

News Letter from Baha'is of the British Isles.

"A permanent peace in the world of existence can be established only through the power of the Spirit. Spirit is the ruler over the body. If the people are emancipated through one spirit, there is not a trace of doubt that the greatest bond of union and harmony will be established among them."—ABDUL BAHÁ.

"I say unto you that any one who will arise in the cause of God at this time shall be filled with the Spirit of God and that He will send His hosts from heaven to help you, and that nothing shall be impossible to you if you have faith. As ye have faith so shall your powers and blessings be."—ABDUL BAHÁ.

January, 1934.

London.

During the last three months several of our members have spoken to progressive groups on the Baha'i Teachings. These include Mrs. Slade at the Rev. Will Hayes's service in Lindsley Hall; Miss Alice Phillips at the London Fields Fellowship; Miss Evelyn Baxter at a Women's Meeting in East London, and Mrs. Basil Hall at an International Salon. Mrs. Romer is to speak to a group of Theosophists in January.

The talks were given at the request of the groups proving that opportunities to give these Teachings are multiplying; also that there is a longing among kindred souls to work together. Lady Blomfield relates a beautiful instance of the leader of a progressive movement asking Abdu'l Baha for His blessing. The Master said, "Every Movement which is working for the good of humanity has my blessing, but they must be united. Alone they are like drops, but together they are like the sea."

Never before, it would seem, have so many groups gathered in a friendly way over afternoon tea to discuss the realities and verities of life and the staggering problems of the day. Nearly a dozen come to mind instantly; this means that in countless avenues the way is being prepared for our message, and those who bear the name "Baha'i" must immerse themselves in their great teaching in order to pass on its light as opportunities come. The ground is being broken for the seeds found in this storehouse of divine wisdom.

Two anniversaries in November were fittingly commemorated: The Birthday of Baha'u'llah on Sunday afternoon, November 12th, with its programme consisting largely of hymns of praise and joy, filled the hearts of those present with the Glory of the Day of a Manifestation of God. Happily, there was a predominance of the younger members which added much to the brightness. There is nothing greater than the Day of God's Messenger and no joy to equal even a slight understanding of the wonderful Message.

Mrs. George arranged the programme for the anniversary of the Passing of Abdu'l Baha on November 28th. The meeting produced a sense of the nearness of Abdu'l Baha which created a nearness to one another, and in the Unity of the Spirit a great feeling of responsibility to the Cause prevailed. Each heart prayed inwardly for more selflessness and devotion to the work to which the Master gave every moment of His life.

A short article about the Baha'i Movement appeared in the magazine "Town and Country News" of November 24, including

a picture of the Temple at Wilmette. Any publicity of this kind which can be obtained brings our Cause to the attention of the public and is valuable. It is hoped this is one of many such opportunities to describe the ideals for which the Baha'i Movement stands.

In a recent book "Short History of Religions," by Mr. E. E. Kellett, the Baha'i Movement is included, the author mentioning especially the Bab and the early days of the Movement. As some of the statements seemed incorrect and inadequate Mr. Kellett was invited to the Centre, and in an interview given facts concerning the history and development of the Cause. He has now read some of the recent Baha'i literature and promises, if a second edition of the book is printed, to revise the section relating to this Movement.

Two visiting speakers have given interesting talks at the Wednesday evening meetings during the recent weeks. On November 24 the Rev. Magnus C. Ratter, who has succeeded the Rev. Tyssul Davis at the Theistic Church, Aeolian Hall, spoke on "Nineteenth Century Disillusion and Future Visions." He dwelt particularly on the visions of the poets and the wonderful life and work of Albert Schweitzer. Mr. Brian Goddard, of The New Commonwealth spoke on December 13 on "The Problem of Peace"; Mr. Godfrey Mowatt adding a significant message. A very interesting discussion followed.

To avoid monotony and allow many to participate, two discussion evenings have been held recently, on the vital subjects: "The Evolution of the Soul" and "The Religion of the Future." Many questions were asked and quotations and references given. Another innovation has been two evenings on "Persia and the Early Days of the Cause," led by Mr. Balyuzi. With the aid of a map a realistic background was created for the conditions existing at the time of the Bab's manifestation, and much enthusiasm for the wonderful epic "The Dawn Breakers" was created. The Guardian has asked all Baha'is to study earnestly this thrilling account. Classes are being held for this purpose in many countries. Surely deep contemplation of the lives of those devoted souls who laid the foundations of the cause in such troubled and difficult surroundings cannot fail to strengthen our faith, zeal and devotion and stimulate each one to redouble his or her efforts to spread the Teachings and live the life.

At the last "Nineties Day" Feast on December 31, a frank and interesting discussion followed the reports of the secretary and treasurer of the London Spiritual Assembly. The business of the Cause in London was considered and suggestions welcomed, thus demonstrating practically the principle of spiritual democracy and consultation inherent in the Bahai teaching and practice.

Such group discussion is a definite aid in the elimination of personality; is earnestly advocated by the Guardian, and illustrates in action the behest that Baha'is must truly be "one soul in many bodies."

Recent visitors include: Mr. Wm. T. Leach and Mr. Emeri Sala, of Montreal, Canada and Mr. Fahramand of Berlin.

Many holiday greetings were received from friends who have visited the Centre, including Mr. Mountfort Mills, Miss Julia Goldman, Miss Lydia Zamenhof, Mrs. Routh and Mrs. Moffitt, of Australia, Mrs. Ford of New York, Miss Grunsweig of Syria, Dr. Lotfullah Hakim, of Teheran, and others. We take this opportunity to wish these friends and all others throughout the world a year of increased joy and opportunity. Civilization is passing through a transition; the Baha'is have to play a very vital part. Constantly, prayers are read at the Centre for all, and for the Peace of the world.

The Baha'i Room is open daily from 2 to 5 (except Saturdays and Sundays) for consultation and reading. A well-stocked Library of Baha'i writings is available.

London. (YOUTH GROUP).

The London Baha'i Youth Group has been carrying on its meetings and work in quite an enthusiastic spirit. This season we have formed a Teachings Committee, as the need of it was felt very much. The work of this committee is to gather material for discussion at the General Meetings, and to work in close harmony with the Meetings Committee. We have found from past experience that the meetings are more enjoyable for all members when discussions are raised—they are more helpful and more interesting, so we are abandoning having a speaker at both our General Meetings, and are arranging for an address at one meeting and a general discussion on some Baha'i topic at the other.

The committee of the Youth Group has been very busy this season compiling the Bye-laws and Regulations which we feel are very imperative, if a smooth running organization is desired. These have been submitted for the approval of the London Spiritual Assembly and passed.

We have also decided this season to have monthly socials. In November a social was given at one of the member's houses, and about 22 people attended. No social was given in December on account of the Christmas vacation, but we are having another in January. Everyone is asked to bring sixpence and this just covers expenses for the person entertaining.

In April we are hoping to give another big dance and party such as we had last year, and arrangements are already in hand.

Manchester Bahai Assembly.

On the first Sunday in September, last year, the Manchester friends had the surprise and pleasure of a visit by a Bahai friend from the East—Mr. Sharma Baboo, of Rangoon, Burma. A sailor by profession, his ship having berthed at Liverpool, he had made a flying visit to see the friends in Manchester. Happy was the union; and happy also was the second visit just two weeks later, when more friends were able to meet him.

Shortly afterwards, in October, the friends also had the pleasure of a visit from Mr. Emeric Sala, of Montreal, Canada. Mr. Sala gave news of the Cause in that city. He spoke wisely on the position of the Movement in the world, emphasizing the definite aim of building up a New World Order, and the important part that Youth must take in that reconstruction.

In September, on a beautiful, sunny Sunday, the Youth Group enjoyed a run to the Peak District, Derbyshire. A short meeting was held on a grassy knoll overlooking the fine reservoirs in the picturesque Derwent Valley. The subject studied was "Spiritual and Material Healing."

Afterwards, Hathersage was visited, and a pilgrimage made to the grave of "Little John,"—"Friend and Lieutenant of Robin Hood."

Eyam was also visited and the cottages seen where commenced the Plague that in the 17th century, almost annihilated the whole village. A fine run home in the evening ended a very happy day.

Christmas Eve was celebrated by a social gathering of the young, and mirth and merriment were certainly not lacking on that occasion.

In obedience to the request of the committee at Teheran, a history of the Group has been written, passed by the council, and forwarded to the secretary of the N.S.A. It is a continuation of the "Baha'i Dawn," published in 1923, by the Manchester Spiritual Assembly, and gives the progress of the Cause in Manchester from that year to the present day.

The general meetings, youth group meetings, and the Esperanto Class, continue to be held regularly, and correspondence is maintained with more distant friends.

In its issue of October 27, the John O'Groat Journal of Wick, Caithness, published a most interesting and beautiful review of the October Baha'i Magazine, drawing attention to the New World Order of Baha'u'llah, and the great need for world reformation.

The friends send their hearty greetings to all other friends in every sphere of activity.

Bournemouth.

It has not been possible to hold meetings recently, but in actual service the Bournemouth Group is very active. Paragraph 951 (Bahai Scriptures) reads: "With regard to the benevolent fund, surely this subject should receive attention. The disciples of His Holiness Christ were only eleven persons, and they had established a benevolent fund, so the establishment of a fund had that degree of importance."

Many sick and needy folk have been helped by means of our Service Fund, and as this Fund continues to increase there will be countless opportunities for further service.

A meeting was held at Broadstone on November 28th to commemorate the passing of Abdul Baha.

The members of the Bournemouth Group look forward to continuing their work with the hope that the Cause may be spread further during 1934.

London.—At the Baha'i Centre, 19, Grosvenor Place, S.W.

There is now on sale, the play written by Lady Blomfield's daughter, "The Drama of the Kingdom." Price 1s. By Parvine (Mrs. Basil Hall).

This pageant play was written from a plan given by Abdul Baha himself. The principles of the Bahai faith are expressed in dramatic form, and in a setting which endeavours to show forth the birth of a new revelation in a world which has sadly fallen away from the pure essence of Religion as taught by the Manifestations of God throughout the ages. The struggles and persecution of the first brave disciples culminate in the triumph of God through the supreme sacrifice of the faithful, and the drawing of the divine civilization in the world of to-day.

Shoghi Effendi has written the following precious words of appreciation about the play:—

"I wish to congratulate you on your splendid achievement. I was thrilled when I first saw it in its first form, so dignified, so attractive, so faithful and convincing in its presentation of the spirit and purpose of our beloved Faith. May it stimulate countless readers and awaken them from their heedlessness and unable them to promote far and wide the life-giving principles of the Cause of Baha'u'llah."

And he has ordered 50 copies to give away as presents.

Information concerning the Movement can be obtained from the Secretaries:

MRS. ROMER, Baha'i Room, 19, Grosvenor Place, London, S.W.1.

MISS CHEESMAN, Southernhay, Cambridge Road, Bournemouth.

MR. JOSEPH LEE, 392, Northenden Road, Sale Moor, Sale, Cheshire.

MISS M. BURGESS, 6, Crow Tree Lane, Daisy Hill, Bradford.

The address for all cables is now: "Asgarzadeh, London."

For the National Spiritual Assembly cables should be addressed: "National, care Asgarzadeh, London."

Books can be purchased from the Librarian, Baha'i Room, 19, Grosvenor Place, S.W.1.

Baha'i Scriptures	15/6
Some Answered Questions	8/-
Baha'u'llah and the New Era. Cloth 6/-, Paper	2/6
Baha'i Prayers	2/10
Small Book of Prayers	6d.
Small grey covered Book of Prayers	3d.
Hidden Words. Leather 4/6, Cloth 2/3, Paper	9d.
Paris Talks of Abdu'l Baha	3/-
London Talks of Abdu'l Baha	3/-
The Baha'i Revelation, by Thornton Chase	4/-
Peace Programme	2/-
The Baha'i World.....to order, about	10/6
The Coming of the Glory, by Florence Pinchon	1/-
(reduced from	2/6)
Esperanto, Short Account	2d.
"Book of Certainty" (Ighan).....to order, about	13/9
Baha'u'llah and the New Era in Esperanto	4/-
The Baha'i Movement (short account)	7d.
The Brilliant Proof (by Mirza Abul Fazl)	10d.
The "Spirit of the Age" by Horace Holley	7/6
Baha'i Administration	6/3
Observations of a Baha'i Traveller, by Mason Remey	4/-
The Oriental Rose, by Mary Hanford Ford	3/6
The Benediction—Music, and Words in English and Esperanto	2d.
Calendars (Cards)	9d.

Postage extra.

The edition of Hidden Words at 9d. can be sold at 25 per cent. discount on taking a dozen or more, plus postage.