

BAHÁ'Í JOURNAL

Published by

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

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JUNE, 1942

CONVENTION

Life in big cities having become normal again, Convention this year was once more held in London, on April 25th and 26th, and a pleasingly large number of Bahá'ís from all over the country came together for the occasion. At one time or other 42 believers attended, though not all of them could be there all the time. This increased attendance is extremely encouraging and without doubt contributed greatly to the success of the Convention.

We were fortunate indeed in receiving, just the day before Convention, a long and inspiring letter from the Guardian, which was read to all the assembled friends at the beginning of the first session. It is printed in another part of this issue of "Bahá'í Journal" for the benefit of those who were not present. One of the first acts of the delegates was to send a cable from the Convention to the Guardian, which read as follows:—

"Grateful thanks letter. Convention heartened maintenance contact. Humbly supplicating prove worthy inspiring message. Deepest love, devotion. Pledges intensified effort, begs continued prayers."

And the following reply was received two days after Convention finished:—

"Magnificent spirit English believers cheers strengthens me, arduous task. Thankful their message. Admire their achievements. Praying their protection. Cherish great hopes triumphant attainment their goal."—Shoghi Rabbani.

The election of the new National Spiritual Assembly was held on Sunday morning, by which time seventeen delegates were present. The result of the election is given separately on this page.

After reading and acceptance of the secretary's and treasurer's reports, the discussion moved naturally towards the question of teaching. Most of what was said is epitomised in the recommendations made by the Convention, which are given at the end of this report, but useful suggestions were also made which did not reach this stage. It is now becoming an axiom amongst Bahá'ís that no hard and fast rules can be made about teaching, that each of us approaches the matter a little differently, according to temperament and knowledge, and that each of us again has to vary the method according to the person we are speaking to. Nevertheless general suggestions were made such as attendance of Bahá'ís at meetings and lectures on different topics to make fresh contacts, advertising in local papers, attempts to place Bahá'í books with booksellers, large-scale distribution of pamphlets. It was emphasised that any effort to consolidate the communities will help the teaching effort and that all communities will find a source of strength in the regular holding of Nineteen-Day Feasts and Bahá'í days of commemoration. All delegates felt that prayer for the teaching work was

THE NATIONAL SPIRITUAL ASSEMBLY

<i>Chairman</i> ...	...	MR. H. M. Balyuzi
<i>Vice-Chairman</i> ...	...	MISS A. E. BAXTER
<i>Secretary</i> ...	...	MISS D. CANSDALE
<i>Asst. Secretary</i> ...	...	MR. J. FERRABY
<i>Treasurer</i> ...	...	MR. A. NORTON
		MRS. K. V. BROWN
		MR. R. COULSON
		MRS. C. LANGDON-DAVIES
		MR. F. P. WILKINSON

extremely important and that both individuals and communities should resort more and more to this supreme source of help.

The work of the National Teaching Committee during the year was discussed, after its report had been read, and the feeling of the Convention was that the Committee can serve the community best by concentrating on the work of the isolated believers and groups to a large extent, and further, that it is the responsibility of the isolated believers to keep in touch with the Committee, to ask advice and to report on their activities and opportunities. It was the general opinion that the Committee could function much better if there were more co-operation and co-ordination between it and the believers whom it is intended to serve.

A little while ago the N.S.A. appointed a committee to consider the possibility and advisability of running youth clubs, in connection with the various Bahá'í communities, in order to teach a wider circle of young people about the Cause. Their report was read at Convention and its suggestion that the scheme be tried out first in the North, more especially in Bradford, was approved by the assembled believers. Various delegates stressed the importance of building such clubs on a firm and practical foundation, and it was urged that all the British believers should support the scheme and assist the local communities taking part in the scheme. All expressed the hope that this may prove the beginning of a very successful effort.

The first day of Convention finished with supper at the London Centre, followed by an amusing charade performed by some of the London friends. On Sunday afternoon a Unity Feast was held, at which there was a very large attendance of Bahá'ís and friends, thus winding up happily a harmonious and constructive Convention.

Recommendations from the Convention to the N.S.A.

1. That the N.S.A. should consider whether the National Teaching Committee should include members from all parts of the country, and that it can best serve by concentrating on maintaining contact with isolated believers and groups and co-ordinating their work.

Accepted by the Assembly so far as membership is concerned and adopted in the appointment of the new committee.

2. To modify the Four-Year Plan to the extent of combining a publicity campaign with intensive teaching in places where there are existing groups and centres, and that special efforts be made in three places: Bournemouth, Nottingham and Blackburn, the publicity to be followed by visits from a teacher.

3. That the N.S.A. should urge local assemblies to find out the best means of advertis-

ing in their local, district and county papers, to publicise their centres and meetings.

4. That contributions received for the Publishing Trust appeal in the coming year should be put into the Post Office Savings Bank, where they would earn interest.

5. That the Publishing Trust should advertise some of its books in trade journals.

6. That isolated believers be advised to buy their books from one or other of the local communities instead of direct from the Publishing Trust, when they are buying small quantities, in order to save bookkeeping for the Publishing Trust and to help the communities dispose of their stocks.

7. That a book scheme for Publishing Trust books be instituted amongst the various Bahá'í Centres.

8. That the "Bahá'í Journal" be free of charge to all believers.

9. That isolated believers be recommended to write their views to the Journal, which should contain a small section for this purpose.

10. That the N.S.A. approach the Guardian on the question of prayers for children, and that parents be advised to make up prayers for young ones themselves.

Apart from the first suggestion, these recommendations will be dealt with by the N.S.A. at its next meeting.

LETTER FROM THE GUARDIAN

The National Assembly has received another inspiring and encouraging letter from the Guardian, dated February 28th, which is given below:—

"The Guardian was very happy indeed to hear of the success of the Summer School and the enthusiasm that prevailed. He has received news of it from some of the friends as well as the N.S.A. and feels that the English Bahá'ís have every reason to feel encouraged and proud of the way their tireless efforts are being rewarded.

"The good news of the increase in Bahá'í membership is yet another evidence of the vitality of the community and the activity of the friends, in spite of the gloom of the times, which increasingly prevails. Indeed as material affairs go from bad to worse in the world, the confidence, optimism, love, and hope of the believers will, by force of contrast, shine out as an ever brighter beacon, leading the people to the Path of Truth, the way laid down by God, which alone can guide them to the promise of the future.

"Now that the British Isles have had a respite from intense aerial warfare, no doubt the friends, especially in London and other cities,

find themselves more refreshed and consequently better able to carry on the work of the Cause. They should not lose any time in consolidating the teaching work, reinforcing new centres, and enlarging their numbers.

"The Guardian is urging the American friends, also, to redouble their efforts and not lose their precious opportunities. The value of work accomplished at present is inestimable, and opportunities lost are in a way quite irretrievable, as the agony of mankind moves forward to a climax.

"He is sorry to hear that Mr. Hofman may not be permanently available for the important work he was doing, but the devotion of the British believers will no doubt supply many willing hands to carry on if he is no longer able to.

"The many activities undertaken by the English friends, their determined efforts to bring the Cause before a wider public and reach people of outstanding importance, their new centres and study groups, are all signs which should greatly encourage them and demonstrate to them that the Holy Spirit is every ready to sustain and reinforce the believers in all work for the good of our precious Faith.

"The Guardian assures the members of the National Assembly of his most loving prayers on their behalf, and his deep and abiding appreciation of their tireless service. They are helping the friends to build an edifice which time nor tide shall undermine, and which needs must become the sole refuge for their sorely-tried countrymen.

"With Bahá'í greetings and love,

R. RABBANI."

"Dear and valued co-workers,

"I wish to assure you again of my feelings of profound gratitude for the manner in which you are performing your sacred task and discharging, individually and collectively, your pressing and manifold responsibilities. I rejoice and am deeply thankful to learn that the trials and tribulations that so fiercely assailed you in the past have lessened and have failed to interfere with the progress of your activities. Bahá'u'lláh will no doubt continue to guide, sustain and protect you in the days to come, and is well pleased with the marvellous evidences of your perseverance, unity, loyalty and devotion. I will continue to supplicate His abundant blessing for you all, that your numbers may steadily increase, your community life be continually enriched, your institutions flourish and multiply and the foundation of your individual spiritual lives be strengthened. Persevere in your high labours.

"Your true and grateful brother,

SHOGLI."

DELEGATES TO THE ANNUAL CONVENTION, 1942, (Bahá'í year 99)

Mrs. E. Cranmer,	182, Seabourne Road, Southbourne, Bournemouth.
Mr. F. Hurst,	12, Linden Grove, Dewsbury Road, Leeds.
Mr. A. Norton,	41, Cranbourne Road, Chellow Dene, Bradford.
Mr. F. P. Wilkinson,	40, Merrion Street, Leeds.
Miss A. E. Baxter,	18, New Farm Avenue, Bromley, Kent.
Miss D. Cansdale,	56, Queen's Gardens, London, W.2.
Mr. J. G. Ferraby,	39, Kensington Park Gardens, London, W.11.
Miss V. Isenthal,	95, The Avenue, West Ealing, London, W.13.
Miss M. Parker,	30, Lancaster Road, Wimbledon, London, S.W.19.
Miss M. Wellby,	162, Holland Park Avenue, London, W.11.
Mr. W. Wilkins,	28, Stavordale Road, London, N.5.
Mr. R. Coulson,	Oakleigh, Boothroyden Road, Hr. Blackley, Manchester, 9.
Mrs. M. Coulson,	Oakleigh, Boothroyden Road, Hr. Blackley, Manchester, 9.
Mr. D. Hofman,	34, Wilmslow Road, Withington, Manchester, 20.
Mr. A. Joseph,	9, Albemarle Road, Withington, Manchester, 20.
Miss Ada Williams,	294, Barton Road, Stretford, Manchester.
Miss J. Young,	34, Palatine Road, Withington, Manchester, 20.
Mrs. L. Stevens,	Three Hills, Hampton Avenue, Babbacombe, Torquay.
Mrs. M. Ward,	Kirkham, St. Albans Road, Babbacombe, Torquay.

Secretaries of Local Assemblies.

Bradford ...	MISS J. WILKINSON
London ...	MR. J. FERRABY
Manchester ...	MISS ADA WILLIAMS
Torquay ...	MRS. L. STEVENS

"The Promised Day is Come"

As previously announced, we received from America two dozen copies of this latest book written by the Guardian. Copies have been given to each community and also lent to isolated believers.

In case anybody has been missed, will any isolated believer who has not read the book and wishes to do so, please apply to the secretary of the N.S.A., when a copy will be sent. The books are not for sale.

Also will those isolated believers who at present have copies of this book, please finish them as quickly as possible and return them, so that others may use them.

Summer Schools

The Northern Summer School is being held in Buxton from July 31st to August 4th. Details are being circulated.

London is also holding a local Summer School on July 3rd, 4th and 5th. The meetings will all be held in London, but the Summer School atmosphere will be provided by holding all the meetings in different believers' homes and gardens.

NATIONAL COMMITTEES

The new N.S.A. held a short meeting after the conclusion of Convention, and appointed the following committees:

National Teaching Committee.

Miss A. E. Baxter, London
Miss V. Isenthal, London
Miss J. Wilkinson, Bradford
Mrs. M. White, Torquay
Mrs. M. Coulson, Manchester
Miss J. Young, Manchester
Mrs. I. Slade, Isolated believer.

Publishing Trust Committee.

Mrs. K. V. Brown
Mr. J. Ferraby
Mr. D. Hofman
Mrs. C. Langdon-Davies

Reviewing Committee.

Mr. H. M. Balyuzi
Miss F. Pinchon
Mrs. I. Slade
Mr. A. Sugar

Publicity Committee.

Mr. D. Hofman
Mr. F. Hurst
Mr. F. P. Wilkinson

ANNUAL REPORT

April, 1941—April, 1942

It is perhaps more difficult than usual this year to generalise about the life and work of the Bahá'í community—but one thing which must stand out in the memory of all is the wonderful love and sympathy and encouragement showered by the Guardian on the British believers in his letters and his prophecy of the wonderful harvest we shall reap for the Cause if we really and truly devote ourselves to the Service of Bahá'u'lláh. To appreciate the Guardian's encouragement is of course one thing, and to deserve it quite another—but on the whole it must be said that, although falling far short of what a Bahá'í community should be, we have made progress in most respects, and many efforts no doubt have been made of which we are unable now to measure the effect, but of which we shall see the results hereafter. In general, it could be said that the year has been one of consolidation and confirmation, especially in the case of the different local communities—the communities themselves have become more united, and the individual members have grown in knowledge and understanding. Wartime conditions do not render easier the work and life of a Bahá'í community, but during the past year it

has gradually become apparent that we have grown used to the situation and that we have adapted ourselves to it. We have adjusted ourselves to a different world and have overcome many of our difficulties. This has doubtless been assisted by the diminution in the disturbance of normal life by air raids. Ever since the war began, the communities, both local and national, have gradually lost the services of various members who have been called to the Forces or have been prevented for other emergency reasons from taking their part, but as always, a disadvantage brings in its train a corresponding benefit, in this case the discovery of a number of hitherto untried teachers and speakers who have proved themselves able to take their places. One visible result of our efforts is the larger number of new believers who have during the year been accepted into the Faith.

There is one respect in which we have been more fortunate this year than last and that is that we have been able to hold both our Summer School and our Annual Teaching Conference. Summer School was in one respect not quite what we have been accustomed to, in that, owing to lack of accommodation in the country, we were obliged to hold it in Bradford, which is not by any means a holiday resort, but the friends there gave us a marvellous welcome and did a great deal of unselfish work, and, although attendance was naturally lower, the school was in other respects well up to standard. We took the opportunity, whilst so many Bahá'ís were together in Bradford, to organise a large public meeting, for which a hall was hired: There was an attendance of over one hundred and the meeting received favourable notice in the local press.

The Annual Teaching Conference was held in Manchester and once more brought together Bahá'ís from all parts of the country for discussion of plans and problems.

The N.S.A. has met eight times during the year, in Great Hucklow, London, Bradford and Manchester, and, for the first time in its history, in Bournemouth. The continuity of its work has perhaps been somewhat hampered by the necessity of holding two by-elections, firstly owing to the resignation of Mr. Sugar and later on the resignation of Mr. Joseph, who took Mr. Sugar's place on the Assembly.

Last year we rejoiced that in spite of all the dangers of war, all the believers in this country were safe. This year we regret having to report two losses in the community on account of war. Firstly, Fuad Afnan, the youngest grandson of 'Abdul-Bahá, was killed in an air raid early in the morning of May 11th, and later, on March 15th, Bridget Hill, who was a ferry-pilot, was killed in an aeroplane crash. We feel these losses greatly. As a community we have no

doubt to bear our share of the sacrifice of life which is being made by the country and by the world, and we have lost two young people who would surely have rendered great service to the Cause here. We have also to report the passing of two other believers, Miss Winifred Wade and Miss Val Lavender, both of whom had been ill for some time.

Three Bahá'í weddings have been held during the year, which must surely be a record. They took place in Manchester, Bradford and Torquay.

Teaching.

Our teaching efforts during the year have been rather limited and not perhaps very impressive, but nevertheless the Cause has been made known to a number of people, and we have to report sixteen new believers, which is a larger number than last year. The greatest efforts in teaching have been made by the communities, who have all maintained their regular meetings and have organised special efforts at various times, either in the form of big public meetings or fireside meetings. Except in Blackburn, however, little visible result has been obtained from teaching efforts either by or amongst the isolated believers, who should of course form the nucleus for the formation of new communities. It is hoped that in future they will avail themselves more of the help which the National Teaching Committee can offer. An interesting feature is the teaching work being done by Bahá'í members of the Forces. All of them are talking of the Cause wherever they go and they have between them distributed quite a lot of literature.

Bradford reports steady work throughout the year and that they received great help from the holding of Summer School there. A very successful public meeting was held during that time, through which many new people were contacted. They have since had several guest speakers. Unfortunately their numbers are depleted, as some of their men have been called up, and several of the girls are now due to go too. Those who are left, however, have pledged themselves, with the help of Bahá'u'lláh, to work still harder in making the Cause known there.

Manchester has held its public meetings regularly and has also provided speakers at meetings of the Unitarian Church, the Workers' Education Association and to a group of Scouts. They are also in touch with the local branch of the International Club, who are holding a series of lectures on Different Religions of the World, and have arranged for a talk on the Bahá'í Faith to end the series. Manchester friends have also held a number of fireside meetings, chiefly for young people. Besides these, meetings have been arranged at Altrin-

cham and Bowdon, and the Manchester Assembly has been responsible for the work at Blackburn, where a regular fireside meeting has been held and also two picnics at which friends from Manchester and Bradford were present.

London did not start the year particularly well—meetings were not well attended and there was a feeling of lassitude and almost indifference in the community, though the special public meetings organised every month or so were always well attended. At the beginning of the autumn, however, conditions began to improve, and, though still missing the many absent friends, the remaining believers have now drawn together into a smaller but a very united and in the main hard-working community. Over the year a great many fresh people have been told of the Cause and an interesting point is that several have sought out the Cause and enquired without any contact on our part.

At the beginning of the year the Torquay community had just settled down in their new centre, of which they have made good use ever since. They have held regular public meetings, at which all members of the community take turns in speaking, and they have had several visits from Bahá'ís from other communities. In February an Esperanto class was started, but though advertised, it did not meet with much response outside the community. Several people however expressed a wish to attend one later on. A work party is also held at which the Bahá'í Writings are read and studied whilst work for charity is in progress. The Torquay community has done some teaching work in Newton Abbot, though as yet without any visible results. During the year five new members have been enrolled, thus more than replacing three who have removed.

The Bournemouth Group, though scattered, have held regular meetings and have added one new believer to their number. When the N.S.A. visited Bournemouth, a hall was taken for a public meeting and a unity feast was also held, and a Bahá'í speaker has been provided for the Psychology Club.

By the end of the summer, the believers in Altrincham and the district had grown to six and it was therefore decided to make them into a separate group. They began their work with great enthusiasm, but unfortunately, owing to removals, war work and the death of Miss Lavender, the number decreased again a few months after and the survivors have for the present again been included in the Manchester community.

A certain amount of work has been done in Newcastle. There is now only one believer living there, who has very little spare time, but talks have been given to the Theosophical Society and some fireside meetings have been held.

At its meeting in March the N.S.A. considered a suggestion to organise Youth Clubs in connection with the various Bahá'í Centres and in this way to teach the Cause to young people. A committee has met and considered the proposition, and its recommendations will have to be dealt with by the incoming Assembly.

Publicity Committee.

The Guardian's last letter emphasised very strongly the need to make the Cause known as widely as possible in this country, and in response to this the N.S.A. appointed a Publicity Committee. This committee, which has only been able to consult by correspondence, recommended that the Cause should be advertised as widely as possible in the press, in public transport vehicles, etc. They thought, however, that press advertising could most profitably be undertaken in the smaller papers rather than in the big national ones, and that advertisements should be taken for a period of six months or so. Accordingly advertisements have been placed in the following: "The British Esperantist," in connection with which fourteen enquiries have been received already, "Opus," which circulates mainly amongst young people, "Stand-By," the paper of the North Regional Fire Service, and "One and All," the magazine of the National Adult School Union. An article on the Bahá'í Faith appeared in the April number of the magazine issued by the Society for the Study of Religions, in which issue an advertisement also appeared. The Committee are also preparing a draft statement on the Bahá'í Faith which, when ready, will be distributed to all the newspapers in the country for reference.

The Committee plans to send a circular letter soon to the local spiritual assemblies, making recommendations about publicity which they could undertake.

Over a period of a couple of months during the year the Cause obtained some valuable publicity in Scotland through the medium of an exchange of correspondence in the "John o' Groats Journal." This was initiated by a Bahá'í and received sympathetic support from the editor, and one or two contacts were made thereby, which will be valuable when we are able to teach in Scotland.

Contacts have also been made and maintained with the Society for the Study of Religions and the Adult Schools Union, to both of whom talks have been given.

A little while ago letters were written by the National Assembly to King Haakon of Norway and to President Benes of Czechoslovakia, reminding them of their previous contact with the

Bahá'í Faith through the visits of Martha Root. President Benes in particular sent an extremely cordial reply. A letter was also sent to Sir Ronald Storrs expressing sympathy when he was involved in an accident and mentioning his acquaintance with 'Abdul-Bahá, and a kind answer was received.

Publishing Trust.

Wartime difficulties have increased during the year. Stocks of books published in America have become almost exhausted and cannot be replenished on account of import restrictions and, though we have published several books here, this has not been easy on account of paper rationing.

By virtue of our exports of books to Australia, New Zealand, India and North America, the Publishing Trust was accepted early in the year as a member of the Publishers' Association Export Group, which has enabled us to obtain an increased ration of paper, and without this we could hardly have undertaken any publishing work of importance during the year.

During the period under review, we have published three books. "Selections from Bahá'í Scripture," is a compilation from the writings of Bahá'u'lláh and 'Abdul-Bahá, together with what little we have of the Báb's writings. Stanwood Cobb's very useful book "Security for a Failing World" was reproduced photographically, with a few alterations to suit the English edition, and has sold well. "Guide to the Administrative Order of Bahá'u'lláh," by Mr. Balyuzi is a useful small booklet giving simply the principles of Bahá'í Administration.

The publication of "Selections from Bahá'í Scripture" was the biggest work undertaken during the year and in connection therewith, the question of finance had to be seriously considered. The book was urgently needed, as our stocks of the writings of Bahá'u'lláh and 'Abdul-Bahá were getting dangerously low. The N.S.A. authorised entering into a contract for an amount of approximately £400, and an appeal was launched amongst the believers for help in paying this amount. This appeal has so far brought in about £90 and, as the publishers will give us time to pay and the receipt of the books will be spread over a period due to difficulties of paper supply, it is confidently hoped that the rest of the money will be subscribed in time.

During the year a large part of the stock of the Publishing Trust has been scattered, in order to minimise war risk. Several of the friends have taken books into their homes and by their help we now have seven depots in different parts of the country.

From time to time Bahá'ís liable to military service have appeared before tribunals with the request to be allowed to serve in a non-combatant capacity. A further case occurred during the year, when Mr. Hofman appeared before a tribunal in Manchester. His request was granted, the chairman saying that he had not previously had a case so fairly stated.

The National Assembly has made two attempts during the year to provide certain facilities for the community, i.e., to arrange a form of group insurance which would cover burial expenses for any believer insured under it, and to obtain the right to perform marriages in our Bahá'í Centres and to issue a certificate of marriage. Neither attempt was successful. In the case of Bahá'í marriages, we were informed by the Registrar-General that such a facility would only be granted to any of our Centres which occupied a whole building in which no other activity took place.

Last autumn a petition was organised by the Esperanto Association with the object of promoting the teaching of Esperanto in Government-controlled schools. The promotion of an international auxiliary language is of course very much in accordance with Bahá'í principles, and the N.S.A. signed it officially and encouraged the believers also to sign.

The Assembly was very glad to receive, some months ago, a gift of two dozen copies of the Guardian's latest book, "The Promised Day is Come," which was published in America, and we are grateful to the National Spiritual Assembly of the U.S. and Canada for having sent this generous gift. The book was not offered for sale as we had such a small supply, but has been lent round amongst the believers.

In concluding this summary of our year's life as a Bahá'í community, let us quote from the Guardian's letters to us: "Though their numbers be small, and their activities restricted, and their trials and anxieties manifold and oppressive, yet their spiritual contribution, through their fortitude, valour, and self-sacrifice, to the progressive unfoldment of the Faith's latent potentialities in the Western world are both notable and constantly increasing. As the clouds of the war dissipate and the horrors of this universal carnage fade away, it will become increasingly evident to both friends and foes of the Faith, how solid has been the foundation which their indomitable spirit has laid, and how rich the harvest which their incessant labours have yielded."

And again: "On this foundation you will, as the present hindrances are removed, and the tremendous reactions of this conflict are made apparent, rear an edifice worthy of the Name and attesting the glory of the Faith of Bahá'u'lláh."

Let us take these words not in praise of what we have achieved, but as an indication of what we can do if we will. Let us meditate continually on what is expected of us, on what we are given the most glorious opportunity to do, and let us all, assemblies, communities and individuals, more firmly and more deeply resolve to sacrifice ourselves for the Cause of God. The early believers sacrificed their lives to build a foundation for the Cause—we are asked to live our lives with the same purpose, to sacrifice our time, our energy, our personal interests, to devote all our abilities, all our knowledge, everything that we have and are to build the Kingdom of God. This is the task which has been entrusted to us—a task without precedent in the history of mankind, and only by absolute self-sacrifice, by complete renunciation of everything which does not contribute to this purpose can we hope to succeed. 'Abdul-Bahá expressed this all so perfectly when he said:

"... We must sacrifice everything, every plan, every longing and ideal must be given up completely to the will of God. We must look to God for all we desire, all we wish to attain. The will of God must work out its purpose in us. Our human will must be laid down in sacrifice and love. 'Abdul-Bahá has given everything in sacrifice and obedience to the will of God. . . . All our soul-powers, our outward self, our inward self must be consecrated to God in service and sacrifice. Even life itself must be given if necessary. If we have not reached this station of nothingness we have not attained to real obedience to the will of God. A pupil must submit entirely to the will of the teacher. This is true sacrifice, true obedience.

"Real obedience and real sacrifice are identical, they are absolute readiness to follow and perform whatever you are called upon to do in the Cause of God. When you really love God you will be willing to sacrifice everything and submit yourself entirely to His will. Consecrate yourself wholly to Him. His will is everything. His service is paramount."

In Bahá'í Service,

NATIONAL SPIRITUAL ASSEMBLY.

In Memoriam

*I have made death a messenger of joy to thee;
wherefore dost thou grieve? - Bahá'u'lláh.*

Richard Marlow, of Bournemouth, passed to the Abha Kingdom on April 30th, 1942.

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT

For year ended 21st April, 1942

INCOME.

	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
By CONTRIBUTIONS ...	...	...	...	143	2	6
" Sundry Receipts ...	...	...	...	1	7	6
" Bank Interest ...	...	...	...	5	1	4
" Bad Debt Excess Reserve ...	...	...	...	7	10	0
" Expenses Refunded—						
Convention Fees ...	6	0	0			
Sundries ...	6	0				
				6	6	0
" Publishing Trust—						
Special Appeals Received ...	91	12	0			
Less Paid to Publishing Trust ...	91	12	0			
TOTAL INCOME	£163	7	4			

" EXCESS EXPENDITURE OVER INCOME
FOR YEAR ... 50 9 5

£213 16 9

EXPENDITURE.

	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
PUBLISHING EXPENSES.						
Bahá'í Journal ...	30	6	8			
Less Sales ...	2	15	8			
				27	11	0
New World Order ...	10	1	10			
Less Sales ...	1	19	6			
				8	2	4
Teaching ...				8	1	11
Editor's Salary and Insurance ...				86	9	0
Travelling N.S.A. ...	53	4	5			
Less Amounts refunded ...	12	3	10			
				41	0	7
Postages ...				5	18	6
Printing and Stationery ...				6	18	5
Telegrams, Cables, etc. ...				4	16	9
LITERATURE ACCOUNT.						
Stock, 25th April, 1941			17	6		
Add Purchases ...	1	0	0			
				1	17	6
Less Sales ...	1	0	0			
						17 6
Audit ...				5	5	0
Sundries ...				5	3	9
Bank Commission ...				2	2	0
Depreciation: Fixtures ...				1	0	0
Expenses paid on behalf of Publishing Trust ...				10	10	0
				<u>£213</u>	<u>16</u>	<u>9</u>

The Building Fund as at the end of the Bahá'í year stands at £1,514 10s. 10d., including interest received, and the Relief Fund, also including interest, at £78 11s. 1d.

The accounts were audited and certified by Messrs. Percy Hodgkinson & Co., of Bradford, the auditors appointed by last year's Convention.

It will be seen from the above Account that Expenditure very considerably exceeded Income during the year. This situation, we hope, will only be temporary, but to get our financial position on a better basis will require the greatest efforts and sacrifice of us all. We made plans at Convention to increase our teaching

efforts. Shoghi Effendi has described the National Bahá'í Fund as the bloodstream of the community—if this bloodstream is not constantly nourished, the work of the community cannot be continued and all our plans will come to nothing. The National Bahá'í Fund needs everything we can give, small amounts as well as large, and every sacrifice made for it, moreover, brings blessing on the giver and also on the community as a whole.

The treasurer of the National Fund asks believers to note that cheques sent to him should be made out to The National Spiritual Assembly of the Bahá'ís of the British Isles, and not to him personally.