

The
L O N D O N B A H A ' I B U L L E T I N

Bahá'í Centre, 46 Bloomsbury Street, W.C.1.

No. 26.

January 1940.

Dear Friends,

In the last few months, the Cause has sustained the loss of three deboted workers in different parts of the world. The first irreparable loss, on September 28th, was that of the greatest Bahá'í teacher of this age, Martha Root. Next, in the early part of December, Rahmat Alai, whom we had the privilege of seeing here only nine months ago and whose ardent faith and courage in the face of pain and suffering we had admired and envied, passed to the realms beyond. And now, here in our midst, we have had to witness the departure of Lady Blomfield. It is hard to believe that the beloved and peerless Sitarah Khanum has gone. How befitting that she left this life on the first day of the month of Sharaf (Honour -- December 31st). Her spirit, now free from the trammels of this earth, shines brighter than ever and in the presence of the Master whom she served well, acts as a beacon to us who are left here to work and serve. Here is the cable received from the Guardian:

"Grieve passing dearly beloved outstanding co-worker
"Sitarah Khanum Memory her glorious manifold services
"imperishable stop Advise English community hold befitting
"memorial gatherings Assure relatives my heartfelt
"sympathy loving fervent prayers".

Now the spirit of these zealous servants of Bahá'u'lláh is diffused in His world-embracing community. And now we must rise as never before to prove ourselves worthy of the rich heritage bequeathed by the courageous and undaunted pioneers of our Faith.

Believers from London who attended the Teaching Conference in Manchester and later assisted at the inauguration of the Centre at Bradford, report a truly wonderful manifestation of that spirit which characterises the Cause of Bahá'u'lláh. In the first part of the cable quoted above, the Guardian thus replies to the message sent from the Teaching Conference:

"Welcome noble resolve prosecute energetically
"teaching campaign Praying ardently signal success"

Nothing, absolutely nothing, can in the slightest justify or excuse apathy and slackness on our part. What joy, what never-failing bliss is there in store for those who now, at this perilous stage in world agony, would rededicate themselves to faithful

service at the threshold of Bahá'u'lláh. And as the Master has told us in His Tablet known as the "Army of Life", how grievous, how humiliating would be our fate should we fail in our task.

Dear Friends, your Spiritual Assembly, with humility and prayer, invites you to arise and attract to our Community the blessings of Bahá'u'lláh. Let us first of all realize ourselves as a community. Let the love pouring in abundance from the íbha Kingdom find a home amongst us. Let it rule our lives and enrapture our hearts. Let the grace of Bahá'u'lláh enfold our community. The Master exhorted us to be as one soul in many bodies. Now that mankind is undergoing its supreme test, ours is the duty to respond to the plea of 'Abdul-Bahá. The Guardian wrote these words to America in January 1939:

"There is no time to lose. There is no room left for vacillation. Multitudes hunger for the Bread of Life. The stage is set. The firm and irrevocable Promise is given. God's own Plan has been set in motion. It is gathering momentum with every passing day. The powers of heaven and earth fervently assist in its execution. Such an opportunity is irreplaceable. Let the doubter arise and himself verify the truth of such assertions. To try, to persevere, is to ensure ultimate and complete victory."

What challenge to the faith of the Baháís can be greater and more forceful than this?

The Spiritual Assembly proposes the following measures which it earnestly hopes will advance and fortify our work. It is only your whole-hearted co-operation that can bring them success and attract the confirmations of Bahá'u'lláh.

1. Rearranging the Centre and making the place much more inviting and truly beautiful. The Centre is our communal home. It is our duty to take real interest in it and strive to make it deserving of the name it bears.

2. Inaugurating a discussion meeting under the title "Bahá'í Community and World Affairs". This meeting will be held every fortnight on Tuesdays. The first is to be held on January 23rd, at 7 pm. The purpose of this meeting is to investigate major problems facing mankind, in the light of the teachings of Bahá'u'lláh, and discuss the fundamentals, as well as the details, of the Bahá'í Administrative Order which we believe the pattern of the New World. This gathering can be made a vital occasion of creative and constructive investigation. Should we rally to make it so, we would find it to be invaluable to both our community life and our teaching activity.

3. Fostering our fellowship by more frequent visits to one another's homes, either individually or in parties. Holding fireside meetings is of great value, but something more definite and more spontaneous is required to cement the bonds that bind us together in the Fellowship of Bahá'u'lláh. The Spiritual Assembly asks you to consider this question with the urgency that it demands, particularly in these days of turmoil.

"Magnified be Thy name, O my God, for that Thou hast manifested the Day which is the King of Days, the Day which Thou didst announce unto Thy chosen ones and Thy Prophets in Thy most excellent Tablets, the Day whereon Thou didst shed the splendour of the glory of all Thy names upon all created things. Great is his blessedness whosoever hath set himself towards Thee, and entered Thy presence, and caught the accents of Thy voice."
(Bahá'u'lláh)

19-day Feast.

Friday, January 19th, at 6.30 p.m. Sultan - Sovereignty.
Hostesses: Mrs.K.Hyett.

Sunday Meetings are held at 5.30 p.m.

Study Classes are held on Friday evenings at 7 p.m.

Friday, January 19th, being a 19-Day Feast, no class will be held. "Nabil's Narrative" is now the subject of study.

Fireside Meetings

Mondays, Jan. 15th and 29th, at 7 p.m. at the home of Mr. and Mrs. J. Cohen, 113 Amhurst Road, Hackney, E.8.

Thursdays, January 18th at 7 p.m. at the home of Mrs.G.Lam, 22a Elvaston Place, S.W.7.

Treasurer's Report: It was decided that half the balance which we had in hand on January 31st would be handed over to the National Fund, in addition to our regular contribution. This balance amounted to approximately £8. This is not enough however. In order to carry on the National Teaching Campaign, our regular contributions to the National Funds must be increased.