

BAHÁ'Í JOURNAL

Published by

NATIONAL SPIRITUAL ASSEMBLY OF THE BAHÁ'ÍS OF THE BRITISH ISLES
158a, OLD BROMPTON ROAD, LONDON, S.W.5.

No 61.

Bahá'í Year 103

June, 1947

FROM THE GUARDIAN

The following letter from the Guardian, dated February 26th, 1947, was addressed to the National Spiritual Assembly instead of to its Secretary as is the Guardian's usual procedure: Dear Bahá'í Friends,

Your communications dated Sept. 12, Oct. 4th and 14th, Nov. 18th, 19th and 21st, and Dec. 29th, 1946, have all been received together with their enclosures and our beloved Guardian has instructed me to answer you on his behalf.

As he has already answered a number of your questions by cable, I will not go into them here.

He was very happy to see the marked success of your Summer School this year and also to receive very encouraging reports of the Manchester Teaching Conference; a great change has come over the work in England during the past year and one which must certainly rejoice the hearts of the older Bahá'ís in particular as they compare the present state of the Cause with the decades that passed when it only had two or three spiritual assemblies and seemed to be practically standing still! It seems, indeed, as if an important corner had been turned and that the Faith in the British Isles is at last showing its true stature and casting a portentous shadow of future events before it!

He is particularly happy to see the way the Bahá'í young people are arising and serving in the pioneer field with such courage, determination and success.

Regarding the question you asked him about the sentence from the Aqdas for the marriage certificate: he feels that the following is a suitable translation of this passage: "Enter into wedlock, O people, that ye may bring forth one who will make mention of Me."

The very good news of Nottingham and Birmingham achieving assembly status was most welcome and he hopes the friends will redouble their efforts in connection with the remaining Goal Towns. Likewise the establishment of pioneers in both Eire and Scotland is of historic importance and they should receive every assistance possible from the National Teaching Committee and from your Assembly.

Now that the British believers see tangible results of their labours and perseverance taking shape, they should feel encouraged to make new sacrifices; a little effort on our part is so richly blessed by Bahá'u'lláh—we can only wonder what the rewards would be for a great, concerted, truly inspired effort by all members of the Community?

He assures you all of his most loving prayers for your guidance and the success of your historic enterprises.

With Bahá'í love,
R. RABBANI.

P.S.—Shoghi Effendi would like your Assembly to make every effort to help Dr. Lotfullah Hakím to come to England from Persia; he wishes to continue his study of massage, etc., and he could be of great help in the teaching work as he is a devoted and fine Bahá'í. Shoghi Effendi suggested he might investigate the possibility of carrying out his studies in Edinburgh, or some other Goal Town, and thus help with the Six Year Plan at the same time. R.R.

P.P.S. There is no objection to your Assembly's printing the extract from his letter to Mr. McAlear.

DEAR AND VALUED CO-WORKERS:

The present crucial year, now drawing to a close, may well be regarded as one of the most memorable in the annals of British Bahá'í history. The magnificent, spontaneous and collective response of almost the entire community of the English believers to the imperative call of teaching; the support lent by individuals, groups and assemblies to the Plan set in motion by its national elected representatives; the success attending the Teaching Conference; the multiplication of Bahá'í centres in England; the initial steps taken to establish the structure of the Administrative Order of the Faith in Ireland, Scotland and Wales—all these have combined to raise the stature of the community, and to prepare it for the still greater tasks that must be faced by its members after the successful prosecution of the Present Plan.

The Bahá'ís of the British Isles are now, slowly, laboriously and in strict accordance with the principles of a steadily expanding, divinely appointed Administrative Order, building up the essential and primary institutions which are destined to act as the chief and most powerful instruments for the proclamation of the Faith to the masses of their countrymen, at a subsequent stage in the development of the Faith in their land. As these institutions expand and are consolidated, the community will find itself equipped, not only to carry the Message of the New Day to the multitudes throughout the length and breadth of its homeland, but prepared and fortified to initiate teaching campaigns beyond the shores of its native land, and in distant territories and various parts of the Empire of which that land is the heart and centre.

Theirs is the duty, during these coming years, to lay patiently, assiduously and unitedly the foundation on which the structure of their future international services to their beloved Faith can be firmly and unassailably established. Upon the success of the Plan they are now so diligently and devotedly prosecuting, must depend the scope and effectiveness of their twofold task of proclaiming the verities of their Faith to their fellow countrymen at home, and of implanting its banner abroad amidst the peoples and races of a far-flung Empire.

That they may carry out, in a befitting manner and by the appointed time, the preliminary steps so essential for the fulfilment of their high destiny is my dearest wish and constant prayer.

SHOGHI.

From the N.S.A., 14th April:

Whole community grateful elated your inspiring letter February 26th stop All goals assured looking forward unique Convention stop Assembly begs your advice minute 590 stop members last meeting crucial year express eternal gratitude devotion Beloved Guardian for continued guidance sustenance.

From the Guardian, 16th April:

Overjoyed historic success. Approve minute 590. Praying still greater victories. Heartfelt congratulations, abiding gratitude.

From Convention, 27th April:

Delegates, friends, assembled Convention joyfully greet beloved Guardian. Thrilled vision unfolded your letter February 26th. Humbly, gratefully beg prayers development powers fulfil immediate tasks, future destiny Community world-wide mission glorious Faith.

From the Guardian, 29th April:

Acclaim pride gratitude, victory achieved revitalized triumphant dearly beloved British Bahá'í Community. Marvellous consummation

arduous task crucial year historic Plan unprecedented annals fifty years British Bahá'í history. Sister Communities East, West, North, South hail significant victory, won notwithstanding prolonged strain, formidable obstacles, smallness numbers, diversity trials. Confident all members Community, young, old, teachers, pioneers, administrators will resolutely safeguard prizes won, forge ahead undiminished seal attain goals within reach. Cabling one thousand pounds promotion great tasks ahead, token my abiding gratitude signal service rendered followers Faith Bahá'u'lláh British Isles.

From the N.S.A., May 12th:

Assembly at first meeting pledges devoted allegiance beloved Guardian, offers grateful thanks inspiring cable, generous gift. Conscious immensity unfolding task, humbly turns day-spring Divine guidance.

From the Guardian, 14th May:

Deeply appreciative pledge. Praying abundant blessings deliberations

The following letter was dated May 8th:—

DEAR BAHÁ'Í BROTHER,

Your letters dated Jan. 19th and 23rd; Feb. 16th, 27th and 28th; March 8th and 25th; and April 4th, 19th, 20th, 22nd and 23rd, 1947, have all been received, together with their enclosures and the material sent under separate cover, and our beloved Guardian has instructed me to answer you on his behalf.

Regarding the various questions you have raised:

(Some comments on personal and confidential matters follow).

He realises the difficult position of the London community, but the goals of the Plan, and its success, justify any temporary weakening of the work in the Capital, which in the end will be greatly strengthened by the national spread of the Faith. He certainly will specially pray for this work in London.

The achievement of all goals during this crucial year has been very great, and brought him a conviction that the Cause in the British Isles is now operating on an entirely new footing, and that the Community of believers there has

THE NATIONAL SPIRITUAL ASSEMBLY.

Hasan Balyuzi	...	Chairman
Richard Backwell	...	Vice-Chairman
John Ferraby	...	Secretary
Dorothy Ferraby	...	Treasurer
Philip Hainsworth	...	Assistant Secretary
Mary Basil Hall		
David Hofman		
Marion Hofman		
Ursula Newman		

thrown off once and for all time a certain lethargy which seemed to have retarded its progress in the past. Although so much still remains to be accomplished, the combination of the new zest for work and the determination of the friends to succeed, and the unfailing assistance of Bahá'u'lláh, promised to all who arise and put their faith in Him, will surely mow down all obstacles and carry the British believers through to victory.

He feels that the way your assembly is working, with its many and active committees, and the plans you have outlined in your reports, are excellent. Any suggestions he has to make, as the work unfolds, he will communicate to you.

The Summer School, he feels, is of great importance, and he hopes gradually believers from the continent will visit it and be helped and inspired by their contact with the now active and flourishing British Bahá'í Community!

You may be sure in the prayers he offers in the Holy Shrines you and your assembly's work are often remembered.

With loving Bahá'í greetings,
R. RABBANI.

DEAR AND VALUED CO-WORKERS :

The success that has crowned the strenuous efforts exerted by the entire British Bahá'í community in the course of this crucial year, has raised immensely its prestige in the estimation of its sister communities in East and West, has demonstrated, in a very striking manner, the vitality, resourcefulness and determination of its members, and merits the praise and blessings of the Concourse on High, and particularly our beloved Master, who in the course of two successive visits showered His loving kindness on the English believers, and chose the capital city of their country as the scene of His first public appearance before a Western audience. This remarkable exploit, unparalleled since the inception of the Administrative Order in that land, and unsurpassed by any achievement associated with the followers of Bahá'u'lláh in the British Isles since the introduction of His Faith into their country, augurs well for the successful termination of the Initial Phase of the Plan, and fills me with hope that total victory will ultimately be achieved, at the appointed time, by the prosecutors of this bold, this historic and far reaching enterprise.

The Plan itself when consummated will signalise the opening of a new epoch in British Bahá'í history, an epoch which must witness, simultaneously with the vigorous initiation of subsequent plans designed to broaden the basis, and multiply the institutions, of a steadily evolving Administrative Order, the inauguration of systematic undertakings, jointly launched by the English, the Scottish, the Irish and Welsh

believers, and aiming, on the one hand, at the proclamation of the Divine Message to the masses of their respective countrymen, and, on the other, at the establishment of the structural basis of a divinely appointed Administrative Order throughout the far-flung dependencies of the British Crown.

For the present, however, and as an essential preliminary to the vast and challenging tasks that await them beyond the shores of their homeland, the eyes of the prosecutors of the present Plan must be focused on the vital and urgent requirements in England, and particularly Scotland, Wales and Ireland, wherein the nuclei that have been recently formed, should, ere the expiry of the present year, be converted into full-fledged assemblies. The erection of the administrative institutions of the Faith of Bahá'u'lláh in these virgin territories will no doubt befittingly mark the termination of the initial phase of the Plan, and proclaim to the entire Bahá'í world the resolution as well as the ability, of its valiant promoters to create the indispensable agencies required for an intensive propagation of the Faith at home, and the planting of its banner overseas. There is an unspeakably thrilling task, an awe-inspiring obligation, a priceless opportunity. Their recent victories inspire a confident hope that a no less outstanding success will mark their future endeavours.

Your true and grateful brother,
SHOGHI.

All orders for the Bahá'í Publishing Trust should now be sent to:
Bahá'í Publishing Trust,
39, High Street,
Manchester 4.

Marriage.

Marjorie Wood and Ralph Naylor were married in Bradford in April.

Birth.

Marion and David Hofman are happy to announce the birth of a daughter, [REDACTED]

In Memoriam.

"With the joyful tidings of light I hail thee: rejoice! To the court of holiness I summon thee; abide therein that thou mayest live in peace for evermore."

Miss Annie Gamble, February, 1947, aged 99.

SUPPLEMENTARY REPORTS TO CONVENTION

National Spiritual Assembly.

We are happy to be able to announce to Convention that all the goals set us by the Guardian have been achieved; that is, the establishment of Assemblies in five goal towns, the strengthening of the Troquay and Bournemouth communities, and the formation of a nucleus of two or more believers in Scotland, Ireland and Wales.

In two places, last minute action was required. Blackburn was adopted as a goal town only half-way through this year and two months before Ridvan had only six believers. Two new declarations were received in the remaining months and the third place was filled by Mr. Wilkins taking up residence there. In Dublin one of the pioneers was compelled by circumstances to leave her post, an action which had the approval of the National Assembly. Ursula Newman has agreed to go to Dublin immediately after Convention, which in the view of the Assembly, maintains the nucleus. The nucleus in Wales has been established by Joan Giddings joining Rose Jones in Cardiff a few days before Convention.

With unerring judgement the Guardian gave us a task it was within our power to achieve and by the margin of a few days we have achieved it. By this small margin the British Bahá'í Community has earned from the Guardian a cable commencing "overjoyed historic success" and affirming his prayers for "still greater victories." May we all become the instruments through which his prayers are granted.

The activity of recent months through which the goals have been achieved has involved the expenditure of a good deal of money, so that the National Teaching Committee has had to ask for an additional budget of several hundred pounds. This has given added importance to the comments on the Fund included in the Annual Report.

Since the Annual Report was written, the National Assembly has adopted the rather unusual course of appointing three committees, at the end of a year. A number of gifts of Braille Bahá'í books made it advisable to form a Bahá'í Committee for the Blind; a request for material for Volume XI. of the Bahá'í World made the appointment of a Bahá'í World Committee necessary; and a committee has been formed to deal with contacts in places which neither have an Assembly nor have been adopted as a goal town.

Other items for report in brief are arrangements which are in progress to move the

distribution centre for Publishing Trust literature to Manchester; a letter which has been sent to the American National Assembly supporting a statement submitted by them to the United Nations Human Rights Commission; and our regretful but appreciative rejection of a proposal from the American National Assembly concerning co-ordination of the supply of English Bahá'í literature to the world. We hope that it may be possible to discuss this last proposal at some future date, but at present we feel the call of the Six Year Plan would prevent us from devoting to the scheme sufficient of the available energies of the Cause in this country to ensure its successful operation.

By far the most important item we have to report is the receipt of the Guardian's letter dated February 26th, of which all members of the community have copies. We regard this as having for the British Bahá'í Community something of the significance which the "Tablets of the Divine Plan" have for the American believers. It is a letter which we shall no doubt be studying for many years to come.

In the part of this letter written through the Guardian's secretary, the following dramatic statement occurs: "Now that the British believers see tangible results of their labours and perseverance taking shape, they should feel encouraged to make new sacrifices; a little effort on our part is so richly blessed by Bahá'u'lláh—we can only wonder what the rewards would be for a great, concerted, truly inspired effort by all members of the Community?"

The Guardian himself lists some of the achievements of this year which he says "may well be regarded as one of the most memorable in the annals of British Bahá'í History." "These," he says, "have combined to raise the stature of the community, and to prepare it for still greater tasks that must be faced by its members after the successful prosecution of the present Plan."

The Community is now slowly building up the primary institutions "which are destined to act as the chief and most powerful instruments" for the "twofold task of proclaiming the verities of their Faith to their fellow countrymen at home," and for "implanting its banner aboard amidst the peoples and races of a far-flung Empire."

Let us all "patiently, assiduously and unitedly" work to fulfil the Guardian's "dearest wish and constant prayers," that the British Bahá'ís "may carry out, in a befitting manner and by the appointed time, the preliminary steps so essential for the fulfilment of their high destiny."

National Teaching Committee.

March 3rd—April 21st, 1947.

The main part of our Annual Report up to March 3rd, 1947, has already been circulated to the friends. In it, we refer to an "upsurge of energy, which, if maintained, can undoubtedly carry us to the goals of our "historic enterprise."

We now have to report that all goals of the crucial year have been achieved. The Spiritual Assembly of Blackburn was assured by putting into operation our "Last Ditch" plan, which involved the residence of two believers, Mrs. Slade and Mr. Wilkins, being established in this town. Both these friends willingly accepted this service to the Cause, and thus the Assembly was assured. We are happy to report that one new declaration has been accepted, thus releasing Mrs. Slade, and another declaration has been sent in, though not yet considered by the N.S.A.

The nucleus in Edinburgh is firmly established by the pioneer project of John Marshall, who on his seventy-first birthday retired from work in order to pioneer in his native country. Birmingham, which had the honour of sending him out as its second pioneer this year, informed the Guardian of his gallant offer, and also of the fact that he had met 'Abdu'l-Bahá. The Guardian's reply spoke of "Dear Marshall" and amply rewarded this old servant of the Faith.

Dublin was faced a few days ago with an emergency, when Una Townshend was obliged to return to her home in Galway, thus leaving only one believer behind. A nucleus required by the Guardian is recorded as at least two believers, and as we had already cabled to Shoghi Effendi that the nucleus in Dublin had been established, a feat which he had called historic, the National Teaching Committee felt bound to maintain this nucleus at all costs. We approached the N.S.A. and with their consent telephoned to Ursula Newman, asking her to leave St. Ives and go and live in Dublin for at least six months. Ursula responded immediately, and within twenty-four hours telephoned to say that she had been able to arrange her affairs and would return to Dublin immediately after Convention. The NSA accepted this as maintaining the nucleus.

The nucleus in Cardiff has been established by the residential project of Joan Giddings. This pioneer was awaiting the return of her husband from active service, and it is due to his whole hearted co-operation that it has been possible to make effective her desire to pioneer in the crucial year. We wish to record our deep thanks to him as well as to Joan. A telegram was received that the two believers there held their meeting on the first day of Rizwan and formed the first Bahá'í Group of Cardiff.

Re-establishment of the Bournemouth Spiritual Assembly has been accomplished through the declaration of two new believers and the pioneer project of Louisa Charlot. The Committee sent Philip Hainsworth down there for about ten days and his visit contributed greatly to the organizing of the community on proper administrative lines as well as to the teaching work. The declaration of Mrs. Norman may be attributed directly to this visit.

PIONEERS. In our main report, we mentioned sixteen pioneers who had arisen during this crucial year. Since then, we are happy to report six more. They are Hilda Jones, Mr. and Mrs. Frank Leetch, of Manchester; Evelyn Baxter, of London; Ursula Newman, of St. Ives; and John Marshall, of Birmingham. Mrs. Jones and the Leetches have volunteered for Blackburn, Mrs. Jones being already settled there, while the Leetches are now looking for a house. Miss Baxter has gone to Birmingham to maintain the Assembly, and Ursula Newman and John Marshall, as already reported, have settled in Dublin and Edinburgh respectively. Thus, in this crucial year, twenty-two believers have arisen to pioneer for the Cause of God.

BAHÁ'Í EXHIBITION. We have to report that the Bahá'í Exhibition is almost completely renovated as you may see by looking about you. It will be used in Torquay for a week beginning May 5th, and the Edinburgh Group have asked for it during the Summer.

SEMINAR. The Edinburgh Group ask for a Seminar some time in October.

COMMITTEE. Since closing our main report, the Committee has consulted with Blackburn (twice), Bournemouth and Northampton, and with three pioneers.

FINANCE. The following is an account of our expenses for the crucial year:—

	£	s.	d.
Pioneers	994	18	5
Travelling teachers	312	19	7
Goal towns	263	7	10
Committee expense	317	6	9
Bahá'í Exhibition	50	0	0
Communities	30	0	0
Convention	15	0	0
Literature	1	15	0
Estimate for May	40	0	0
	<hr/>		
	£2,025	7	7

Of the twenty-two pioneers, eleven are still being helped fully or in part.

Twenty-three travelling teachers have carried out fifty-one teaching engagements and six circuits. A good many other projects have been carried out without any expense to the fund.

Committee expense divides into £135 0s. 0d. secretarial, £146 0s. 0d. travelling for meetings, and £35 0s. 0d. other expense.

In conclusion, we wish to comment on the Guardian's letter of February 26th. We note the phrases "in strict accordance" with "divinely appointed administrative order." Our consultation with Groups and Assemblies has been for the purpose of ensuring that these newly-born Spiritual Assemblies should be established on a firm foundation, and given every opportunity of avoiding the pitfalls into which older communities throughout the Bahá'í world have fallen through not observing strictly the divinely appointed laws and principles of Bahá'u'lláh's World Order.

"EXPAND AND DEVELOP." As far back as last October, the Northampton Group received a similar message from the Guardian and has been trying to solve this problem ever since. The Committee is firmly convinced that both these processes go together and are inter-dependent. You cannot develop one without the other. Our five new communities must all now face this problem, and we sincerely hope that the delegates will discuss it thoroughly during the session on Sunday morning allotted to this matter. In doing so, they may want to call on representatives from the new communities.

We note particularly the following phrases "almost the entire community" and "we can only wonder what the reward would be for a great, concerted, truly inspired effort by all members of the community."

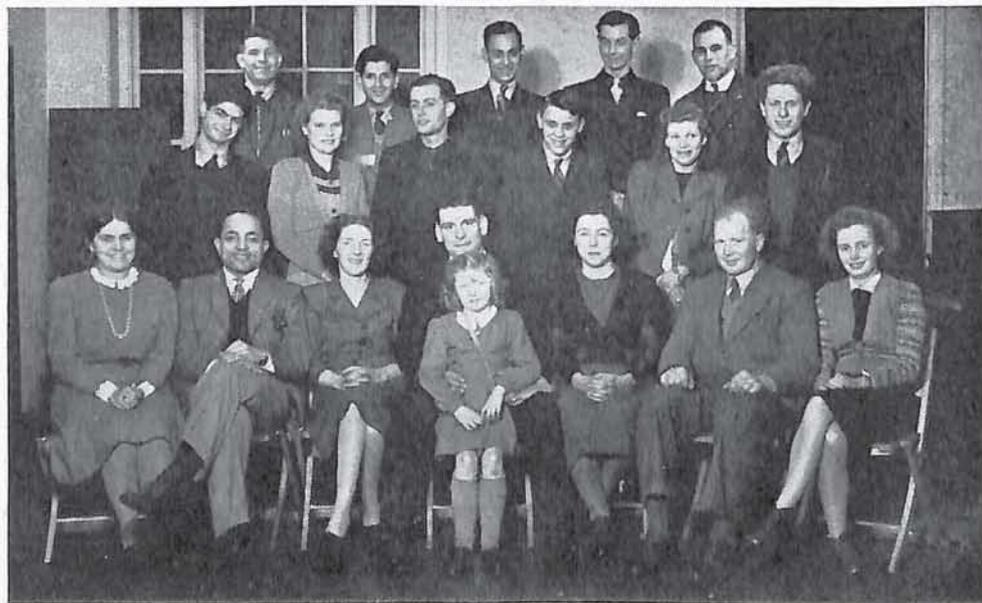
We would like to close our report with these words of the Master's: "There are living nations and dead nations. Syria lost its civilisation through lethargy of spirit. The English nation is a living one, and when in this spiritual spring-time the divine truth comes forth with renewed vitality, the English will be like fruitful trees, and the Holy Spirit will enable them to flourish in abundance. Then will they gain not only materially, but in that which is far more important, spiritual progress, which will enable them to render a greater service to the world of humanity."

National Youth Committee.

There is very little supplementary matter to report because, throughout the country, the Youth have been busy preparing for Convention and in the taking over of much administrative work, especially in the new Assemblies. It was, however, with great pleasure, and not a little excitement that we received, only the night before Convention opened, April 25th, a letter from the Guardian. The Chairman and Secretary feel, that on this special occasion, it should be shared with the friends.

Dear Bahá'í Friends,

Your letter dated Aug. 10th (from the secretary) and Dec. 19th and March 18th (from the Business Manager of the Editorial Comm.) were received, and as our beloved Guardian is greatly overburdened by his steadily expanding correspondence, he has instructed me to answer these communications all in one.



Some Bahá'í Youth and their friends at the first Regional Youth Conference held at Nottingham, 15th and 16th March 1947.

He was very pleased to receive copies of your "Youth Bulletin," which he thinks is starting out in the right direction; he would like to receive this publication regularly.

The work you are doing is very important, and the British Bahá'í Youth should feel very encouraged to see the way some of their members have arisen and gone forth to pioneer. He hopes others will follow this example in order to ensure the success of the Six Year Plan.

You may be sure his loving prayers are offered for you all in the Holy Shrines.

With Bahá'í greetings,

(signed) R. RABBANI.

IN THE GUARDIAN'S HANDWRITING.

May the Spirit of Bahá'u'lláh sustain, bless and guide you in your notable, meritorious, and deeply appreciated activities, aid you to extend the range of your services, and lend a great impetus to the progress of the Plan which the English believers are so devotedly and assiduously prosecuting.

Your true and grateful brother,

(signed) SHOGHI.

In the light of this request for a regular supply of Youth Bulletins, the latest figures provide a most interesting and encouraging picture. All copies of the first two issues have been sold and there are now but 45 of the last issue, in spite of it being in circulation for only five weeks! As

orders are still coming in from other parts of the world which cannot, now, be met, we would like to take this opportunity of appealing for any unsold copies held by the Assemblies, to be returned to our Business Manager as soon as possible. It is also interesting to note that, not only have some National Youth Committees been so impressed by this Bulletin that they are modelling their own Youth magazines on it, but many passages are quoted from it, and in Germany, some of the articles have been translated for inclusion in their newly published magazine. The Bahá'í Youth Bulletin has now been circulated to over 30 countries, including Japan.

A brief, but encouraging note about the financial side of the Bulletin! Of the first three issues there has been an average deficit of only £2. 8s. 0d. per issue of 500 copies. As will be seen from the previous sales figures, there is a possibility that 1,000 copies will soon have to be published per issue, and if the size of the print is increased to "Journal" type, we can show a profit of at least ten shillings per issue; this taking into account well over £2 per issue for postage.

A fourth Youth letter, from the last Committee meeting, containing a further call to the Youth for the Plan, and to attend Convention, was drafted, duplicated and in circulation within two days of the meeting. So great was the enthusiasm stimulated amongst our Youth by this letter, that one turned up for Convention, from Liverpool, one week before the time!

CONVENTION 104.

Convention of the year 104 was a landmark. With it the "crucial year" came to an end, and the second half of the initial phase of the Six-Year Plan came in full view. There was the elation of a task done, but there was also sober deliberation on the task lying ahead. Although all the delegates could not attend the sessions all of the time, the record attendance of friends other than the delegates always kept the room full and seething with deep interest.

Convention was held at the Imperial Hotel, Birmingham, during the week-end of April 26th. On its eve, an impressive public meeting, arranged jointly by the newly-formed Spiritual Assembly of the Bahá'ís of Birmingham and the National Spiritual Assembly, produced a large attendance with many contacts and enquirers. There were two non-Bahá'í speakers, citizens of Birmingham, and five Bahá'í speakers, including the chairman. Round the room where the sessions of Convention were to be held during the next two days, sections of the Bahá'í Exhibition

(re-designed and renovated) were on display. It was indeed a happy and dignified evening and a good prologue to Convention.

The first session of Convention was on Saturday morning at 10 o'clock. H. M. Balyuzi and Dorothy Ferraby were elected Chairman and Secretary of Convention, respectively. Janet Howes, Isobel Locke and Ursula Newman were appointed tellers.

This year, for the first time, Annual Reports had been mimeographed and sent to the delegates beforehand. Therefore, apart from very short supplementary reports, the precious time of Convention was not taken up with reading pages of typescript. Indeed, as the year then ending was deemed to be of special significance, the Annual Reports had been distributed to all the friends prior to Convention. Another very useful innovation this year was the presentation by the National Spiritual Assembly of a draft agenda which was adopted in toto by Convention, and helped greatly the ensuing deliberations.

All these advances in administrative matters showed the remarkable growth of the community over the past year, which the tenor and the content of the reports fully substantiated, and the fact of the successful conclusion of the tasks undertaken proclaimed it aloud.

The deliberations of Convention too revealed the change that, in the words of the Guardian, has "raised immensely the prestige of the community." There was a welcome absence of vague generalisations, a definite avoidance of side-tracks, a pronounced and irresistible sense of dedication to the glorious tasks of the Six-Year Plan, a marked determination to achieve a total victory, and a complete realisation of all that we owe to the unerring guidance and the revivifying love and encouragement that have constantly reached us from the Guardian. All these factors combined made the Convention of the year 104 an outstanding event, a real landmark. And well it was to be so, since this auspicious year coincided with the twenty-fifth anniversary of the Guardianship. Our Teaching Conference last January was dedicated to that soul-lifting event, and the heights of vision scaled there found a befitting replica at this Convention. The fact that the Convention of the year 104 recommended to increase the tasks for the year, as presented by the National Spiritual Assembly, and the fact that it endorsed an unprecedented and vast budget of £4,000, recording as well its belief that the Community can shoulder the expense of the Six-Year Plan, attest to a new life throbbing in the heart and sinews of our Community.

Resolutions from Convention.

1. The Auditors were re-elected. Recommended that last year's figures should be included in the annual accounts, including the Publishing Tract. (*Agreed*).

2. *Re* the Publishing Trust, resolved that instead of the uniform credit limit of £10 for each Assembly hitherto allowed, the Trust be given authority to allow whatever credit may seem advisable in each particular case and that the Trust should pay more attention to the collection of debts and the stimulation of sales in local communities. (*Resolved to refer to the Publishing Trust for report*).

3. A vote of thanks voted to the N.T.C. for its very valuable work during the year. (*The Secretary of the N.S.A. has communicated this to the National Teaching Committee*).

4. This Convention recommends that the Plan for the forthcoming year should be amended to include a nucleus of two believers in each of the four towns intended for development in 1949, instead of just one believer. (*Adopted*).

5. The teaching policy proposed be adopted, with the above amendment. (*Already adopted but subject to reconsideration in the light of the Guardian's letter of May 8th*).

6. Resolved that during the ensuing year every attention should be given to the need for developing the Publishing Trust as a strong institution. (*Adopted: the action taken to establish a Publishing Trust Depot is a step in this direction*).

7. Recommended that the incoming N.S.A. examines whether the N.T.C. has been given too many duties and whether it is advisable to relieve that Committee of some of them. (*This examination will be made*).

8. Resolved that this Convention believes that the national community can meet the expenses of the Six Year Plan and it is hereby determined that this year's budget shall be forthcoming. (*The National Assembly takes note of this resolution with gratitude, and looks to the whole community to implement it*).

9. Resolved that Convention asks the incoming National Assembly in the coming year to economise on administrative expenses wherever possible. (*Adopted on the understanding that by economy is meant "wise spending"*).

10. Recommended that the N.S.A. go into the question of Seven Year Covenants and obtain legal advice on the matter and pass it on to the friends. (*Adopted. The matter is under investigation*).

11. Recommended that the compilation of references to the Cause in the Bible at present in London should be made available to the friends. (*Adopted. This matter is being investigated by a Sub-Committee of the National Assembly*).

12. Recommended that the N.S.A. examines the use which could be made of the index of the Iqan made by Mr. Cole in London. (*Adopted. This matter is being investigated by a Sub-Committee of the National Assembly*).

13. That some Bahá'í parents of young children should be made members of the Child Education Committee. (*Adopted*).

14. That the N.S.A. fixes the time and place of Convention well in advance next year and informs the believers, say six or seven months beforehand, so that they are well prepared and know when it is going to be and can arrange to be there. The N.S.A. should book hotel accommodation well in advance. Also to stress in the course of the year the value of the consultation part of Convention, apart from voting for the N.S.A. (*Adopted. Next Convention is to be held in London for the week-end of 24th/25th April, 1948*).

15. That the N.S.A. ask the Guardian how far difficulties which would need to be overcome in order to attend should be taken into account in voting for delegates or assemblies. (*Adopted, with modifications. The following questions will be asked the Guardian:*

- (1) *Do the qualifications for National Assembly members listed by the Guardian refer also to Local Assembly members and to delegates?*

(2) Are these qualifications to be considered exhaustive, or may other factors such as the difficulties which would need to be overcome to attend assembly meetings or Convention, or inability to attend, be taken into account).

16. That the N.S.A. consider holding seminars in established communities as well as in goal towns. (Adopted. This resolution is referred to the A.D.C. for report).

17. That the N.S.A. consider very urgently the need for assembly development. (Adopted. The Assembly Development Committee has been appointed).

18. Recommendation that the N.S.A. in sending out the statement on new believers to the community should strongly advise deep study by all. (The Assembly prepared this statement for assemblies and groups, and considers that this is sufficient in view of the fact that it will eventually be printed in our edition of Bahá'í Procedure. The Assembly is, however, considering the possibility of publishing in the Journal a section of this statement which will be of more general use).

19. That documents should be prepared showing the progress of the Six Year Plan, to be supplied to each community. (Communities and Groups will be encouraged to produce their own material showing the progress of the Six Year Plan. Each issue of the Journal will carry a table containing such material which will be of use in this connection).

* * * * *

Election of the National Spiritual Assembly.

Three believers tied for the ninth place on the Assembly and two re-votes were necessary before one of the three was elected. Voting was:

Richard Backwell	17
Hasan Balyuzi.....	16
David Hofman	15
Dorothy Ferraby	14
Mary Basil Hall	14
John Ferraby	12
Marion Hofman	11
Philip Hainsworth	8
Ursula Newman	6
Constance Langdon-Davies ...	6
Louis Rosenfield	6
Robert Cheek	5
Isobel Slade	4

Reginald Coulson, Emily Eastgate, Vivian Isenthal, Muriel Matthews, Walter Wilkins—2 votes each.

Geraldine Cooper, Alma Gregory, Kathleen Hornell, Joseph Lee, Hugh McKinley, Donald Millar, Arthur Norton, Betty Reed, Hassan Sabri—1 vote each.

First Re-vote.

Ursula Newman	5
Constance Langdon-Davies ...	5
Louis Rosenfield	3

Second Re-vote.

Ursula Newman	7
Constance Langdon-Davies ...	6

Eighteen ballot papers were received for the first ballot, but one of these was disqualified as only eight people were voted for. The vote for Arthur Norton was also disqualified, as it had already been announced that he was unable to serve. For each of the re-votes, 13 ballot papers were received.

LOCAL SPIRITUAL ASSEMBLIES.

Addresses of Secretaries.

BIRMINGHAM: Miss E. Eastgate, 5, Richmond Road, Sutton Coldfield, Warwickshire.

BLACKBURN: Mrs. G. Cooper, Feniscowles Old Hall, Pleasington, nr Blackburn.

BOURNEMOUTH: R. Cheek, 109, Old Christchurch Road, Bournemouth.

BRADFORD: Mrs. M. B. Norton, 41, Cranbourne Road, Chellow Dene, Bradford.

Bahá'í Centre, 68, Great Horton Road, Bradford.

LEEDS: W. Baines, 200, Belle Isle Road, Leeds.

LONDON: H. Balyuzi, 6, Cannon Place, London, N.W.3, and

B. Townsend, 5, Cannon Place, London, N.W.3 (Joint Secretaries).

Bahá'í Centre, 158a, Old Brompton Road, London, S.W.5.

MANCHESTER: L. Rosenfield, 50, Crumpsall Lane, Manchester 8.

Bahá'í Centre, 39, High Street, Manchester 4.

NORTHAMPTON: Miss J. Howes, 23, Holly Road, Northampton.

NOTTINGHAM: P. Hainsworth, 62, Mapperley Rise, Mapperley, Nottingham.

TORQUAY: Mrs. L. Stevens, Three Hills, Hampton Avenue, Babbacombe, Torquay.

Bahá'í Centre, 14, Market Street, Torquay.

NEW PUBLICATIONS.

We are happy to report that the compilation called DIVINE WISDOM, which was mentioned at Convention, has now been delivered. It is a small volume of excerpts from the Sacred Writings, somewhat similar to the old "Divine Art of Living." It is nicely covered in beige cloth with red lettering and sells for 2/6d. It would make an excellent gift.

KITAB-I-IQAN should be available within a few days, as the first specimen of the complete book has been received. It is a handsomely bound book in bright red cloth with gold lettering, and it is expected to sell for 7/6d.

The two booklets which we were printing for the National Spiritual Assembly, TWENTY-FIVE YEARS OF GUARDIANSHIP and THE EARTH IS GOD'S, have also been delivered, and by the time this Journal is out you will probably have had copies.

Geneva Esperanto Bulletin.

The International Bahá'í Bureau at Geneva is now issuing periodically a bulletin in Esperanto. If any of the friends in this country would like to receive this bulletin, will they please write to Mrs. Lynch, International Bahá'í Bureau, 6, Cours des Bastions, Geneva, Switzerland.

BAHA'I PUBLISHING TRUST.

The Annual Report of the Bahá'í Publishing Trust Committee arrived too late for inclusion in all but a few copies of "Annual Reports," and is therefore printed below so that all members of the community may see it.

At the beginning of the Bahá'í year the N.S.A. provided a new working arrangement for the Publishing Trust, by appointing a much larger Committee than previously. The work was divided into editorial and business management departments, the editor being the Chairman of the Committee and the business manager Secretary. This arrangement has worked very well, although serious difficulties have been faced towards the latter part of the year.

At its first meeting the Committee established a two-point policy:—

- (a) to give all possible aid to the Six Year Plan;
- (b) to build up gradually a complete list of basic Bahá'í books.

It was also agreed to aim at a consistently high quality in production.

SIX YEAR PLAN: In order to implement the first point in our policy, we have worked in close co-operation with the National Teaching Committee. Our first suggestion was to set up three Book Exhibits, containing a few copies of all the pamphlets and small booklets and one copy each of most of the major books. These Exhibits have been used by the N.T.C. in various Goal Towns and are replenished from time to time by the Publishing Trust. We are prepared to set up more of these Exhibits as required by the N.T.C.

In addition, we have sent out small packets of free literature to Pioneers and Goal Towns at the request of the N.T.C., and at Summer School, in addition to our own display we set up a special exhibit of teaching literature and provided a counselling service for all those who wanted information and advice on use of pamphlets and books.

BASIC LITERATURE. Under the second point of our policy we have tried to produce this year the "Kitab-i-Iqan," the section from "Some Answered Questions" known as "Some Christian Subjects" and a British edition of Bahá'í Procedure. It is hoped to present the first two to the friends at Convention, but the compilation of our own edition of Bahá'í Procedure has been delayed by pressure of work on the members of

the Committee appointed to this task. A good deal of work, however, has been done, and our instructions from the N.S.A. is that this book is now first priority.

TITLES COMPLETED: The Book of Prayers so long awaited was received this year. "Divine Wisdom"—a compilation of meditations, similar in style to the old "Divine Art of Living" is expected from the binder at any moment. Bahá'í Diaries for 1947 were received. "The Renewal of Civilisation" was received early in the year and has since been reprinted twice; this has been one of our most successful books, both at home and abroad.

In addition to these productions we have undertaken work specifically for the National Spiritual Assembly, and have produced the Study Course, and a leaflet on the Bahá'í Fund. We now have in hand for the N.S.A. Ruhyyih Khanum's article on Twenty-five Years of the Guardianship, and a reprint of one section from "The Advent of Divine Justice." It is hoped that these two booklets will be ready by Convention.

BOOKS FROM AMERICA: It has recently become permissible to import and pay for books from the United States, and a large order has been placed for the books of which we have been deprived so long.

EUROPEAN TEACHING COMMITTEE: Our beloved Guardian, in launching the American Community on its Second Seven Year Plan in Europe, instructed them to make use of any agencies of the Cause which our Community could put at their disposal, and he mentioned specifically the Publishing Trust. It was a great pleasure to us to welcome and consult with Miss Edna True, Chairman of the Committee made responsible by the American N.S.A. for the work in Europe. We made plans for the publication of Dr. Esslemont's book in French, and for another pamphlet in French and German, and the Trust did all in its power to carry out this valuable work. We obtained from the Board of Trade a special quota of paper and approached various printers for estimates. Our figures were submitted to the American friends but they felt it more advisable in the end to have the work done in Paris, where it was both cheaper and less subject to difficulties of import.

The Trust wishes to record its regret that we were not able to serve the European Teaching Committee and to express the hope that our facilities may be of use to them in the future.

PAPER: One of the greatest difficulties facing the publishers is the shortage of paper. It very often happens that the quota allowed by the Government cannot be supplied by the mills, and with the recent labour difficulties it becomes increasingly difficult to get any printing work done at all. The recent floods and serious

weather conditions have brought about another reduction in the paper quota.

Some idea of the difficulties faced will be realised when we say that it has been necessary to approach four different firms to get binding done for one book, or when it is known that "Divine Wisdom" has been at the binders for six months.

During the year we reduced the price of the paper edition of Dr. Esslemont's book to 2/6d. On the Guardian's instructions Russian copies of "Bahá'u'lláh and the New Era" and the "Kitab-i-Iqan" were sent to Geneva.

We have received with great pleasure and gratitude a gift of 100 copies of "This Earth One Country" from the author, Emeric Sala, which he says we may sell at a price fixed by us for the benefit of the Cause.

BUSINESS MANAGEMENT: The unavoidable resignation of Mrs. Govey from the Business Management of the Trust, leaves us with a very difficult and important problem to solve. The new Centre in London is by no means adequate to house the stock of the Trust, which is at present in different parts of the country. Further, the greatly increased sales and demand for frequent shipments of books—which will increase as the Six Year Plan develops—demands constant attention to the filling of orders. The London friends are already overworked, and no solution which is permanently satisfactory has yet been devised. This we believe is one of the most important problems facing the whole community for the supply of literature in liberal quantities and without hold-ups is essential to the work of teaching.

THE FUTURE: Plans in hand are:—

- (1) Publication of Bahá'í Procedure. Priority!
- (2) Binding of 500 copies of the Prayer Book, with the special and obligatory prayers added.

In addition we visualise publishing two more of the basic books during this next year, but the titles are not yet decided.

Faithfully submitted,
DAVID HOFMAN, *Chairman*
DORIS GOVEY, *Secretary*
KATHLEEN HORNELL
MARY BASIL HALL
CONSTANCE LANGDON DAVIES
JOHN FERRABY

Relief for Germany.

The National Office now has a list of all the believers in Germany. Any believer who wishes to consult this list in order to send food or clothes to one of the German believers should apply to the National Secretary. Please mention in which German town you are specially interested.

BAHA'I SUMMER SCHOOL, 1947.

Summer School will be held this year from August 16th to 30th, at Granville Court, Hornsea, Yorks. Prospectuses and registration forms have already been sent out. We have taken a large place in the expectation that the demand for accommodation will be greater this year, and we have guaranteed to fill it. Hornsea is by the sea and has all the amenities for a pleasant seaside holiday, and besides this an extensive Summer School programme is being planned. It will certainly be the best we have had yet, and we urge all Bahá'í friends to come and bring as many of their friends as they can.

Further registration forms, etc. can be obtained from the Registrar, Bahá'í Summer School, 158a Old Brompton Road, London S.W.5.

A New Venture.

The Nottingham Assembly has become an affiliated member of the Nottingham Council of Social Service. This Council is a body of citizens of Nottingham, representing some 80 voluntary societies. Its aim is to provide a common ground upon which they may all meet and acquaint each other with the ideals, plans, etc. of their various societies. The Council's constitution is:—

"An organisation to bring together a group of citizens for systematic discussion of local Social needs, in order that they may jointly gain a comprehensive view of the Social problems which confront the local community and mobilise resources for action to improve the spiritual, mental and physical welfare of the community."

This action by the Nottingham Assembly has not only given the community some status in the town, but will, it is hoped, gradually introduce the principles of the Faith to many prominent citizens of Nottingham.

New Portraits.

The germinating and growing trees join the babbling brooks and the sighing pines in the singing of their anthem. May you also resuscitate the dead souls with the wafting of the breeze of divine grace! Praise be to God, that the bounty and bestowal of the Blessed Perfection are with us, His confirmation, His spirituality, His advice, His exhortation are with us.

He has given us an irresistible power that all the nations of the world cannot withstand. May you ever be under the protection of God! May the Almighty Father assist and protect you! I shall never forget you, I shall ever remember you. You will always be in my thoughts. I hope you will not forget me. I trust the ideal bonds, spiritual communication, may ever become stronger and firmer. The celestial ties are eternal. Whenever I supplicate and entreat toward the Kingdom of Abhá, I shall beg for your confirmation and assistance, that the door of every good may be opened before your faces,

so that each one of you may become a sign of guidance and a flag of peace.

The portraits which are drawn on the canvas of the world have become very antiquated. Now you must become inspired to paint new life-like portraits in the frame of the universe with the delicate brush of the spirit.

SAYING OF 'ABDU'L'BAHÁ.

Errant Sheep.

Be ye guardians of the throne of the Kingdom of God, and armies of defence for the Religion of God. Wherever you find someone desiring to separate himself from the flock, it is incumbent upon you to treat him with fragrance and kindness and persuade and encourage him, so that this secluded sheep may return to the flock.

TABLETS OF 'ABDUL BAHA, p. 613

Tests.

Thy letter was received and its contents noted. In truth, thou hast been thrown amid dire ordeals, enduring agonising afflictions. These trials were according to the consummate wisdom, therefore they were for the best. It is good for man to endure (in such moments).

Reflect upon his holiness Job: What trials, calamities and perplexities did he not endure! But these tests were like unto the fire and his holiness Job was like unto pure gold. Assuredly gold is purified by being submitted to the fire and if it contain any alloy or imperfection, it will disappear. That is the reason why violent tests become the cause of the everlasting glory of the righteous, and are conducive to the destruction and disappearance of the uprighteous.

The wisdom of all these tribulations that poured successively upon thee was this, that thou shouldest be prepared and made ready for this Cause, that thou mightest expect the attainment to the greatest guidance, for all these trials were but a preparation for thine entrance into the Most Exalted Paradise and the beginning of obtaining this most great benefit.

Unless the season of winter appear, thunder roll, lightning flash, snow and rain fall, hail and frost descend and the intensity of cold execute its command, the season of the soul-refreshing spring would not come, the fragrant breeze would not waft, the moderation of temperature would not be realised, the roses and hyacinths would not grow, the surface of the earth would not become a delectable paradise, the trees would not bloom, neither would they bring forth fruits and leaves. That fierce inclemency of cold, snow, frost, and tempest was the beginning of the manifestation of these roses, hyacinths, buds, blossoms and fruits.

Therefore, be not distressed on account of those adversities which fell upon thee; nay, rather, arise and render thanks that the ultimate goal is the attainment to this eminent bounty and the enjoyment of this highest gift of the Almighty God. Consequently gird up the loins of thine endeavour, that thereby some results

might be produced, some fruits gathered, the lamp of everlasting life ignited and the gifts of the Lord of the Kingdom be manifest, so that thou mayest accomplish again, with great yearning and exaltation, the worship of the Lord of Hosts.

TABLETS OF ABDUL'-BAHA, pp. 654-6.

Use of Force.

Fighting, and the employment of force, even for the right cause, will not bring about good results. The oppressed who have right on their side must not take that right by force; the evil would continue. Hearts must be changed.

ABDUL'-BAHA IN LONDON. p. 93.

Disorder.

There is no glory for him that committeth disorder on the earth after it hath been made so good.

EPISTLE TO THE SON OF THE WOLF, p. 24.

Schedule of Meetings.

The following schedule of Meetings of the National Spiritual Assembly has been determined for the current year:

Week-end of	May 31st—June 1st.
"	June 14th/15th.
"	July 5th/6th.
"	September 6th/7th.
"	October 4th/5th.
"	November 1st/2nd.
"	December 6th/7th.
"	January 3rd/4th.
"	January 31st/February 1st.
"	February 21st/22nd.
"	March 13th/14th.
"	April 10th/11th.

In addition the dates for Teaching Conferences have been fixed for January 17th and 18th, and for Convention for April 24th and 25th.

TREASURER'S REPORT BAHA'I YEAR 103.

If we compare this year's figures with those of last year we can see what a change there has been in the work of the community. Contributions for instance amounted this year to £717, compared with £250 last year. This was not enough to cover our expenditure by any means but it does show a big increase, and it is a forecast of what we shall have to do in the future. It shows too that we are conscious of the change which has come about in the work of the community. Then too the higher expenses are an indication of greater activity, the amount spent on teaching showing this very clearly—£1,770 against about £70 last year. This is the scale of expenditure we have now reached and which we shall have to support in the future.

There are of course various indirect ways by which people have contributed to the funds which never appear in the accounts and never can be assessed accurately, but which are nevertheless a very real addition to our income. I mean such things as postal and stationery expenses which are often borne by secretaries of committees,

by Assembly or Committee members. Whilst it is absolutely right for anybody doing a Bahá'í job of any sort to claim their expenses, it is all the same a definite help to the funds on the part of people who do not do so. Hospitality to travelling teachers thereby saving hotel bills, is too a very valuable way of contributing to the funds.

During the last year the National Teaching Committee exceeded its budget of £1,000. A budget is only an estimate and the one we made at the beginning of the year was computed on the basis of the resolution taken at the last Convention to achieve assemblies in five goal towns. Later the Guardian increased our target by adding the settlement of nuclei in Scotland, Ireland and Wales, and Bournemouth also had to be reconstituted as an assembly. All this required an increase of expenditure.

The result is that we have spent most of the money which has been accumulated—the nest-egg as it were which the money coming from the Guardian since 1942 had built up—and in future we shall be dependent on our own resources. That money came from the International Fund, probably mainly contributed by the Persian believers, which means that these friends have

been paying for our Six Year Plan, and now we have to pay for it ourselves, or it will not be really our Plan.

The National Spiritual Assembly has been thinking a great deal about the problem of finance in the future. We have to face the fact that our work is expanding in all sorts of ways. Each year it will cost more, as each year we have bigger responsibilities. To take an example, the N.S.A. secretarial work can no longer be done in the secretary's spare time, as it used to be. Already we have to pay for outside help and the need will grow continually with the growth in the number of communities. More activity means more expenditure all round. The N.S.A. has therefore come to the conclusion that on a conservative estimate it will need to budget for an expenditure of £4,000 in the coming year, and places this before the Convention for its consideration, with the recommendation that the question of money is going to be the most important problem facing the community this year. Manpower was last year's problem; now we have to cope with the problem of financing the community and the Plan, which is not merely a material problem but a spiritual one of the greatest importance, and the spiritual effects if we surmount it will be very great also.

Income and Expenditure Account for the Year ended 20th March, 1947.

EXPENDITURE.			
	£	s.	d.
PUBLISHING EXPENSES—	£	s.	d.
New World Order	17	16	1
Less Sales	12	18	6
			4 17 7
Bahá'í Journal.....	91	8	5
Less Sales	1	19	0
			89 9 5
Publicity, Advertising, etc.	12	4	3
Rent, etc., London Office.....	147	14	6
Printing, Stationery and Clerical Assistance	74	18	2
Travelling Expenses, N.S.A. Members	115	10	6
National Teaching Committee.....	803	4	11
Annual Teaching Conference	24	9	2
Pioneer Fund Expenses	647	13	4
Postages, Telegrams, etc.	16	19	2
Sundries	6	19	0
Delegates' Conference Expenses (Brussels, etc.)	19	1	5
Summer School	73	3	0
Exhibitions	46	4	2
Youth Committee	60	19	7
Secretary's Sundry Expenses	44	19	7
Legal Charges	95	14	0
Audit	15	15	0
Removal Expenses, Agents' Commission, etc.	37	17	0
Publishing Trust	12	4	0
Publishing Trust—Donation (Rent, etc.)	57	4	0
Depreciation—Fixtures	7	9	6
			£2414 11 3

INCOME.			
	£	s.	d.
By CONTRIBUTIONS	717	1	0
„ GUARDIAN'S DONATION	500	0	0
„ RENT REFUNDS—			
London Centre	25	0	0
Publishing Trust	41	7	3
			66 7 3
„ Bank Interest less Commission...	16	16	8
„ Defence Bonds Interest	52	7	1
„ Sales—Books, etc.	5	8	1
			1358 0 1
„ EXCESS EXPENDITURE FOR YEAR	1056	11	2

THE BAHÁ'Í WORLD

ABYSSINIA. Sabri Effendi Elias, pioneer in Addis Ababa, reported in September that eight persons had accepted the Faith, of whom two were not ready for open responsibility, and that five more were on the verge.

AFGHANISTAN. A Bahá'í group has been formed at Kabul, the capital, and is to be quickly established as an assembly.

AUSTRIA. The spiritual Assembly of Vienna has been reconstituted.

BELGIUM. Madeleine Humbert, the pioneer in Brussels, has been reinforced by the arrival of Mr. and Mrs. Shurcliffe and baby daughter.

BULGARIA. The long-standing pioneer, Marion Jack, though ignorant of the national language and of Esperanto, has nevertheless succeeded in getting some of the Writings translated into Bulgarian. At the age of 80 she manages to hold three gatherings a week in her room, one for English-speaking, one for French-speaking, and one for Bulgarian-speaking friends.

CZECHO-SLOVAKIA. Twelve Czech friends of the Bahá'í Cause gathered at Vuk Echtner's home for celebration of Naw-Ruz.

FRANCE. The French believers are under instruction to build up the groups at Lyons, Marseilles, Hyeres and Bandol to assembly status.

GERMANY. By the end of 1946 the number of declared believers exceeded that of 1937 prior to disbandment, and has now reached 400, of which Stuttgart has about a quarter.

There were 53 Bahá'ís at the youth gathering near Neckargemund on January 5th and an attendance of about 100 was recorded for World Youth Day observed in Esslingen on February 23rd.

A young Bahá'í spoke on the Faith in a youth broadcast from Frankfurt on February 28th. The Greatest Name was then heard for the first time on the German wireless.

HOLLAND. Two more pioneers, Charlotte Stirrath and John Carré, have arrived to reinforce Rita van Sombeek and Jetty Straub. Regular firesides have been started in Rotterdam and at Arnold van Ogtrop's home in Bussum. The Dutch translation of "Bahá'u'lláh and the New Era" is completed and other translations are well forward.

INDIA AND BURMA. The temporary migration of five members of the Daidanaw Assembly proved so successful that, with the help of a travelling teacher, a Centre at Kyigon was established with 60 souls enrolled in the Faith.

A national Hazíratu'l-Quds is to be purchased in Delhi. Summer School at Karachi in October drew attendances of 40 to 150, and the Youth Conference held during the Summer School attracted 250. As at 12th April it was announced that Bahá'ís in disturbed areas were unharmed.

Those who met him during his visit to England in 1944 will be deeply grieved to learn of the passing of Mani Mehta after a motor accident in Bombay on February 4th. His eager zeal for the Faith will be warmly remembered.

IRAN. The Tihran Assembly needs 24 committees to take care of the social economic and religious problems of this large community. Its Teaching Committee, which has 10 sub-committees for the 10 different areas of the city, last year organised between 75 and 85 meetings weekly in the different parts of the city, using 65 teachers and getting audiences of as many as 300 seekers.

The Tihran Youth Committee now needs 16 sub-committees for its numerous activities, one of which, the Teaching Sub-Committee, held 168 meetings during last year.

The 45 months Teaching Plan, which is to be fulfilled in July, 1950, has many aims. Among them are to re-establish 62 lapsed assemblies and set up 95 new Centres in Iran, to raise the groups to assembly status in Kabul, Mecca and Bahrein, to organise a group in Kuwait, Hasa, Yemen and Oman (all in Arabia), and to send believers to India, Iraq and Baluchistan to reinforce Centres in those lands. Forty-five families will leave Tihran for the work in Iran itself.

IRAQ. The N.S.A. has presented the Emir of Bahrein with a copy of "Bahá'u'lláh and the New Era."

ITALY. Pioneers Angeline and Ugo Giachery left New York for Italy on February 8th. Italy is the first E.T.C. country to report a new declaration, in Genoa. The new believer had heard of the Faith while a prisoner of war in India and was confirmed through contact with the Geneva Bureau on his return home.

LUXEMBOURG. Honor Kempton has been reinforced by Anita Ioas and Sally Sanor.

PANAMA. The Inter-America Conference was successfully held on 19th to 25th January.

POLAND. Three copies of "Bahá'u'lláh and the New Era" in Polish have been supplied to the University of Warsaw on request.

SWEDEN. Alice Dudley, the first pioneer to Stockholm, has been joined by Jenny Anderson.

SWITZERLAND. Elsa Steinmetz and Fritz Shaver, new pioneers, have taken post at Berne. The Geneva community now has 5 members including Thilde Diestelhorst of Berlin who has arrived to settle.

The first "Bahaaj Informoj," a four page bulletin, was issued from the Geneva Bureau at Naw-Ruz. It is to be a regular publication.