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CONVENTION

The Convention was held in London on April 22nd, 23rd and 24th. There were eighteen delegates present, as well as friends from London and Manchester, and some of the isolated believers. It was a truly vital and inspiring occasion. We feel that the spirit which illumined the whole week-end will remain with us through the year and carry us on to accomplish the work which we have set ourselves, and which the Guardian has urged us to do.

On Friday evening the Convention assembled and the following officers were elected: —

Chairman: Hasan Balyuzi
Secretary: David Hofman
Tellers: Marguerite Wellby
John Craven

Dorothy Cansdale consented to take shorthand notes of the discussion.

A cable was composed and sent to the Guardian. "Delegates friends send loving greetings renew dedication supplicate guidance inspiration, Convention London."

Before sending this cable we considered whether we really meant to renew our dedication by active service

to the Faith, or whether we were simply paying lip service. After discussion and prayer it was resolved to send the cable in its full meaning. The Guardian replied to this: "Deepest loving appreciation fervent supplication success deliberations, Shoghi." After this the Annual Report was read.

ANNUAL REPORT

April, 1937 - April, 1938

In our last annual report we noted an awakening of community consciousness among the believers throughout the country. The current year has been characterised by a continuation of this process, with the accompaniment of growing pains. The guiding hand of Bahá'u'lláh has been apparent in creating conditions which have forced us to face our own problems and to stand on our own feet as a functioning community within the Bahá'í World Order.

We have been deprived of the services of the American teachers by their departure from England, but their work has been continued, which in itself is a testimony to the ability and determination of the English community to develop from its own resources. The

National Spiritual Assembly wishes to express its deep gratitude to all those visiting teachers who have done so much to help us during the past two years. They not only taught the Faith to enquirers, but prepared the believers to do the same, and keenly as we feel their loss we can only be grateful for the opportunity which we now have of nursing the tender plant of the Faith in this land, and with the help of God, sending its roots deep into the soil.

This growing unity of the believers expressed itself at Summer School and at the Teaching Conference in December, when friends from all over the country assembled together. As a means to further this process the Conference recommended to the N.S.A. that three annual rallying points for all the believers be established. The recommendation was confirmed and the three occasions chosen were Convention, Summer School and a mid-winter Teaching Conference. National community consciousness has been fostered in various other ways such as the distribution of the *Bahá'í Journal*, the meetings of the N.S.A. being held in Manchester and London and correspondence with isolated believers.

While doing everything possible to consolidate the community, the N.S.A. has remained aware of the danger of becoming exclusive which might lie in such a policy. A statement was made about this in one number of the *Bahá'í Journal*. The unity and close association of the friends is of utmost importance, but we must not lose sight of our relationship to all humanity. "Consort with all people with joy and fragrance." Our nineteen day feasts, meetings, and other activities should not become ingrown, but should be related to the tremendous drama of current history, to

the sense of crisis, and to the spiritual struggle whose effect is so apparent in the contingent world.

Teaching

At the beginning of the year the National Spiritual Assembly decided not to appoint a new Teaching Committee, but to take charge of this work itself. Miss Baxter was appointed Teaching Secretary to keep records of the work and to supply the N.S.A. and teachers with information for follow-up work. This arrangement has worked out very well.

In Devonshire the believers have continued the work so ably started by Mrs. Bishop. Mrs. Stevens conducts a regular study group in Torquay, and Mr. Tobey has held meetings in Dartington Hall. Mr. Hansford has declared himself a believer. Mr. Balyuzi and Mr. Hofman have both spoken at Dartington Hall, and Mr. Tobey has spoken in public in Torquay. The group in Devonshire will miss Mr. Tobey, who has just left for America for an indefinite stay, but it is felt that the Faith is now established there and will continue to grow through the assistance of Bahá'u'lláh and the efforts of the resident believers.

Mrs. Romer, who was here for a few months, made several contacts in Brighton with clubs and societies, and held meetings in a private home. She was able to arrange a public lecture in the Unitarian Church, where Mrs. Bishop had already spoken. The N.S.A. delegated the follow-up work in this place to the London Spiritual Assembly and voted £10 for expenses. London reports that Mrs. Cranmer has been made secretary for this work.

A group of people in Salisbury have become interested in the Faith. Lady Blomfield, Mrs. Bishop, Miss Wellby, Mr. Balyuzi and Mr. St. Barbe Baker

have visited them. Hospitality has been extended to Bahá'í teachers by Mrs. Hill, who has also arranged the meetings.

The Bahá'ís of Bradford have taken part in some of the Manchester activities. Recently Miss Joan Wilkinson wrote to the N.S.A. to ask for a teacher for a group of young people whom she had interested in the Faith, and Mr. Hofman went there in April and reports a good meeting with keen interest. This work will be followed up by sending more teachers to help the four resident Bahá'ís.

Two groups have been addressed in Bristol and a lively meeting was held in Letchworth at the Theosophical Lodge.

In Manchester regular meetings have been held at the Centre. Special meetings were held for the international Bahá'í youth day, at the Teaching Conference, and at Naurooz. Mrs. Bishop helped the Assembly greatly, and visited many outlying places to speak of the Faith.

Two series of public lectures were held at Caxton Hall, London, but they were not considered successful. Regular public meetings have been held in the Centre and the group at Crouch End and Muswell Hill have continued their work. A few fireside meetings have been held. Madame Orlova addressed the children's group of one of the Co-operative Society's branches and the Free Religious Movement at Lindsay Hall. Lady Blomfield spoke to the Society for the study of religions, with Sir Denison Ross in the chair.

The Teaching Conference, held in Manchester during December, was vital and inspiring. Two methods of teaching were discussed, personal and collective. In the first place it was considered that

the individual could only affect others by striving to attain a higher state of consciousness through prayer and devotion. By understanding the Teachings and their application to daily life and world problems, the believers could become assured and calm in a troubled world, and this would be an attraction to others. In teaching organised by an Assembly it had been found that public lectures were not successful. Fireside groups and social meetings, informally conducted, were agreed to be the best ways.

Summer School

The Summer School of 1937 proved once again the immense services which this institution can render to the Faith. It was opened by Lady Blomfield, at the Friendship Holidays Association Centre, Matlock Bath. Many non-Bahá'ís were present, and it is hoped, in accordance with the Guardian's instruction, to make each Summer School more and more attractive to those who have not inquired deeply into the Faith. It was felt that the lectures covered too wide a field, in spite of the fact that they were enjoyed by Bahá'ís and visitors alike. The Summer School Committee recommended that future schools should be held in a place which could be entirely occupied by the School, as although contacts can be made when we share a place with others, it is more difficult to develop Summer School as a Bahá'í institution. The N.S.A. has approved this recommendation and this year it is hoped to occupy the entire premises of Cudham Hall in Kent.

The lectures were supplemented by evening talks and entertainment. Mr. St. Barbe Baker showed pictures of the gardens round the Shrines on Mount Carmel, among which was a picture of the Master.

Publishing Trust

The details of this project have occupied the N.S.A. during the whole of the year. There was great difficulty in associating the N.S.A. with the Trust because of the fact that we are not incorporated and have no legal status. Mr. Menasse, the lawyer engaged by the N.S.A., has been most helpful and the Trust Deed is now registered, and deposited at the bank. The Trustees are, Mrs. Brown, Mr. Albert Joseph and Mr. Norton. They hold the funds of the Publishing Trust under the supervision of the National Spiritual Assembly.

The Fund stands at £232, for about £86 of which we are indebted to subscriptions from Bahá'ís in other parts of the world. The N.S.A. has decided that the Trust shall act as wholesale distributor for Bahá'í literature, and will gradually take over the stock now managed by the London library. This cannot be done at once, but application has been made to the London Spiritual Assembly for cupboard space, and as soon as this is available the Trust will start work. Mrs. Brown has been appointed treasurer and Mr. Hofman manager. A separate bank account and separate set of books will be kept. The Trust will sell literature to local Spiritual Assemblies or individuals, and act as booksellers for such publications as "The Promise of All Ages," "Paris Talks," and other literature, the copyright of which is held by individuals.

The first publication of the Trust itself is now at the printers. This is a revised and re-edited edition of Dr. Esslemont's booklet "Bahá'u'lláh and His Message." Much care has gone into the preparation of this pamphlet, and the literary and artistic talents of several of the believers have been utilised. It is hoped to produce an introduction to the Faith which

will be up to date and of universal appeal. Copies will be sent throughout the Bahá'í world and it is hoped that orders will come from abroad.

A Life of Bahá'u'lláh, by H. M. Balyuzi, is now with the Reviewing Committee, and a prayer book is in process of compilation.

London

The London Spiritual Assembly has added three believers to its membership, and reports that the nineteen-day feasts and other feast days are receiving better attendance than before. Some valuable work has been done on the classification of material left to the Assembly by Dr. Esslemont and Mr. Simpson and to quote the Archives Committee, 'There is much of great interest and value, especially amongst the correspondence between Dr. Esslemont and Mr. Simpson. In time to come I am sure they will shed much light on the early days of the Cause.'

Mr. Grant, the editor of the *Rangoon Times*, who has done great service to the Faith through his paper, has been in London for some months. He has been the guest at dinner of the London Assembly and has spoken at the Centre. Mrs. Routh of Australia has also been a welcome visitor, and has helped greatly with Teaching and social work at the Centre.

An exhibition of Bahá'í books, photographs, and other objects has been kept in the Centre since Naurooz.

A bulletin has been issued regularly for the last few months.

Manchester

The growth and consolidation of the community in Manchester, has been one of the most encouraging features of the year. The Spiritual Assembly has had many problems to face, but the growing attendance at their public meetings, of

non-Bahá'ís, is an indication of the vital spirit within the community. Four new believers have been added.

Visitors and teachers have been sent to outlying groups and isolated believers, and the success of the Teaching Conference was due in no small measure to the warmth of hospitality accorded by the Manchester friends.

A news-letter has been started for circulation among members of the community.

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In October, Mrs. Slade retired from the N.S.A. and Mrs. Langdon-Davies was elected to the vacancy.

Mrs. Weeks, who used to mimeograph the *Journal* before it was printed, has presented the N.S.A. with her duplicating machine, and it has been lent to the London Spiritual Assembly.

An attempt was made to secure incorporation, but was unsuccessful.

One of the greatest difficulties with which the N.S.A. has to cope, is the National Fund. It has not yet reached the healthy condition of receiving a steady flow of contributions from the believers. Until this condition is reached the Faith cannot grow steadily and surely as it should, and all national undertakings will have to be spasmodic, financed by appeals to the believers. The work of the N.S.A. has now reached a point where it should be carefully planned in advance, upon a definite budget. It is therefore recommended for the attention of the Convention and the incoming N.S.A., that this problem receive deep and serious attention, and that every effort be made to ensure a regular income, however small, to the National Fund.

The growing tension in world affairs, and the sense of the imminent breakdown

of the existing order, force us to consider what steps we shall take to preserve our work in the event of war. Under these conditions we must also consider what are the most effective means of bringing the message of Bahá'u'lláh to the attention of large numbers of people. It is recommended that this latter problem be considered separately from Teaching.

Two years ago the following message was received from the Guardian: "There is undoubtedly no higher call than that of bringing the Message to a world tormented and torn on every side by the forces of destructive materialism. It is for us to realise the full responsibility that has been laid upon our shoulders in this matter, and having attained full consciousness of our responsibility to unitedly arise to contribute all that we can towards its discharge."

The N.S.A. recommends for consideration the suggestion that the Faith in England should, for one year, regard itself, and attempt to function as, a teaching organism. Let all our efforts and energies be directed to this supreme aim. The work of individuals, spiritual assemblies, and the national assembly can be co-ordinated through the methods and institutions of the administration. Our prayers, our thoughts, our actions, can be focussed on this end, and we may be sure of the Guardian's support and of the assistance of the Holy Spirit.

"I say unto you that any one who will rise up in the Cause of God at this time shall be filled with the spirit of God, and that He will send His hosts from heaven to help you if you have faith. And now I give you a commandment which shall be for a Covenant between you and me; that ye have faith; that your faith be steadfast as a rock that no storms can move, that nothing can disturb, and that

it endure through all things even to the end; even should ye hear that your Lord has been crucified, be not shaken in your faith; for I am with you always, whether living or dead; I am with you to the end. As ye have faith so shall your powers and blessings be. This is the standard — this is the standard — this is the standard.” Faithfully,

In His Service,
National Spiritual Assembly,
by David Hofman, Secretary.

The report was discussed briefly and then the secretary of the Manchester Spiritual Assembly was asked to speak of the progress of the Faith in that city. He reported that the most important event had been the acquisition of a Centre, which had served to unify the community and had enabled it to organise larger and better meetings, and especially such gatherings as the Youth Symposium and the Teaching Conference. It was felt that if speakers could be sent regularly, the members of the community could make personal contact with many people in between their visits and then bring them to the public meeting. Manchester hoped that some such arrangement could be made.

The recommendation in the annual report of bringing the message of Bahá'u'lláh to large numbers of people, was discussed. Some felt that it was of more importance to concentrate on founding new centres than to engage in publicity, but the recommendation was clarified and it was agreed to ask the incoming National Assembly to consider the matter of sending the revised edition of Dr. Esslemont's booklet, with a personal letter, to a large number of carefully selected people, such as schoolmasters, mayors of cities, business men, etc. Mrs. Kenworthy made a very good

contribution to this discussion, part of which we reproduce: —“ It seems to me that a very vital point in connection with our responsibility has been touched here. I have a growing consciousness that we need some way to make the people round about us realise that there is a potency of God in the midst of the world, and that a Messenger really has come Who has things in His grip, Who knows what He is doing, Who is watching what is going on and has His purposes and intends to fulfil them. I am looking for the time when the lights who are looked up to, fail and are seen to be failing. Then where are we to find leading lights which can be depended upon. That is how people are beginning to feel and we want to get to the heart of things with them, they are feeling very bitter, very sad, but very unwilling to move. They try to forget it and throw it off The Almighty, the power that is ruling the world, is watching until the things that men want to do have proved themselves futile, and then the followers of Bahá'u'lláh will be needed to tell these trembling souls that there is a power which is sufficient, and then the power of faith will prevail. God is very near only the genuine things and people will last, and so it will be with Bahá'ís.”

The report of the projected formation of a Spiritual Assembly in Mexico City was read, as evidence of how the Spirit of Bahá'u'lláh is working, and how we must seek those people who are ready.

“ Here is evidence how ready the people are for the message.”

“ The thing is to work out how to get in touch with them.”

“ I recommend everyone to read a pamphlet which the ‘ Spectator ’ published a few months ago, ‘ The Views of Under Thirty.’ ”

"What use can we make of it?"

"To find out what the people in the world need, and to give it to them. The people in this pamphlet say they want unity."

"Have we a pamphlet that one could send when one sees someone in a book or paper who appears ready for the Teaching."

"Use the new edition of Dr. Esslemont's pamphlet."

"This is not enough. We shall only touch a few people. We must do something more."

"We should make a great effort to address people who are not influential, but who have suffered, and we should not neglect them in favour of people who have more influence in the world. We should make a special effort to contact people who have lost heart and have received many false promises."

"If we speak of the Faith amongst some people, it rouses antagonism."

"That's fine."

"I feel that a little antagonism in England would do us good. It would force us to make replies and spread the Teachings in that way. When I speak of circulating large numbers, I do not mean indiscriminately, but people who are in touch with those whom Miss Wellby spoke about, such as social

workers, clubs, people in charge of distressed areas. To send out one thousand booklets as a personal contact would mean that the message would have gone throughout the country by one means or another."

Several suggestions were made about teaching, but these were kept aside for the special session on Sunday. Friday evening's discussion ended on a high note when we realised that we cannot limit the power of the Holy Spirit, but must seek guidance to find those open doors which undoubtedly exist in this country.

Saturday, April 23rd

Special passages from 'Bahá'í Administration' were read, bearing on the election, nature and function of the National Spiritual Assembly. The election was then conducted, and resulted as follows:—

Mr. Balyuzi, Mrs. Brown, Mr. Hofman, Miss Challis, Mrs. Langdon-Davies, Mr. Lee, Miss Gibbs, Mr. Asgarzadeh, Mr. Norton.

The annual report was read again for the benefit of those not present on the day before, and the recommendation with regard to the National Fund was presented for discussion. First the Treasurer's report was presented; it is summarised as follows:—

					£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Subscriptions during the year	...	...	...	...	67	8	3			
Expenses	...	...	...	...				31	16	0
Debit balance from last year	...	...	...	...				16	11	4
Balance carried forward	...	...	...	...				19	0	11
				...	£67	8	3	£67	8	3
								£	s.	d.
Subscriptions to the Publishing Trust	...	...	...	...				115	11	8
Subscriptions last year	...	...	...	...				118	7	0
Total Publishing Trust	...	...	...	...				£233	18	8

It was pointed out that the friends had subscribed, during the year, a sum of £185 15s. 3d., this being the total subscriptions to the National Fund and to the Publishing Trust.

The recommendation from the Annual Report that an effort should be made to assure a steady income for the National Fund, was discussed. It was pointed out that without such a financial basis the work of the N.S.A. could not continue. We had now reached a condition when our work had to be planned in advance. Continual appeals for money in the *Journal* were undignified, and showed that there was not a proper realisation of the true nature of the Faith. It is a functioning body and not an organisation which engages in spasmodic activities. The spiritual principle underlying contributions to the Fund was stressed. This is the best way in which every believer, no matter how small his contribution, can take part in the activities of the community. "The eventual success of the work is based on our sacrifices. In the past people were called upon to sacrifice their lives; we are not asked to make this supreme sacrifice, but in the early days there were twenty thousand who did make it, and that sacrifice has carried the Faith to its present stage of development. And now the measure of our sacrifice will be the impelling force, guided and confirmed by Bahá'u'lláh."

"We have not yet realised that we are a going concern, because when we have urgently needed money it has come in, but we cannot seem to drive it home that instead of having to continually ask for money for emergencies, we should receive a steady flow. This is the important thing."

It was recommended that the incoming N.S.A. should draw up a budget for the ensuing year, and publish it in the *Journal*. The friends could then know what is needed, how it is to be spent, and could then adjust their own budgets so as to make a regular subscription.

The matter of Archives was discussed briefly and it was suggested that histories of the Faith in the various centres should be compiled.

The position of the community in the event of war was discussed and it was agreed that although we had no certainty of individual protection the important thing was to ensure the preservation of the light of the Faith. This could best be done by establishing it more widely and firmly throughout the country. "To remain immune from the hatreds which may run riot over the land we must have this consciousness of world citizenship. The experiences of the last war point to this question. In certain communities the Bahá'ís, because they were not strongly welded together, fell prey to these hatreds and they went under. But wherever they were together in a strong community, keeping their faith, they maintained their strength. The main thing is not that we shall not perish in an air raid, but that we shall not perish in the world to come."

On Saturday evening the Convention met for dinner at the Cheddar Roast restaurant. Two good friends of the Faith were present, Mr. W. J. Grant, editor of the *Rangoon Times*, and Mr. David Homan, who is a very active member of the Summer School Committee.

Sunday, April 24th

The whole day was given over to a discussion of Teaching.

PASSING OF MUNIRIH KHANUM

It was agreed that we should set ourselves some objective, as the American believers had done. "Up to now we have only two Spiritual Assemblies, and it is deplorable. What is America doing in that respect? They are sending out people to stay in new cities and the reports are wonderful. We cannot do it on the same scale, but we can make a start."

After some discussion the Convention adopted the N.S.A.'s suggestion that the community in England should regard itself as a teaching organism for the ensuing year and concentrate all its energies to this end. This was recorded as a recommendation to the incoming N.S.A. It was felt that a new point had been reached in the progress of the Faith and the following cable was sent to the Guardian: "Convention adopts N.S.A.'s recommendation community function teaching organism ensuing year."

On Tuesday the following reply was received in London:

"Delighted urge incoming National Assembly perseverance subordinate all activities teaching objective. Shoghi."

The Convention discussed the Summer School and the International Esperanto Congress to be held in London this summer, at which there will be a Bahá'í session.

Full reports of Teaching plans and objectives will be reported in this and subsequent numbers of the *Journal*.

Convention closed with a memorial meeting for Mrs. Thornburgh-Cropper, which was conducted by Lady Blomfield.

The Convention was undoubtedly a great occasion and it is felt that its spirit will go throughout the country and carry us on to new levels of service and achievement.

On April 29th this cable was received from Shoghi Effendi: "Bahá'í world mourns loss Holy Mother Munirih Khanum; Ridwan festivities suspended advise all centres hold memorial gatherings commemorate her outstanding services rendered during one of most critical stages in evolution beloved Faith. Shoghi."

The Guardian's wishes were immediately carried out and memorial services were held in London, Manchester, and Torquay. Lady Blomfield held a special meeting at her home and read passages from Munirih Khanum's own account of her life, which she had related to Lady Blomfield.

Munirih Khanum is the wife of 'Abdu'l-Bahá and grandmother of Shoghi Effendi. An incident is recorded in 'The Dawnbreakers' of a feast given in honour of the Báb at which Munirih Khanum's father was present. At that time he was childless and in the course of enquiries the Báb was informed of this fact. Munirih Khanum's own words relate the story. "His Holiness the Báb then offered my father a spoonful of sweets. He ate, and at that moment it occurred to him that the blessed Lord had at last destined the birth of a child for him. When the feast was over and he had returned to his home, he mentioned this fact to my mother. Having kept a little of the sweets, he gave it to her. After eight months and nine days I was born into the world." Later, when Bahá'u'lláh was in Acca, He sent for Munirih Khanum, to become the wife of the Master.

We join with the whole Bahá'í world in offering our heartfelt sympathy to the Guardian and the Holy Family in this bereavement.

THE TEACHING PLAN

The National Spiritual Assembly met in London on May 8th and elected its officers. It is now organised as follows:

Chairman: Miss Grace Challis
Vice-Chairman: Mr. Hasan Balyuzi
Secretary: Mr. David Hofman
Treasurer: Mrs. K. V. Brown
 Mr. Asgarzadeh
 Miss Elsie Gibbs
 Mrs. Langdon-Davies
 Mr. J. Lee
 Mr. Arthur Norton

The Guardian's cable about Teaching was considered and the N.S.A. decided to concentrate on Bradford and Torquay with the object of establishing Spiritual Assemblies whenever possible.

In Bradford there are four resident believers and a fine group of interested young people. It was decided to send teachers to this group nineteen times during the year, and the first meeting is being arranged for May 22nd. The resident believers will organise themselves as a group with a secretary and treasurer, and Mr. Arthur Norton has promised to give a room in his new business premises for a Centre, at the end of the summer. During the summer, teachers will go up there, and the group will arrange meetings and it is hoped, rambles in which the Manchester Youth group can join. At the end of the summer, people who have been to Bahá'í meetings already in Bradford, will be contacted and regular meetings will be held in the Centre.

In Torquay, the work requires a differ-

ent method, and it is hoped that teachers will be able to go down for a week at a time. Mrs. Stevens has offered hospitality. Members of the N.S.A. will go down and confer with the resident believers shortly, and a plan will be worked out.

In addition to this, Manchester's request for speakers will not be overlooked, and it can be arranged that the teacher going to Bradford will visit Manchester first. The N.S.A. will also hold some of its meetings there.

Contacts in other places such as Salisbury, Brighton and Bristol, will also be followed. In Brighton, Mr. Hofman will speak to the Toc H group on June 29th. Miss Baxter is going to Manchester for a week very soon and will visit the believers in Blackburn and other nearby places.

THE NATIONAL FUND

The N.S.A. has considered the needs of the teaching plan and of the running expenses for the year and has made the following budget:

Teaching

Manchester and Bradford	- -	£50
Torquay	- - - - -	£20
Other places	- - - - -	£30
		<hr/> £100
Bahá'í Journal	- - - - -	£35
Postage, Stationery, etc.	- - -	£15
Travelling and Teaching Conference	- - - - -	£50
Convention, 1939	- - - - -	£10
Literature for free distribution, contact, etc.	- - - - -	£40
		<hr/> £250

This is the amount required between now and next Convention in order for the N.S.A. to proceed with its plan and continue the work. Considering that last year the total subscriptions were £185, this amount should not be beyond the capacity of the friends. The important thing is to start subscriptions immediately and to keep them regular. It will be seen that the N.S.A. requires an income of £21 per month. Let every believer rise to this task and discharge the responsibility which rests upon us. One penny a week, given in fulness of heart, with willing sacrifice, will unite the donor with that stream of energy which flows through the Faith, and will bring into operation the spiritual law of unity which operates in every organism. Spiritual Assemblies are urged to make their own budgets and to provide for a regular subscription to the National Fund and isolated believers are asked to send their contribution regularly to the National Treasurer.

We have set ourselves on the path which the Guardian wishes. Let us not fail through insufficient sacrifice.

THE BAHÁ'Í PUBLISHING TRUST

The details of the Trust are now complete and a separate account will shortly be opened at the bank with the funds which have been subscribed, totalling £234 os. 8d. No provision has been made for this in the budget as, in pursuance of the Guardian's advice last year, we are regarding this as a special task, similar to the building of the Temple in America. Believers are completely free to send in contributions, but it is recom-

mended that for the present all our energies should be concentrated on carrying out the plan of the N.S.A. The Trust will be of great assistance in this, as it has started to print literature.

It has been decided that the Trust shall operate as wholesale distributor for literature. The N.S.A. will no longer sell literature, and will place this whole matter in the hands of the Publishing Trust. Stocks at present in hand will be taken over and the Trust will order all new books, etc., and sell them to Spiritual Assemblies and the N.S.A., and to individuals if an order is big enough. Otherwise individual orders will be placed with one of the local Spiritual Assemblies. Spiritual Assemblies will be given a discount on their purchases and will be able to sell at the fixed retail price. The N.S.A. will not resell its purchases but will use them only for presentation. Mr. Hofman and Mr. Louis Rosenfield have been appointed managers. Mr. Rosenfield will keep the books and do the work and will confer with the N.S.A. through Mr. Hofman. Mrs. Brown is treasurer of the Trust. It is felt that this arrangement will be of great use, as it will free the N.S.A. from dealing directly with literature, and will relieve the National Fund of the complication of a special account. Mr. Rosenfield is doing a great service in undertaking this work.

The First Publication

The revised edition of Dr. Esslemont's pamphlet, 'Bahá'u'lláh and His Message,' is now in its final stages at the printers and will be on sale in a few days. It is a booklet of forty pages, and we believe is one of the best general introductions to the Faith yet printed. It may be had either with a green or yellow

cover. It will be sold at the following rate:

Retail price per copy - - - 6d.

Orders of 24 or more - 6d. less discount of 15 per cent.

The Trust will not fill an order for less than 24 copies. For a smaller number than this application should be made to either the London or Manchester Spiritual Assemblies.

A brief Life of Bahá'u'lláh, by H. M. Balyuzi, has been passed by the Reviewing Committee and has been sent to the printer.

SUMMER SCHOOL

The date of Summer School has been definitely fixed for July 30th to August 20th at Cudham Hall, Cudham, Kent. The programme, giving full details will be ready in a few days and a copy will be sent to every believer.

PRAYERS & MEDITATIONS OF BAHÁ'U'LLAH

This eagerly awaited volume has arrived and may be had on application to the Bahá'í Publishing Trust, 46 Bloomsbury Street, London, W.C.1. The price is 8/-. The following passage is a quotation from it:

“O Thou the Lord of the visible and the invisible, and the Enlightener of all creation! I beseech Thee, by Thy sovereignty which is hid from the eyes of men, to reveal from all directions the signs of Thy loving-kindness, that I may arise with exultation and rapture and extol Thy wondrous virtues, O Thou the Most Merciful, and stir up by Thy name all created things, and so kindle the fire of Thy glorification amidst Thy creatures, that all the world may be filled with the brightness of the light of Thy glory, and all existence be inflamed with the fire of Thy Cause.”