

"O servant of truth, wouldst thou obtain the sovereignty of earth and heaven? Seek nought but true servitude upon the threshold of the Abhá Beauty. Wouldst thou win the joy of liberty in this world and the next? Desire but submission unto His holy Will. Wouldst thou discover the true way to God? Follow the path of the Covenant."

('Abdu'l-Bahá)

Beloved Friends,

The second European Teaching Conference was held in Brussels from August 5th to 7th. Vivian Isenthal and David Hofman represented the British Bahá'í Community. Your Spiritual Assembly asked Vivian Isenthal to write an account of the Conference for the Bulletin. Here it is:

Ours is a world community - how often have we read and heard those words, - but do we realize what they mean? No, it isn't easy, any more than really understanding what trillions or even billions, are. Only when one gets the chance to be present at some International Bahá'í gathering, is the significance of the words brought home to one, as a breath-taking, glorious reality.

Such was the experience shared with my heretofore unknown brothers and sisters, at Brussels, at the Second European Teaching Conference - believers who came from the ten goal countries of the Plan given to the Americans by the Guardian, - Belgium, Luxembourg, Holland, Spain, Portugal, Denmark, Sweden, Norway, Italy, Switzerland. All these countries have been opened up to the Faith of Bahá'u'lláh in the last two years. There were also visitors from U.S., Canada, Australia, England, Germany, France, and Persians staying in Geneva, and Indonesians from Amsterdam.

On the evening we arrived, before the start of the Conference, the Brussels Bahá'is welcomed those of us who dropped in at their beautiful Centre, with cookies and excellent coffee or tea. Most of them could speak English far better than I could speak French, and English was used as the official language of the Conference, and translated where necessary. But at each session, the opening and ending prayers were read in three or four languages. As we all lived in the University hostel, it was like a summer school, and many delightful friendships were formed.

A public meeting was held on the Friday evening, in a beautiful hall in town, packed with an attentive audience overflowing right into the corridor, and the speakers were Lucienne Migette of Paris, speaking in French, and John Robarts of Canada, speaking English. At the close of the Saturday sessions, films were shown. One was of the previous year's Conference in Geneva, and the other was taken in America in 1912, on the occasion of the Master's visit there, and was very moving. Signor Giachery, who is in charge of the preparation and despatch to Haifa of the marble for the Shrine of the Báb, showed some most interesting slides of this work being carried out, in Italy.

The conference closed on the Sunday, with a coach tour of the town, and a wonderful Unity Banquet held in a large restaurant in town, at which the emotions of love and unity were very intense, as a delegate from each country gave a parting message of faith and love. An Italian believer said "By their fruits ye shall

know them'. Let us see what fruits each one can produce by the time we meet again, next year."

Would that the peoples of the world could see how the World Order of Bahá'u'lláh forges ahead steadily, on a foundation of love, while their statesmen fumble and falter in their attempts at building on a foundation of selfishness! And to me, the conference has given a wider vision, and a deepened understanding of the great privilege of being a follower of the Bahá'í Faith.

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19 - DAY FEASTS

19-Day Feast of 'Izzat (Might)

Thursday, September 8th at 7 p.m.

Hostess: Miss Beryl de Gruchy.

19-Day Feast of Mashiyyat (Will)

Thursday, September 27th at 7 p.m.

Host: Mr. C.S.D. Cole.

Meeting at the Alliance Hall - Sunday, September 11th at 3 p.m.

This meeting is in commemoration of 'Abdu'l-Baha's first public address to a Western audience, which took place at the City Temple, London, on Sunday, September 10th, 1911.

Wednesday Evening Meetings at the Centre

These meetings are held as usual at 7.30 p.m. There is always a good informal discussion and tea is served. At a recent meeting people were talking together until 11 o'clock, when they had to leave to catch their buses and trains home.

B R I G H T O N - The Goal Town we have Adopted.

The Adoption Committee which will assist the teaching work in Brighton, is composed of Mrs. Backwell, Mrs. Kamming (Secretary) and Miss Beryl de Gruchy.

The first regular meeting in Brighton was held on Wednesday, August 24th. John Ferraby went from London to give the talk. A good many enquirers were present, who showed great interest, and who will come to future meetings.

Regular meetings are now scheduled for Wednesday evenings, and a room is booked for the purpose. Later, there will be a large meeting in a public hall. Watch for the announcement.

Miss A.E. Baxter is the Secretary of the Brighton Bahá'í Group. Her address is: 45, Tisbury Road, Hove, Sussex.

Our Community

With great joy we announce the enrolment of Miss Renate Torop.

Miss Nancy Cooper of Blackburn, and Miss Lily Quistgaard of Copenhagen have transferred their residence to London.

We offer them all a most loving welcome.

Our Visitors

It has again been our great privilege and pleasure to meet a number of our fellow-believers from other lands, particularly at our Nineteen-Day Feasts. Their presence at our Feasts made us realize more keenly the reality of the world-wide fellowship wrought by the hands of Bahá'u'lláh.

Our visitors have been: At the 19-Day Feast of Kamál - August 1st - Mr. John Robarts, Chairman of the N.S.A. of the Bahá'ís of Canada, and Mr. Sadiq Mihraban of Tehran. At this Feast Mrs. Olive Routh of Sydney, Australia, who had been with us for several months, made her farewell. Olive Routh declared her faith in London, way back in 1932.

At the 19-Day Feast of Asmá - August 20th - Miss Marit Johnson of Oslo, Norway. / Miss Johnson had come into the Faith only a short while before, at the Brussels Teaching Conference. At our Wednesday evening meeting on August 24th, we had with us Mrs. Besk Crafoord-Linström of Sweden and Miss ~~MISS~~ **MRS. N. RISNENBERG** of Holland. Meeting these dear friends brought us indeed very great joy.