

News Letter from Baha'is of the British Isles.

November, 1929.

"O Children of Baha! Associate with all the people of the world, with men of all religions, in concord and harmony; in the spirit of perfect joy and fragrance. Remind them also of that which is for the benefit of all."

WORDS OF BAHÁ'U'LLÁH.

"The candle of thine heart is lit with the hand of My power ; quench it not, with the adverse winds of self and passion. The healer of all thy ills is thy remembrance of Me, forget it not. Make My love thy all-precious treasure and cherish it even as thine own sight and life."

DEAR FRIENDS,

Once again we greet each other in this News letter, and are glad of the opportunity to let our thoughts unite in loving fellowship. We are reminded that the year 1929 is drawing to a close, and with humble thankful hearts we praise our God for the countless mercies and blessings of the year. If we look back and consider our own failings and shortcomings,—the pooriness of our faith, and feebleness of our love, we lose heart,—but Abdu'l Baha has said, "When a man turns his face to God he finds sunshine everywhere." He has told us to "Radiate the light of the love of God to such an extent as to be able to remove entirely the gloom and darkness of hatred, bigotry and enmity from among humanity." So let us look away from ourselves, and press forward, letting the sunshine of God's Love illumine our hearts and lives.

London.

On Thursday, September 19th, the first meeting was held in the new Baha'i centre at Walmer House, Regent Street. A large number of the friends were gathered on this occasion to celebrate what is to many of them a direct answer to the prayers that have been offered for the spread of the movement during the past year.

It is a source of joy and thankfulness to the friends, that there is at last a place in London to which they may look as their spiritual Home, to which they can apply the words of the Master to a believer. "Thy house is My house, let it be adorned by the lights of the Kingdom." It is their aim that within its walls the spirit of love and harmony shall reign ; at its threshold all thoughts of self be put aside, and within, all be received with joy and fragrance, the message given, but discussions that might lead to controversy avoided.

On this first occasion of meeting, the dominant note seemed radiance, it was indeed as if we were blessed by the Master. Then as if to show a visible link with him, Dr. Youness Khan, who spent so many years in close contact with him, made his appearance and in course of the meeting spoke a few words in response to the Chairman's welcome, and at his request chanted the beautiful prayer of the pilgrims at the Holy Shrine. "Help me to be selfless at the threshold . . . give me Thy grace to serve Thy loved ones." Dr. Youness Khan has spoken at the Wednesday and Sunday meetings during his stay in London, and has inaugurated a young people's study circle which will meet alternate Mondays.

We have received a visit from Mrs. Caroline Nelson of Boston and her sister, Miss Drake Wright, who are on their way to Haifa.

Since writing the above news we have received the tidings of the "passing on" of Elizabeth Herrick on Sunday, October 20th, 1929. She has been identified with the Baha'i Movement from its earliest days in this country, being one of the few privileged souls to meet Abdu'l Baha when he visited England. She put into her work for the Cause all the zeal and enthusiasm of which she was capable, and could always be relied on for help and indefatigable work on behalf of the suffering and oppressed.

Her book "Unity Triumphant," and other writings are well known among the friends, and she devoted a great deal of her time and service to the study and spread of Esperanto.

For many weeks she has lain awaiting the Master's Call, cut off from intercourse with earth, and it is with joy that we now think of her, able to use the devotion and love of her freed spirit, released from all material hindrances.

A Baha'i service was held in her house on the evening before her body was laid to rest, and loving friends attended her to the last.

The Manchester Assembly reports the useful, inspiring visit of Dr. Youness Khan to their city in the early part of October. "Two main meetings were held in Higher Broughton at the home of the secretary, the first being on Saturday evening, October 5th—the front room being crowded. The meeting was regulated under the pleasant and kindly chairmanship of Mr. A. Robinson, who, grey-haired but young looking, sat in his usual place under the large picture of the Greatest Name. On table, piano, and sideboard, were vases of beautiful fragrant red roses, brought in the afternoon by a very esteemed friend from his own garden. Dr. Youness, experienced, learned, matured and quiet in his manner of delivery, took our thoughts with him through the cities of Europe which he has recently visited—Stuttgart, Hamburg, and other German cities ; Geneva, Copenhagen, Oslo, and Scandinavian cities—giving us glimpses of Baha'i spiritual work in those spots ; besides explaining matters pertaining to organised Baha'i work in Persia, his native land. Every changing phase of his talk breathed peace and goodwill, causing deeper realisation of the fact that hearts everywhere are glowing anew with Divine love, that minds everywhere are awakening to the newer Revelation of Truth. He brought loving greetings from the Guardian in the Holy Land ; from the Persian assemblies and from the assemblies in the cities he had visited. The next evening another full Meeting was held, attended by other friends. It was fragrant with spiritual fellowship, and extremely happy. The good doctor visited the friends in York

on Monday ; met some friends in Sale on Tuesday, met several in Crumpsall on Wednesday ; and returned to London on Thursday, October 10th. When Dr. Youness Khan's father (owing to his Faith) was in prison, worn to a shadow, and chained, he exhorted his son then a boy, to remain ever firm in the Faith. How interesting it is that the son, in his elder years, should now be manifesting his faithfulness and sincerity by travelling everywhere, seeking to advance the Cause his father loved ! " The whole visit was important to the Manchester friends, and is affecting their course. They send greetings to everyone.

The **Bournemouth** Assembly have no special news to report in this letter. Weekly Meetings are held at Rizwan, Broadstone, where the book "The Baha'i Revelation" by Thornton Chase is being read and studied, and much interest shown. New friends attend for a time, and then pass on to other places, and so the seed sown spreads and definite work for the Cause goes on. The friends meet in love and harmony, and are strengthened to go forward, and seek to live the teachings.

" O Son of My handmaid, Guidance hath ever been in words, and now it is given by deeds. That is, everyone must show forth deeds that are pure and holy, for in deeds all partake, whereas such deeds as these are special to our loved ones. Strive then with heart and soul to distinguish yourself by your deeds. In this wise we counsel you in this holy and resplendent Tablet."

Information concerning the Movement can be obtained from the Secretaries,

MRS. ROMER, Secretary, London Spiritual Assembly, 2, Sloane Terrace, Sloane Square, S.W.1.

MR. E. T. HALL, Secretary, Manchester Spiritual Assembly, 1, Norton Street, Higher Broughton, Manchester.

MISS G. CHALLIS, Secretary, Bournemouth Spiritual Assembly, "Rizwan," Broadstone, Dorset.