

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

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

No.137

October 1949

MASHÍYYAT, 'IIM 106

"The disciples of Christ forgot themselves and all earthly things, forsook all their cares and belongings, purged themselves of self and passion and with absolute detachment scattered far and wide and engaged in calling the peoples of the world to the Divine Guidance, till at last they made the world another world, illumined the surface of the earth and even to their last hour proved self-sacrificing in the pathway of that Beloved One of God. Finally in various lands they suffered glorious martyrdom. Let them that are men of action follow in their footsteps."

('Abdu'l-Bahá)

THE CLIMAX

"The required number of pioneers, who must arise, while there is yet time, and stop the dangerous breaches, must, however costly the sacrifice, be instantly found..... The funds which must enable these last minute pioneers to adjust their affairs ... must under no circumstances, and particularly on the part of the well-to-do, be withheld."

Beloved Friends,

The London Community, the biggest Bahá'í Community in the country, has a special duty in this hour of need. Somehow the pioneers and funds to complete the Plan must be found and London must find a large part of them. How to do this is the concern of each one of us. "The sacrifices which this fateful hour calls for, are by their very nature, individual." "The golden opportunity which such a decision offers will never again recur." "The issues hinging on such a decision can neither be over estimated nor visualised."

Let us remember the sacrifices of the first Bahá'ís, who lived in unfurnished rooms to serve their Lord, went voluntarily to prison, sacrificed their dear ones and gave their lives to serve His Cause. Some measure of this heroism is called for now. "The rarest evidences of courage and heroism" are the words used by our beloved Guardian.

"How bountiful, moreover will be the rewards" granted by the One on High to those who arise at this critical time. "The invisible hosts of the Kingdom are ready and eager to rush forth to the assistance" of these valiant souls. To such as take the momentous decision needed "the present generation as well as those who will succeed it will be eternally grateful". The Báb Himself will be pleased with them and commend them, we are told.

Dear Friends, the immediate future of the British Bahá'í Community will be settled during the next six months. Unless the London Community play the part demanded of them by their numbers, the work of the Cause in Britain may be set back many, many years. No one but the person concerned can know what each one can do, for the sacrifices demanded are individual; but we are promised that victory will follow our final effort, so some among us must be capable of contributing the money and the personnel needed to achieve it. Tomorrow is in our hands.

With loving greetings,

The London Spiritual Assembly.

The Feast of the Birth of the Báb - Thursday, October 20th.

Meeting will be held at the Centre at 7 p.m. You are invited to contribute in kind towards refreshments.

19-Day Feasts - 19-Day Feast of 'Ilm (Knowledge).

Sunday, October 16th at 4.30 p.m. Hostess: Miss Edith Kent.

Wednesday Evening Meetings at the Centre - 7.30 p.m.

They constitute our only regular teaching medium in London, and need more support from the friends. There are numbers of contacts and enquirers who apart from listening to talks and taking part in discussions, should meet more and more of the believers. Furthermore, the larger the gathering of the Bahá'ís, the stronger will be its powers of attraction.

OUR COMMUNITY

We extend a loving and joyous welcome to Mrs. Toye, who has returned to our Community from the U.S.

OUR VISITORS

It has again been our very great pleasure to meet Mrs. Marion Little. She attended the Summer School in Derbyshire, and on her way to Geneva, stayed a few days in London. Mrs. Little said that she might visit us again next year. We are eagerly looking forward to it.

At our last 19-Day Feast (Mashíyyat), we bid farewell to Mrs. Netti Rijnenberg of Amsterdam, who was returning to Holland, from the Summer School.

Dr. Lutfullah Hakim was also in London for a few days, on his way back from Norwich to his pioneering post in Edinburgh. He spoke at one of our Wednesday evening meetings.

Our loving thanks and greetings go to them all.

NEW PREMISES

We have to leave our present premises by the end of December. The Assembly asks you all to look out for a suitable meeting room in the central part of London, at a rental not exceeding £150 a year. Should you come across any place that you consider suitable, please inform the Secretaries (Vivian Isenthal and Hasan Balyuzi) immediately.

THE TREASURER'S REPORT

During the first six months of this year as compared with the last, both income and expenditure have been down by £22. Fifty per cent have not contributed so far this year. We have pledged £120 to the National Fund, of which no more than £22 has been sent up till now. There will be moving expenses before long. The needs of the Fund are very urgent.

B R I G H T O N

The Goal Town we have Adopted.

Secretary's address: Miss A.E. Baxter,
45 Tisbury Road,
Hove, Sussex.

Meetings are held every Wednesday evening (7.30 p.m.) at

The Institute, Queen Square.

Vivian Isenthal is addressing the meeting on October 12th.

John Ferraby and Hasan Balyuzi will speak in November.

Ted Cardell has pioneered and settled in Brighton. Clare Gung is staying on for the time being. Therefore the Group numbers five now.