

News Letter from Baha'is of the British Isles.

"The most urgent requisite of mankind is the declaration of the oneness of the world of humanity: This is the great principal of Bahá'u'lláh. That which will leaven the human world is a love that will insure the abandonment of pride, oppression, and hatred."—'ABDU'L-BAHA.

July, 1934.

London.

NOTES FOR NEWS LETTER.

A new spirit seems to have entered the Cause during the past four months, perhaps due to the impact of outside affairs, which seem threatening, more probably from the impetus given to every Baha'i by the document recently sent to the friends by the Guardian. This wonderful exposition, setting forth with great clarity the station and mission of the three great figures in the Cause—The Bab, Baha'u'llah and Abdu'l Baha—was first brought to the attention of the friends at the annual election of the National Assembly, held at the Centre on Sunday, April 29th (the ninth day of Rizwan). Mrs. Slade, the Secretary, gave a report of the work for the year and discussion followed. At the tea conference Miss Challis and others spoke; a spirit of loving co-operation and zeal for service prevailed. The following constitute the National Assembly for 1934:

Miss Grace Challis (Chairman), Mrs. A. W. George (Vice-Chairman), Mrs. Marcus Slade (Secretary and Treasurer), Mrs. Harry Romer (Assistant Secretary), Mr. Norman King, Mr. Hasan Balyuzi, Mr. Walter Wilkins, Mr. Joseph Lee, Mrs. A. W. George is editor of the news letter.

The N.S.A. requests any of the friends who come across references to the Cause in books or periodicals to send copies of the same or inform the Secretary where the references are to be found. Address: Secretary, N.S.A., Baha'i Centre, 19, Grosvenor Place, S.W.1.

FEASTS AND ANNIVERSARIES.

At the Rizwan feast, held April 21st, at Lady Blomfield's, the usual loving hospitality was shown. An interesting talk was given on work for the prisoners by Miss Eaton, a friend of our Cause, showing the great need for improvement in this field. Mrs. Basil Hall read a paper on "A New Way to Peace," citing a fresh idea (to some), of a redistribution of land to allow people from densely populated areas to move to sparsely settled spots and have an opportunity to develop. She quoted Baha'u'llah's beautiful words on "Justice," filling all with the hope that this better condition might be speedily realized. Mrs. Hall is, as many know, the author of "The Drama of the Kingdom," a play which is to be given, at least in part, at Green Acre this summer. An order for ten copies of the book has been received from India.

The last day of Rizwan, May 2nd, was observed at the Centre with a feast and an appropriate programme. The three Rizwan feasts seemed more beautiful than usual, and more significant.

The Festival of Nawruz was celebrated on March 21st at the Centre with a feast, music, and the repetition of the beautiful Persian play given at Lady Blomfield's last year. The devotional programme was arranged by Miss Baxter. Miss Pinchon spoke, several read, and Mr. Naimi, whose visit is described elsewhere, gave a most inspiring talk.

The meeting on May 23rd, commemorating the Anniversary of the Declaration of the Bab was unusually moving. At both this meeting and the commemoration of "The Passing of Baha'u'llah," on May 28th, a profusion of flowers added much to the beauty of the meetings. The chapter of the new pamphlet of Shoghi Effendi dealing with The Bab formed the basis of the programme for the meeting on May 23rd, Lady Blomfield occupying the chair. The Secretary read a special message from the Guardian urging greater efforts. Over fifty were present, the reluctance to leave, speaking for itself, of the true warmth of the meeting.

THE COMMEMORATION OF THE PASSING OF BAHU'U'LLAH.

On May 28th, selections from Baha'u'llah words appropriate to the occasion were read in turn unannounced, creating a feeling of nearness to the Manifestation and of sincere dedication, unusual in its intensity. The prayer of Abdu'l Baha, revealed at the Passing of Baha'u'llah, closed the service which will long be remembered by those present for its solemn beauty.

At the annual meeting for the election of the London Spiritual Assembly held Friday evening, April 13th, reports were given by retiring officers; the secretary described the work accomplished, stressing especially the great good done through the visits of Mr. Mountford Mills and Mr. Naimi. The treasurer showed a gratifying amount of income and expenditure, and expressed the hope that the coming year would be even better. This, we are certain, will be true, for God's Cause must progress and grow; the means are His, and will be given to those who have faith.

The London Spiritual Assembly elected for the ensuing year comprises: Mr. Lutfullah Alizade, Mr. Hasan Balyuzi, Miss Evelyn Baxter, Mrs. Kathleen Brown, Miss Elsie Lea, Mr. Harry Romer, Mrs. Harry Romer, Mrs. Marcus Slade, Mr. Walter Wilkins.

At a meeting of this Assembly the following officers were chosen for the year: Mrs. Marcus Slade, Chairman; Mr. Hasan Balyuzi, Vice Chairman; Mrs. Harry Romer, Secretary; Mrs. Kathleen Brown, Assistant Secretary; Miss Elsie Lea, Treasurer.

Members were appointed to act on the following committees : Meetings Committee, Room Committee, Feasts and Hospitality Committee, Publicity and Contacts Committee, Finance Committee.

Miss Claude Aldridge, Mrs. Lloyd Tranter, Mr. Walter Hocking, and Mr. Victor Audigier have become voting members during the year.

Everything indicates a year teeming with opportunity, blessed with real unity and guided by the wonderful document recently sent to us by Shoghi Effendi—"The Dispensation of Baha'u'llah." No Baha'i can fail to experience an added thrill of inspiration nor to pray humbly for guidance on reading it.

VISITING SPEAKERS.

Visiting speakers at the Wednesday meetings have included : Mrs. Solomon on "The Purpose of Life," her talk evoking a spirited discussion ; Rev. Basil Viney on "God and Evolution," a purely scientific discourse and discussion ; Mr. H. S. L. Polak, who gave a beautiful talk on "The Eastern Contribution to Peace," mentioning his meeting with Abdu'l Baha, and Mr. Richard St. Barbe Baker, founder of the "Men of the Trees," on "Mwininyaga, The Great White Spirit."

Mr. St. Barbe Baker acknowledged, with deep feeling, the debt he owed to the late Mrs. Claudia Coles in giving him the Message of Baha'u'llah, and in other ways ; he paid a glowing tribute to her memory. He brought a feeling of Baha'i faith and love which will long be treasured. In the course of his inspiring talk he cited several significant events, with a Baha'i connection, including the meeting of leaders of different religions in Palestine for forestry work (the head of the Committee for the undertaking being Shoghi Effendi) ; Abdu'l Baha's work in feeding the needy in Palestine during the war ; a touching incident when Viscount Allenby received from him a photograph of Abdu'l Baha with great appreciation and love. He also mentioned the help he had received from American Baha'is during his forestry work in the United States and spoke of the great assistance he had obtained through the Baha'i prayers. Lady Blomfield, as chairman, added much to the meeting through her brief talk and fervent spirit of devotion to the Cause.

MR. NAIMI.

On March 7th Mr. Abdul Husayn Khan Naimi, son of Mirza Naimi, the late famous poet and teacher, of Teheran, arrived in London. During his two weeks stay he devoted nearly all his time to meeting the friends and engaging in Baha'i activities, leaving out nearly all the sightseeing he had anticipated so eagerly. He ad-

ressed two special Sunday afternoon meetings held at the Centre, March 11th and 18th, filling all with enthusiasm and renewed zeal for the work of the Cause. He brought special greetings from Persia, Haifa and other places, giving detailed information concerning the work of the Cause in Persia, stressing especially the need for unified action by the friends of East and West, and the great desirability for a deeper mutual understanding. This was also emphasized at his first talk on Wednesday evening, March 8th. His visit will long be remembered as a time of increased realization of the beauty of Baha'i love and unity, and is, it is hoped, the precursor of many in the future.

Mr. and Mrs. Fuad Rouhanie are now welcome visitors to England. Mr. Rouhanie gave a beautiful talk at the meeting on May 9th, cementing still further the unity between East and West, often mentioned by Mr. Naimi. He is pursuing a course of study at Oxford. Mrs. Janet French, of Montreal, has visited London during the past month.

At the Baha'i Centre, 19, Grosvenor Place, S.W.1 a regular weekly meeting is held on Wednesdays at 8 p.m. All are cordially invited. No collection.

The 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.

Orpington Group.

On June 3rd, a lovely Sunday, a series of meetings were held in Orpington, partly out of doors, arranged by Miss Baxter. The subject considered at three study hours during the time was "The Fulfilment of Prophecy," the speakers being Miss Baxter, and Mr. Yazdi. Many friends from London attended. It is hoped that study week ends may be continued throughout the summer. The Orpington group is showing much activity, and its members attend the London meetings constantly.

THE LONDON YOUTH GROUP.

Although the Youth Group has not been inaugurated very long, it has a membership list of eighteen. About twelve members come regularly to the meetings, the others attending when time permits.

Work.

This year, the General Meetings have been divided into two—the first meeting in the month being devoted to discussion on the

Bahàì teachings, and the second to an address either by one of the members or by an outside speaker.

In order properly to organise the discussion evenings, it was felt necessary to have a Teachings Committee. This Committee meets and reads passages from various Bahai books, selecting and typing out the salient points from each, to be read at the General Meeting, when the Members discuss the items brought forward.

We have had seven talks from friends who have not been Youth Group Members. The other addresses have been given by our own members, who closely adhere to the Bahàì teachings.

This year, three of the Members of the Committee have drawn up the Constitution and Bye-laws of the Youth Group, and these have been passed by the Spiritual Assembly. They are intended for the future Members of the Youth Group, as well as for those of today.

Summer School.

Last August, the Committee of the Youth Group organised a Summer School, at Shoreham, which was joined by eight of the Members. An hour each day was devoted to lectures given by M. Balyuzi, on the Cultural and Social Evolution of Man.

Social Activities.

Each month, the Youth Group have held a "Social," at the house of one or other of the Members. These have been very well attended, and extremely enjoyable.

The Youth Group also gave an Evening Party, on Saturday, April 28th, when 150 guests were entertained. The party was opened by Mr. V. Audigier, followed by a play, entitled "Ali the Cobbler," which was excellently rendered by Miss M. Brown, Mr. H. Balyuzi, Mr. A. Dehkan, Mr. A. Homayoun and Mr. B. Djavidani. After the play, Mrs. Alizade, the Youth Group Secretary, made an introductory speech, outlining the ideals and activities of the Youth Group. The remainder of the programme included some excellent feature dancing, and nearly three hours' ballroom dancing. The whole evening proved to be most successful, and to the pleasure of all the guests.

The Youth Group have held their annual election, and the following Members have been chosen for the new Committee:—

Mrs. L. Alizade (Chairman), Mr. A. K. Djavid (Vice-Chairman), Mr. V. Audigier (Treasurer), Miss R. Le Gray (Assistant Treasurer), Mr. A. Yazdi (Secretary), Miss D. Waterman (Assistant Secretary), Miss M. Brown, Mr. H. Balyuzi, Mr. A. Dehkan.

Manchester Bahai Assembly.

NEWS LETTER REPORT. June, 1934.

The desire being very strong in the hearts of the friends to observe the 19th Day Feasts, it was decided in the month of February to commence holding them. Since then they have been observed regularly. The meetings have been devoted to the study of the Bahai Teachings, particularly the Kitáb-i-Iqân.

On March 12th the friends had the pleasure of a visit from Mr. Naimi, of Persia. What a happy event to have this brother from the East speak to us of the Cause, giving us the Guardian's greetings, and telling us of events in Persia! His narration of the ordeals of the early Bahais, including those of his own father, moved the hearts of the friends deeply. Very regrettable was it that his visit was so short.

At the commencement of the New Bahàì Year, the Spiritual Assembly was elected, being:—Mr. E. T. Hall (Chairman), Mr. E. Sugar (Vice-Chairman), Mr. J. Lee (Secretary), Mr. J. Chessell (Treasurer), Mr. A. Sugar, Mr. E. R. Hall, Miss A. Williams, Miss L. E. Hall, Miss M. Chessell.

Of the meetings held during Rizwan, the one held on Sunday, April 22nd, remains in memory as both blessed and educational. In place of an address, historical sketches of Baha'u'llah, His sufferings, and His tremendous mission, were read by Mr. Lee, and discussed by the friends. Rizwan is always a most happy time.

Early in May, the Youth Group, desirous of more deeply studying the Teachings, decided to hold a study class, and the members now meet once a week for that purpose. The "Seven Valleys" have occupied the attention mostly so far; the wealth of truth, beauty and wisdom contained therein almost overwhelming the heart and mind.

Since our notes appeared in the last News Letter we are happy to report that beautiful reviews of Bahàì Magazines have appeared in the "John O'Groat Journal," Wick, Caithness, in the issues of January 12th, February 23rd, and April 13th; and that Mr. R. J. G. Millar, the editor, gave an address on "What is the Baha'i Movement?" before the Wick Brotherhood (quite a large assembly) on March 18th, a report of which appeared in the March 23rd issue of the "John O'Groat Journal."

Quite recently, the friends had the pleasure of other visitors from Persia—Mr. Rouhani and his wife. They spent a pleasant day in the company of some of the friends. In the evening more of the friends came to meet them and a happy gathering was held.

Mr. Rouhani read a portion of the "Hidden Words," first in Persian, and afterwards in English, and helped the friends by his knowledge of both languages. The friends expressed their gratitude for this kindly service, for the real sense of two obscure phrases became clear.

The friends send warm Abha greetings to all.

Bournemouth News.

Though only few meetings in Bournemouth are possible, the friends feel that lasting service for the Cause is always being rendered at the Rizwan Nursing Home, Broadstone, where so many patients and their friends hear the Bahai message, and carry away with them strong impressions of the peaceful and harmonious atmosphere which is ever present at Rizwan. Real Bahai work is done there, and one feels that when the Cause becomes more widely known many who have visited the Home will recall the influences they received through the practical living out of the teachings.

Of great value is the Service Fund which was inaugurated in January, 1932, to which a number of friends have contributed, and which has been instrumental in assisting very many needy cases. The door is open to assist many more as the Fund increases.

The members of the Bournemouth Group send loving greetings to all friends.

Bradford.

Regular meetings in this city were resumed in March, when it was agreed that the friends meet every fourth Friday for the systematic study of the Bahai Teachings. The Bradford Group realise that such study is much more than an intellectual pursuit. It is no less than the search for the Will of God and thanksgiving for His Loving Providence. Thus our meetings are truly for Divine Worship, and the place wherein we meet is sanctified to that purpose.

We reviewed the history of the Movement from its inception, appreciating the respective Stations of the Bab, Baha'u'llah, Abdul Baha and the Guardian of the Cause. Special attention was directed to the clear understanding of the position and function of the Guardian. It was made clear that he is neither pontiff nor dictator, but truly Guardian in the highest sense—guiding, advising, training his people, fostering in them the sense of responsibility for that Great Trust which has been committed to their care and teaching them how worthily to acquit themselves of it.

We then proceeded to the objective of the Movement, as defined in the Guardian's statement of the "New World Order." Emphasis was laid on the fact that it is a "World Order, Divine in Origin" and thus transcended all social and political systems devised by men; the New World Order being—without exaggeration or hyperbole—nothing less than the Kingdom of God on earth. Thus we arrived at the Bahai Cause which it is the mission of the Movement to establish. The Movement being the expression of men may falter and hesitate; the Cause, being the Will of God, is ever advancing, ever renewing itself in the hearts of men.

At subsequent meetings we propose to study *seriatun* the "Twelve Principles" as forming the basis of the "New World Order," in relation to their bearing on the problems of the world of today.

We pray that Divine Guidance will be with us in our quest for His Will.

Enquiries may be addressed to Mr. Sugar, c/o Mrs. Wilkinson, 20, Southey Place, Bradford, Yorks.

York.

Mrs. Kenworthy regrets to say that there appears to be no opening at present for holding Bahai Meetings in York, but in quiet ways there do come opportunities for spreading the knowledge of this great Cause and for recognition of the fact that in the Spirit an awakening is going on in many directions which will one day show itself in a willingness to investigate and to hear what we long to share.

In the meantime fellowship among Bahai people in isolated places seems very desirable. Is there anyone who would receive correspondence and pass it round among lonely people, thus bringing stimulus and useful interchange of thought? The few who still keep in touch with one another in York would appreciate this.

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.

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.

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| Baha'i Scriptures | 10/6 |
| Some Answered Questions | 8/- |
| Baha'u'llah and the New Era Cloth 6/- Paper | 2/6 |
| Baha'i Prayers | 2/10 |
| Small Books 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/- |
| Divine Philosophy | 3/8 |
| In Galilee, by Thornton Chase | 1/9 |
| The Baha'i Revelation, by Thornton Chase | 4/- |
| Peace Programme | 2/- |
| The Baha'i World | 10/6 |
| The Coming of the Glory, by Florence Pinchon | 1/- |
| Esperanto, Short Account | 2d. |
| Principles of the Baha'i Faith | 2d. |
| "The Drama of the Kingdom," by Mrs. Basil Hall | 1/- |
| "The World Economy of Baha'u'llah," by Horace Holley | 6d. |
| The Dispensation of Baha'u'llah," by Shoghi Effendi | 1/- |
| Bahà'i Administration | 6/3 |
| The Brilliant Proof | 10d. |
| Postage extra. | |