

## News Letter from Baha'is of the British Isles.

June, 1930.

**"Consort with all the people with love and fragrance. Fellowship is the cause of unity, and unity is the source of order in the world. Blessed are they who are kind, and serve with love."**

**Words of Baha'u'llah.**



"O Children of Men! Know ye not why we created you all from the same dust? That no one should exalt himself over the other. Ponder at all times in your hearts how ye were created. Since we have created you all from one same substance it is incumbent on you to be even as one soul, to walk with the same feet, eat with the same mouth, and dwell in the same land, that from your inmost being by your deeds and actions the signs of oneness and the essence of detachment may be made manifest. Such is My counsel to you, O concourse of light! Heed ye this counsel that ye may obtain the fruit of Holiness from the tree of Wondrous Glory."—BAHA'U'LLAH).

DEAR FRIENDS,

We have entered upon a new year of work with a sense of deep thankfulness for all the blessings of the past year, and of gratitude to God for His unspeakable mercy and love to us. But as we look forward we realise how tremendous are the opportunities and responsibilities lying before us—opportunities which we can never cope with until we obey more consistently the teachings of the Master—responsibilities which we can never adequately fulfil until we avail ourselves of the Mighty Power of the Holy Spirit ever ready for the assistance of every obedient faithful soul. Doors of service are opening in many directions. Are we ready to enter? Baha'u'llah says "O my servant! Free thyself from the fetters of this world and escape from the prison of self. Appreciate the value of the time, for thou shalt never see it again, nor shalt thou find a like opportunity." Only as 'love' becomes the ruling passion of our lives, "a love that melts all opposition, a love that conquers all foes, a love that sweeps away all barriers, a love that abounds in charity, large-heartedness, tolerance and noble striving, a love that triumphs over all obstacles,—a boundless irresistible sweeping love,"—can we show to the world the value of the Baha'i revelation.

London.

On April the 11th the first annual Convention was held. Reports from the Secretary and Treasurer of the local Spiritual Assembly were read and each of the Sub Committees gave an account of their year's work. The Chairman, commenting on these, spoke of the changed outlook for the Cause in this country since last New Year. It was in a spirit of deep gratitude and hope that they could look forward to the future. As a result of nine months earnest prayer for the advancement of the Cause, they saw this room at Walmar House, a permanent home instead of a little room hired for two hours once a week. Here friends from a distance might always find a welcome, literature was on sale, enquiries could be made, and library books exchanged. The symbol of the greatest name of God, instead of being hidden in a cupboard except for two

hours a week, now was raised on the wall, in the heart of the great metropolis—a witness that the Spirit of God must permeate our lives, and that we must worship in work as well as in prayer.

'When you breathe forth the breath of the Holy Spirit from your hearts into the world, commerce and politics will take care of themselves in perfect harmony. All arts and sciences will become revealed, the knowledge of God will be manifested.'

With this end in view and humbly striving to be worthy instruments of the Spirit, we would move forward to the new year's work.

After electing the nine members of the local Spiritual Assembly, the following officers were appointed:

Mr. Cleaton (Chairman), Mrs. Romer (Secretary), Mr. Bingham (Treasurer).

On April 26th the Feast of Rizwan was celebrated at Walmar House. In the afternoon delegates from various parts of the country met to elect the National Spiritual Assembly for the year. The following were appointed:

Mr. Asgarzadeh, Miss Challis (Chairman), Mrs. Coles (Secretary), Mr. Craven, Mrs. George, Mr. A. Joseph, Mrs. Romer, Mrs. Slade (Treasurer), Mr. Sugar.

At 4.30 there was a large gathering of the Friends, and a few strangers were also welcomed. After tea a short Meeting was held. Prayers were read, followed by a brief account of the origin and significance of the feast, and short addresses were given by several of the friends and delegates from other groups.

The new Assemblies are now taking up their work realising that they are not leaders, but servants. Theirs is no easy task and they approach it humbly, for the responsibilities are great. The spirit of co-operation and readiness to put individual views aside at the will of the majority are not easily acquired. The command of the Master is very plainly given: "It is again not permitted that any one of the honoured members object to or censure, whether in or out of the meeting, any decision arrived at previously, though that decision be not right, for such criticism would prevent any decision from being enforced." The volume on Baha'i Administration, which should be at the disposal of each assembly gives very plain instructions both of the Master and of Shoghi Effendi.

The responsibility for the conduct of the affairs of the Cause rests as much with the electors as with the elected. Neither duty should be undertaken except in the humble endeavour to follow the guidance of the Holy Spirit for the welfare of the Cause, and without respect of persons. The Assembly once formed, we owe it loyalty and obedience.

We have had the pleasure of welcoming in the past month Mr. E. B. W. Dewing from New Zealand, who brought greetings from Haifa; and Miss A. Holsapple, who gave an inspiring account of her sister's work for the Cause in Bahia. Other visitors were Mr.



Mazsud Nerou on his way from Haifa to Russia, Mr. Darood Maanri on his way from Persia to Haifa, and we gratefully acknowledge a gift from the last named of a beautiful rug for the room at Walmar House.

#### **Manchester.**

Seventeen of the friends met at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Sugar on the evening of Saturday, the 3rd inst., to deal with matters pertaining to the Cause, national and local. Mr. Hall presided, and after prayer, outlined the business to be dealt with.

The friends considered and approved several proposals designed to assist the advancement of the Cause, and decided that the same be submitted to the National Spiritual Assembly for their approval and adoption.

It was decided to hold meetings for worship and discussion at 16, Lily Street, Hr. Crumpsall, on the evening of the first Saturday in every month, also occasional meetings on other evenings for the benefit of those friends who cannot attend on Saturdays.

It was agreed to invite the Altrincham friends to co-operate in a Joint Gathering and Reunion, to be held on Saturday, May 24th, in celebration of the Anniversary of the Declaration of the Bab, and the birth of Abdn'l Baha on the 23rd.

Cordial and affectionate thanks were tendered to Mr. Hall for his many years of strenuous work for the Cause, and to Mrs. Hall for her loving service in providing hospitality to the friends when meeting.

After electing nine members to form the local Spiritual Assembly for the year, the following officers were appointed: Mr. Robinson (Chairman), Mr. Sugar (Secretary), and Mr. Chessel (Treasurer).

The friends were united in a spirit of loving co-operation and quiet determination to spend themselves in the service of the Cause.

#### **Altrincham.**

The friends in Altrincham district rallied to the call on Friday, April 11th, when it was agreed that an Assembly be re-formed, as the number of accredited believers exceeded ten. The members present elected Mr. J. C. Craven as secretary, and Miss Hunt treasurer. They further desired that Mr. Craven represent the Assembly at the Delegates' Meeting in London on April 26th, summoned for the election of the members of the National Spiritual Assembly.

On Friday, May 2nd, six members and one interested friend listened with interest to the Secretary's report of the London Conference. Following this, the remainder of the evening was spent in an interesting study of the Baha'i invitation to love God, and the relationship of God to the creature.

This exercise of heart and mind produced a spiritual atmosphere full of fire and light, attracting each soul to the indwelling Kingdom

of God, which verified the truth 'that we are emanations from God.'

"O Son of Man! I loved thy creation; therefore I created thee. Wherefore love Me that I may acknowledge thee and in the Spirit of Life confirm thee." (A4), Hidden Words.

From York encouraging news reaches us. Mrs. Kenworthy writes, "I hope soon to be able to tell of a little group forming in York, but in the meantime I would reach out my hand to isolated Baha'is like myself, in the consciousness that we need not meet in the same room face to face, in order to find fellowship, for the Divine Breath and refreshing Life-giving waters can reach us wherever we are, and link us together in the spirit. I also realise (what some others who read this will agree with me in) that some of us, for a Divine purpose, may have been kept isolated for a time in order that we may be strong to stand alone, and may by a variety of experiences be proved and tested and made able to bear the responsibilities and privileges of this New Day and wonderful Revelation." Mrs. Kenworthy tells in a later letter of a weekly meeting begun in York at the house of a friend for prayer and study of the Baha'i teachings. She writes of the first meeting—"There were only three of us, but we had a lovely happy time, and we shall probably have more as time goes on."

#### **Bournemouth.**

Members of the Group, and other interested friends continue to meet every Sunday afternoon at "Rizwan," Broadstone, and occasionally on week evenings at "Greenacre," Bournemouth. Very happy Meetings have been held, with prayer and study of the Word, bringing strength to the believers, and convincing more than one regular attender of the truth of the Teachings. For two consecutive Sundays the subject of Spiritual Healing was studied, and Baha'i prayers for Healing used, and on Monday afternoon, May 5th, a special Healing Service was held at "Rizwan," attended by patients and staff in the Nursing Home, and friends in the neighbourhood wishing for spiritual help. Great blessing was experienced, resulting in a renewal of spiritual and physical strength in several present, and a deeper realisation of the power of prayer, and God's readiness to answer and bless those who wait upon Him in faith.

Eight members of the newly-elected local Spiritual Assembly met on April 30th, when officers were elected for the year as follows: Chairman and Secretary, Miss Challis; Treasurer, Mr. King.

#### **News Items.**

It has been decided to issue the News Letter quarterly instead of bi-monthly in future. The next letter will be circulated in August, and Miss Challis would be glad to receive news for same by July 31st.



We are looking forward to another visit from Mrs. Mary Hanford Ford in June. All particulars with regard to meetings, lectures, etc., will be issued later.

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Information concerning the Movement can be obtained from the Secretaries,

MRS. ROMER, at Walmar House, 288, Upper Regent Street, W.1.

MR. A. SUGAR, 16, Lily Street, Hr. Crumpsall, Manchester.

MISS CHALLIS, "Rizwan," Broadstone, Dorset.

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Baha'i literature can be bought at the Reading Room, Walmar House; or at Burnside, Ltd., 9, Beaconsfield Terrace Road, West Kensington, W.14.

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The Baha'i Reading Room at Walmar House is open daily (except Saturdays) from 1 to 6. Sundays 6 to 8.

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The registered cable address is—for cables, Bahalonsa, London. Telegrams, Bahalonsa, Wesdo, London.

For the National Spiritual Assembly, cables, National, care Bahalonsa, London. Telegrams, National, care Bahalonsa, Wesdo, London.