helping thereby in publicity even if not yet in more intensive teaching.

Some months ago the N.S.A. appointed one of its members as Contacts Secretary, to deal with such things as statements in the press sympathetic to the Bahá'í principles, and to contact prominent people. During the year various people have been reminded of previous contact with the Faith, such as King Haakon of Norway, who was sent a telegram of greeting on his seventieth birthday, the Dean of Canterbury who was sent some books, and President Benes, Sir Ronald Storrs, and some others were sent a photograph of the Temple with greetings at the New Year.

Linked up with teaching is the question of the literature used. In August the N.S.A. appointed a committee, the members of which were to consult informally with members of the community and prepare a long-term plan for new literature needed. This committee has produced several suggestions, which in the course of time

will be carried out, and also one idea which has already been put into practice. The committee stated that there was a definite need for a Bahá'í periodical for sale to the public, and out of this arose the decision to revive our previous magazine, "New World Order," but in view of the paper situation it has to be a quarterly instead of a monthly. Production has been greatly helped by a generous gift from one of the believers to give it a start. The first issue was out in time for Nawruz, with the main subject of "World Unity." The next one is to feature the Temple.

Bahá'í institutions have functioned steadily and satisfactorily during the year. The N.S.A. has met nine times—in Torquay, Buxton and Manchester, and the other times in London. After the receipt of the first gift from the Guardian a special meeting was held which dealt entirely with teaching, and various steps were taken to stimulate our efforts to make the Faith more widely known. It was necessary to hold a by-election in August, when Mr. Peter Wilkinson resigned on account of his approaching call-up to the Army. Mrs. Slade was elected in his place.

The arrangement of a Summer School was difficult this year, as no suitable place could be found in which to hold a school for the whole country. Consequently a short one was held for the South in Torquay during Whitsun and another for the North at Buxton during August Bank Holiday week-end. Both were very successful and inspiring, though the Northern school was the more largely attended.

The Annual Teaching Conference was held in Manchester on January 16th and 17th. It was well attended and the discussion was frank and very helpful. On the evening of the 16th Manchester organised a very successful public meeting in connection with the Conference.

So far as the actual numbers of the community are concerned, we have added nine new believers during the year. On the other hand, two of our oldest and most revered believers, Mrs. Kenworthy and Mr. Marlow, have passed to the Abhá Kingdom, after long lives of service which have been an inspiration to all of us.

Bahá'í Publishing Trust.

The Publishing Trust has been working on a somewhat different basis this year, a committee of four having been appointed, consisting of the manager, the editor (now two separate functions), and two others. During the year it was found that the declaration by the N.S.A. in its incorporation document that it was itself the sole trustee of the Publishing Trust was not sufficient in law and that it would be very difficult legally to become so, as the consent of the Lord Chancellor would be needed. Accordingly

the original Trust Deed was annulled and the Trust has become for legal purposes merely a committee appointed by the N.S.A. and its money part of the National Fund, though this does not prevent it trading as the Bahá'í Publishing Trust, providing the name of the N.S.A. is mentioned.

Although very little publishing was done, the Trust can be said to have had a successful year, in this respect that it has paid two large debts which were outstanding. One to Lund Humphries for the balance due on the Compilation of Bahá'í Scriptures, was paid out of income from donations and sales, the other to the American Publishing Committee for books supplied over two years ago was made possible because at the same time the Trust shipped one thousand unbound copies of "The Chosen Highway," for which the Americans paid us.

The only publishing effort has been a photographic reprint of "The Unfoldment of World Civilisation" which is at present in the press and will soon be on sale.

The Publishing Trust has done its share in our main work of making the Faith known. By advertising in literary journals and in a trade paper they have publicised various books and they have also made plans to ask booksellers in various towns to stock our books, in conjunction with local advertising by us. This scheme is now in the process of execution. Some shops also have already had books on sale or return without advertising, and a shop in Northampton had a week's display.

As a further means of making Bahá'í books known, a catalogue was printed, but it was found immediately after that a new Paper Control Order prevented our giving it away free and it can only be given to enquirers who send money in advance. Both the catalogue and the advertising were made possible by the use of some of the money sent us by the Guardian.

During the year stocks were increased by a kind gift from Mr. Townshend of several hundred copies of a pamphlet written by him. It has been resolved to keep nineteen copies of every book published, for sale later to collectors and Bahá'í libraries.

So far as the communities are concerned, London has had a more successful year. They have tried not only to deepen their consciousness of the Faith and the importance of its institutions, but also to do their share in publicising and teaching. To this end, after Christmas they organised their public meetings in two-monthly series, which are still continuing, and they are advertising them each week in "Time and Tide," and "The New Statesman and Nation." This and other efforts have produced a record number of new visitors. Individual be-

lievers, too, have tried by various means, such as fireside meetings, etc., to teach the Cause and to contact fresh people. The study classes also, though not well supported at the beginning of the year, are now better attended. Very few London believers were able to attend either Summer School on account of distance, so London held its own school during a week-end in July. Travelling was not possible, so it was held in London, all the various sessions being held in the homes of different believers, to provide a change of surroundings. Four friends from outside London also attended, and the experiment was altogether very successful. Though London has lost one believer during the year, Miss Rose Le Gray having married and moved to Cardiff, and only gained one new one, the size of the community has nevertheless been increased by the return of several members who had left it and by the transfer of two believers from other parts of the country. On the occasion of the Birthday of Bahá'u'lláh, the London community made a welcome gift of a Bahá'í calendar to every believer in the country.

Manchester has been working hard during the year and has tried by various means to attract fresh people to the Faith. In response to a request from the N.S.A. they held a special meeting to discuss teaching, out of which a number of suggestions arose. They have held monthly social meetings, and a picnic near Blackburn, which commenced with a short talk, and these were attended by a number of people and were a great success. One believer gave a sermon at a Unitarian chapel to a large audience. So far as Sunday meetings are concerned, they have had, besides their own speakers, two visitors from other communities, and during the Teaching Conference in January they held an extra large public meeting which was well attended. At some of their public meetings they have also studied "The Dawnbreakers." Also, as another way of making the Faith known, they have lent their Centre on Saturday afternoons to the Manchester Esperanto Group. They have a new believer this year (who is not yet of voting age) and have lost one, Miss Gibbs having moved into the country and become a pioneer believer. There was a wedding at the Centre in March. One of the Manchester Bahá'ís, Mr. Robert Yool, who is serving with the Army in Africa, has been awarded the D.C.M. for rescuing a comrade from a blazing tank.

The Bradford community has been badly depleted by the calling-up of various members and the ill-health of various others. Nevertheless, they have carried on and held their meetings, and a great deal of credit is due to the few faithful believers who have kept things going. It has not been easy for them, but the spiritual

benefit to the community of their efforts will no doubt be apparent in its development later on. In spite of all their difficulties, they were able to organise a public meeting at which various members of the Forces were invited to come and give their views on the subject "What is Wrong with the World?" The meeting was very interesting and introduced the Faith to a number of people. Fireside meetings have been held both in Bradford and Leeds, and by all these means it is hoped gradually to build up a larger community.

Torquay is in the sad position of having lost its assembly status, two believers having left during the year, thus reducing the number of voting members to eight. Since the Faith was first taught in Torquay, many people have accepted it there and had they all remained there would now be a large community. Unfortunately the number who have gone away is larger than those who stayed and so the size of the community has never been very great. In spite of their small numbers, they have kept on their centre and held their meetings, and obtained a certain amount of local publicity. They are trying hard to re-establish their spiritual assembly and hope that this may be achieved before long.

Bournemouth reports that they have tried to make the Faith known. Public meetings are held fortnightly at which talks on the Faith are given, a fireside meeting continues its work, and a talk on the Teachings was given to the Theosophical Society, with another on the Temple to follow. There has been one new believer there this year.

Amongst other items of news should be reported that Hugh McKinley was called before a tribunal at Bristol and explained the Bahá'í attitude towards military service. He was granted permission to remain in his present work of farming, and the clerk of the court afterwards asked for information about the Faith.

We were very grateful for the gift from the American National Assembly of three copies of "Bahá'í World," Volume VIII, which will be of great help to the teaching work.

In conclusion, let us think once more of our beloved Guardian, our constant source of inspiration and help, our ever-wise guide in all our activities. This year there has been a new note in his messages to us. Not only does he pray for our protection and praise our stability, not only does he tell us that we are building a foundation. Now he goes further; he speaks of "triumphant attainment of their goal," of "signal," even of "epoch-making victories." And so the plan unfolds and the goal becomes clearer. First we were tested by difficulties to see if we, our faith, and the assemblies and institutions we built could stand the strain of difficulties; afterwards has come the wider and

wider proclamation of the wonderful Revelation to all who will read or listen, a process of which we are still only at the beginning, and rising slowly but clearly on the horizon, in this last year of the first Bahá'í century, we can see the promise of great, very great, achievements for the service of the Cause.

The Guardian is praying for this, but on us too a very great deal depends. There are no limits in the service of Bahá'u'lláh; nothing we do, nothing we give, can ever be sufficient; but Bahá'u'lláh has placed in our hands the task of proclaiming to the people of this country the message of His Revelation. Could any task be greater? Can we let anything stand in its way? Thus does He speak of those He has chosen to work in His Name: "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 of 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. . . . 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." May we seek to draw ever nearer to the Source of His Bounty, and so become ever purer channels for the flow of His Grace to mankind. Let us not fail.

"Arise in the name of Him Who is the Object of all knowledge, and, with absolute detachment from the learning of men, lift up your voices and proclaim His Cause. I swear by the Day Star of Divine Revelation! The very moment ye arise, ye will witness how a flood of Divine Knowledge will gush out of your hearts, and will behold the wonders of His heavenly wisdom manifested in all their glory before you."

In Bahá'í Service,

NATIONAL SPIRITUAL ASSEMBLY.

Contacts.

In connection with the extension of pioneer teaching, the N.S.A. will be grateful if the friends will send in the names and addresses of any contacts they may have made anywhere in this country, more particularly in towns where there is already at least one Bahá'í. Contacts in Bristol would be particularly welcomed, as it is intended to teach intensively there, and one of the believers is going to move there to help.

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT

For the Year ended 21st April, 1943

EXPENDITURE.

	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
PUBLISHING EXPENSES.						
Bahá'í Journal	33	13	7			
Less Sales		10	0			
				33	3	7
Publicity, Advertising, etc				100	15	5
Rent, London Office ...				18	15	0
TRAVELLING EXPENSES.						
N.S.A. Members	54	19	10			
Teaching Committee ...	7	13	0			
Teachers	11	9	0			
Youth Club Members ...	1	17	8			
				75	19	6
Postages				4	9	10
Printing and Stationery...				2	9	6
Telegrams, Cables, etc. ...				5	8	9
Temple Photos and Labels	12	3	0			
Less Sales	7	1	10			
				5	1	2
Donation						
Publishing Trust				2	4	6
Audit				5	5	0
Subscription				1	0	0
Sundries				2	2	8
Legal Charges				6	0	0
Bank Commission				2	5	0
Depreciation: Fixtures ...				1	0	0
SURPLUS FOR YEAR				333	15	10
				£599	15	9

INCOME.

	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
By CONTRIBUTIONS ...				199	5	7
" GUARDIAN'S DONATIONS				400	0	0
" Bank Interest				10	2	
" PUBLISHING TRUST—						
Special Appeals Re-						
ceived	74	3	6			
Less paid to Publishing						
Trust	72	13	6			
In Hand	1	10	0			
				74	3	6

"The Unfoldment of World Civilisation."

"The Unfoldment of World Civilisation" should have been received from the printers by the time this Journal is issued. The N.S.A. feel that this book will be of the greatest value to all Bahá'ís in their teaching work, and they urge every member of the community who does not already possess a copy to obtain one.

Correspondence Abroad.

The National Adult Schools Union is organising an International Correspondence Bureau, and will put intending correspondents in touch with people abroad. The cultivation of international friendship is certainly an object with which Bahá'ís have every sympathy. If any of

the believers would like to join this scheme, will they please apply to the secretary of the N.S.A. for a form to fill up.

New Believers.

We welcome the following with much pleasure: Mr. H. Course, of Moulton, Northampton; Mrs. A. Curwen, of Blackpool; Mrs. A. L. Hofman, of Hartwell, Northampton; Miss S. M. Jewell, of Blackpool; Mr. B. Stevenson, of London.

Coming Marriage.

Miss Cansdale and Mr. Ferraby of the London Community are going to be married, probably towards the end of August.