

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

October, 1934.

London.

During the holiday season meetings were held regularly on Wednesday evenings, the attendance averaging between twenty and thirty. Several very interesting discussions took place, the subjects including "The Golden Age of Baha'u'llah," "Obstacles in Accepting the Baha'i Cause" and "The Dispensation of Baha'u'llah," all of which proved instructive and helpful.

One of the most inspiring and constructive visitors to our Centre was Mrs. Stuart French, of California. She spoke at several gatherings, including two Sunday afternoon meetings, three Wednesday evening meetings and two Nineteen Day Feasts, besides meeting friends and inquirers individually. Her talks and allusions to the Temple, or "Dawning Place of Worship," as she says it is preferable to designate it, gave great joy and made the oft-repeated statement of Abdu'l Baha's very evident, that this edifice would be the Greatest Teacher. Mrs. French gave freely of her vast knowledge of the Cause and the present-day administration. Visitors, not on our list of believers, enjoyed her talks and were impressed with her great earnestness and her presentation of the Teachings. Her visit was a very bright spot in the summer's work: it will be remembered with appreciation and gratitude; also with a sincere hope that it will be repeated soon.

The Sunday afternoon tea-meetings (two of them following immediately after the meeting of the National Spiritual Assembly) were well attended and successful. At a meeting held June 10th the pamphlet: "The Dispensation of Baha'u'llah," by Shoghi Effendi, was discussed, speakers including Mr. Balyuzi, Miss Challis, of Bournemouth, and Mr. Lea, of Manchester. A short memorial service was held for Dr. Arastoo Khan Hakim, a brother of the well-known and much loved Lotfullah Hakim, at one time resident in London.

At a Unity Feast held Wednesday evening, June 20th, Mr. Ray, a Student in London, spoke on Movements for religious unity in India, mentioning especially the Brahmo-Samaj, and expressed the hope that some day there would be one religion. It will be recalled, in this connection, that the Brahmo-Samaj Movement in India has been especially helpful in co-operating with the Baha'is.

The Rev. Leslie J. Belton, Unitarian minister and editor of the "Inquirer," addressed the meeting on Wednesday evening, June 27th, his subject being: "World Religion and the Contemporary Background." A spirited discussion followed his interesting talk.

On Wednesday evening, September 19th, the speaker, Miss Christine Fraser, of the Youth Committee of the League of Nations Union, spoke on "World Peace and Youth." Baha'is are peculiarly keen on peace work, as Baha'u'llah long ago stated that the establishment of Universal Peace was the most important thing in this day and age. One would be blind indeed not to realize this. It is hoped this association with the young people working for the peace ideal may be extended.

Another visitor who has spoken at our Centre and proved helpful in many ways is Mrs. Gertrude Matteson, of Chicago. She gave a graphic account of her experience as a guide at the House of Worship (The Temple) in Chicago, thrilling all with her accounts of the many visitors, sometimes as many as five hundred in one day. They ask a great many questions relative to the Teachings and all guides are forbidden to carry any slip of paper as the answers should be spontaneously given. It seems a very good training school for Baha'i teachers. Mrs. Matteson will return to England for a short stay after a visit to the Continent. Her enthusiasm and devotion are contagious and inspiring.

On August 31st, Mr. George Palgrave Simpson passed away at his home in Golders Green. For many years he worked ceaselessly for the Cause of Baha'u'llah and ably filled several offices in the local and national spiritual assemblies. His only child, Miss Simpson, has the deep sympathy of the Baha'i friends. Baha'u'llah has said that in this day the two worlds are as one; during a comparatively short time several devoted souls in London have gone on but we feel sure their aid is still with us. These include Miss Rosenberg, Miss Herrick, Mrs. Claudia Coles and Mr. Bingham. The Baha'i Faith teaches us that there is no real separation, and the wonderful teachings on this subject are a comfort and help to all who study them.

An eagerly awaited event is the six-months' visit to this city of Dr. and Mrs. Fozdar who have visited the Continent on their way to London. Mrs. Shirin Fozdar addressed groups of people in Geneva and elsewhere on the position of women in the Orient, as she has previously done in India. It is hoped that opportunities will be found for Mrs. Fozdar to address audiences on this subject and the Baha'i teachings. The assistance of these two devoted believers from India will be greatly appreciated.

Several enjoyable week-end outings have taken place during the summer, including one to Orpington on June 24th, and to Jordans on July 8th. Mr. and Mrs. Asgarzadeh and Miss Lea gave a delightful garden party at the home of the former on the afternoon of June 30th.

Visitors to London during the past few weeks have included Mrs. Chadwick of Florida ; Mrs. Lewald, Vienna ; Mrs. Clarke, New Zealand ; Mrs. Loveday, Eliot, U.S.A. ; Mr. and Mrs. Spendlove (we are very glad that these friends are to remain two years) ; Miss Cheesman, Bournemouth ; Miss Hall and Miss Freitag, Manchester ; Mme. Farnier, Paris.

An opportunity is always given a Baha'i speaker to address the Annual Congress of the New Thought Alliance on the Baha'i Movement and its Teachings. This year Mr. Hasan Balyuzi addressed the audience, and while the time was not long the Message was ably given.

The Baha'i Centre having now been officially registered as a place of worship it is deemed timely and desirable to hold a weekly meeting there on Sundays. This will take the place of the regular Wednesday evening meeting but will begin at 6.30. A very earnest and united effort will be made to make this meeting inspiring and helpful, and an effective means of spreading the Teachings. If possible it will be advertised and the best speakers available will be obtained, Baha'i and others. We trust that this meeting and the Baha'i Centre will prove a focal point of hope and light in these troubled times. If those in other places will mention this meeting to any one living in London, or contemplating a visit, it will be appreciated. Your prayers are also requested. Wednesday evenings are now devoted to detailed study of Bahai teachings. The meeting starts at 8 p.m. The Centre is open daily from 2 to 5 (except Sundays and Saturdays) for consultation and reading. A well stocked library of Baha'i writings is available.

The London Spiritual Assembly is now holding its meetings immediately before the Nineteen Day Feasts. Discussion of plans for the future will occupy part of the time and reports of work done will be given. The importance of the Nineteen Day Feast is stressed continually by Shoghi Effendi. It is believed that every Baha'i will now take part in these important meetings.

IMPORTANT NOTICE.

A new and very interesting book on the Cause is about to appear: "The Promise of All Ages" by Christophil, published by Simpkin and Marshall, which we recommend to all our readers. The Cause is represented as the great climax, the ushering in of the Kingdom of God, the Great World Order to which all the Prophets and Christ looked forward.

The author marshals his facts and proofs with consummate skill, and scholarly ability ; the lives of the Great Ones are briefly sketched, and there is a chapter on the New Dispensation. In conclusion the author makes an urgent appeal to all, and particularly to Christians, to respond to the Call of God to establish World Peace before the Day of Judgment is upon them.

The book will shortly be on sale at the Baha'i Centre, 19, Grosvenor Place, London, S.W.1, or can be obtained at any bookseller, price 5s.

YOUTH GROUP REPORT—SEPTEMBER 1934.

During the summer months meetings have been held as follows :—

June 1st : Discussion of "The Dispensation of Baha'ullah."

June 15th : Talk by Mr. Yazdi on "Reincarnation."

July 6th and 20th : Discussions on "Baha'i Administration," conducted by Mr. Balyuzi and Mr. Dehkan, respectively.

Social activities consisted of a Whist Drive on the 16th June, and a picnic a Richmond Park, on the 15th July, both of which were much enjoyed and well attended.

There were no meetings during August. Since recommencing at the beginning of September, the programme has been as follows :

September 7th : Discussion on "The Oneness of Humanity" conducted by Mrs. Alizade.

September 15th : Social. An enjoyable evening at the Alizade home, with an attendance of 26.

September 21st : Address by Dr. Alavi, on "The Practice of Preventive Medicine."

PROGRAMME FOR OCTOBER.

On Friday, October 5th, there will be a discussion, the subject selected being "The Immortality of the Soul." The speaker at the second meeting in the month (October 19th) will be Mr. Javid, and the subject, "Science and Religion."

The London Bahai Youth Group extends a cordial welcome to all interested in the "New World Order."

Manchester.

A suitable room for Baha'i public meetings has now been taken at the Social Club, Lower Mosely Street, and the first was held on September 10th.

The Youth Group continues to meet regularly to study and discuss the teachings of the Cause.

The Manchester friends send their love to all Baha'is throughout the world.

Bournemouth.

There has been no opportunity for public meetings during the summer months, but small informal meetings have been held from time to time, and new enquirers are becoming interested in the teachings. Literature has been distributed, and in various ways definite work for the Cause is progressing.

The "Service Fund" is increasing, and the friends are active in helping those in need. There is also a regular weekly sum given to the Temple Fund, and sent from time to time to the Treasurer of the N.S.A.

The secretary of the Bournemouth Spiritual Assembly has moved, and for the present correspondence should be sent to: Miss Cheesman, c/o Rizwan, Broadstone, Dorset.

The members of the Bournemouth Group send loving greetings to all friends in England and abroad.

Bradford.

The monthly meetings of the Group are being held regularly at the homes of Mrs. Wilkinson and of Mr. and Mrs. Tempest alternately, attendance being well maintained even during the holiday season. In addition to the regular members of the Group we have had visits from members of the Theosophical Society, and the Christian Science Church.

Proceeding from the consideration of the "New World Order"—the Divinely inspired objective of the Baha'i Movement—our meetings are now being devoted to the study in detail of the Twelve Principles. We realise that the Principles constitute the foundations on which the World Order will be established; that only by the acceptance of them can it be achieved. Such acceptance must not be imposed from without. It must be led up to by the clear understanding of the Divine Wisdom which inspires them and our aim

is to attain such clear understanding. So our method is to study the Principles one at a time in conjunction with the appropriate expositions by Baha'u'llah and Abdul Baha.

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

A happy event in the life of the Bradford Group was the marriage on September 15th of Arthur Norton to Marion Burgess. The marriage was solemnised first in the Cathedral, the Rev. Donald Foster officiating. Then the party, including Mr. Foster, proceeded to the reception room where the Baha'i solemnisation took place. Mr. Sugar, with simple ceremony, joined the hands of the bride and bridegroom in his and asked the Divine Blessing on their union. He then read the beautiful Marriage Tablet written by Abdul Baha. Arthur Norton and Marion Burgess were the first of the Bradford friends to accept in full the Baha'i Revelation. Baha'is the world over will unite with their friends in the prayer that "The Grace of God, His Divine Love, His Bounteous Providence be with them all their days."

York.

Mrs. Kenworthy writes: We have not much to report, but a small re-commencement of meetings has been made at Mrs. Pegg's home, where two or three meet for prayer on Monday afternoons to join in spirit with the prayer-meeting at the London Baha'i centre. We hope later to have an evening meeting and that others will come.

Information concerning the Movement can be obtained from the Secretaries:

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

MISS CHEESMAN, Rizwan, Broadstone, Dorset.

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.

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.
Baha'i Faith, by Horace Holly	6d.
The Promise of all the Ages, by Christophil	5/-