

1936

News Letter from Baha'is of the British Isles.

"O ye wise men among nations! Turn your eyes away from foreignness and gaze unto oneness, and hold fast into the means which produce tranquility and security for the people of the whole world. This span-wide world is but one region and one native land."

(BAHÁ'U'LLÁH)

NATIONAL.

The dawn of a new world order is gradually breaking upon a world as yet unaware of its approaching effulgence. We, the followers of Baha'u'llah are the privileged recipients of the certain knowledge that the year 1963 will witness the establishment of the unity of humankind. Only twenty-seven years stretch between us and that promised era of the "Most Great Peace"! The world around us is teeming with hatred, fierce, unbridled competition, and petty, mean jealousies of every kind and description. Out of this inferno shall arise the paradise of human weal and prosperity. Our time is short and our task is stupendous.

Let us take courage out of the prospects laid before us, let us hasten under the banner of Bahá'u'lláh to bring hope to our fellow-men. It is within our reach, nay indeed it is our privilege, to help to dispel the clouds of darkness that envelop the earth. We cannot afford to fail in our responsibilities to the Faith and the principles which we profess. Our path is set, our march is ordered, and our goal is fixed by the Supreme Educator.

Let us remember the words of Bahá'u'lláh: "The world's equilibrium hath been upset through the vibrating influence of this most great, this new world order. Mankind's ordered life hath been revolutionized through the agency of this unique, this wondrous system—the like of which mortal eyes have never witnessed." May we ponder also over His warning and admonition, uttered half a century ago, "The world is in travail and its agitation waxeth day by day. Its face is turned towards waywardness and unbelief. Such shall be its plight that to disclose it now would not be meet and seemly. Its perversity will long continue. And when the appointed hour is come, there shall suddenly appear that which shall cause the limbs of mankind to quake. Then, and only then, will the Divine Standard be unfurled and the Nightingale of Paradise warble its melody."

On the sad and universally lamented occasion of the death of His Late Majesty, the National Spiritual Assembly sent a wreath to Windsor, bearing the following inscription:

"We praise God that we have lived in the reign of the just King—George V. With our devout love and heartfelt sympathy in the loss to the world of our beloved King."

THE VISIT OF MRS. BISHOP.

Mrs. Bishop is now in this country on a second visit. Her stay will extend over several months. We are also glad to welcome Mr. Charles Bishop. It is essential that Mrs. Bishop's services so generously given, should be used to the best advantage. Believers who are able either to arrange meetings or secure platforms for Mrs. Bishop, should write to Mr. David Hofman, the secretary of the National Teaching Committee, at the London centre. We are confident that Mrs. Bishop's teaching tour will be an immense success.

JOHN O'GROAT JOURNAL.

An appreciative and masterly review of the "Baha'i World", Vol. V., appeared in John O'Groat Journal of February 28th. The writer pays a high tribute to both the spirit of the Cause, and the contents of the volume under review, and ends with the following paragraph, "charged as it is with so much that is intensely spiritual and radiant with hope for the future of mankind, this volume will be vastly treasured by all into whose hands it may come, and we feel honoured in the privilege of being favoured with a copy."

We may add that an article by Mr. Millar the editor of John O'Groat Journal, is published in this volume of the "Baha'i World."

London.

VISITORS.

Dr. and Mrs. Baher of Paris were in London for a short while in January. We have had several visits from Mr. H. Shahid who is studying in the University of Reading. Mr. Shahid came from Haifa to this country in last October. Mr. A. H. Dehkan of Paris has come to stay in London for several months. We were very glad to welcome them all.

MEMBERS.

Miss Kilford has returned from the United States. Her accounts of the Baha'i House of Worship at Wilmette, and the wonderful efforts of our American brethren in spreading and teaching the Message of Bahá'u'lláh, gave us a new vision.

Mr. David Hofman came back to his native country from the United States, in January. He is now a member of the London Community.

MEETINGS.

Sunday evening meetings have been regularly kept up during the winter months. In December Mr. Richard St. Barbe Baker gave a talk on "Palestine in the New World Order," which was illustrated. It was highly appreciated. Mr. H. M. Balyuzi gave a series of three talks under the following headings, "The Heroic Age," "The Formative Period," and "The Golden Age of Bahá'u'lláh." These are the terms which the Guardian has applied to the past, present and the future of the Cause. "The Heroic Age" closed with the passing of 'Abdul-Bahá in 1921 and more particularly with the passing of the Greatest Holy Leaf, the daughter of Bahá'u'lláh in 1932. That age, which began at the year 1844, with the advent of the Bab, was a period of supreme heroism which laid the foundations of the Cause of God. Now we are in the second stage, "The Formative Period," which is destined to see the building and the strengthening of the Baha'i Administration. The third period, "The Golden Age," is yet to come with its unsurpassed splendour; when the "Most Great Peace"—the promise of Bahá'u'lláh, will be an accomplished fact.

Mr. Mark Tobey delivered a talk in December, on "The New Time." He said that in this day, our sense of time had undergone a profound change. This is a symptom of the immensity of the time in which we are living. Miss Julia Goldman addressed a meeting in January on "Faith Is Conscious Knowledge." 'Abdul-Bahá has told us that faith and knowledge are inseparable. Faith is not blind belief, but conviction based on facts.

A Memorial Meeting for His Late Majesty King George V was held at the Centre on January 29th. We remembered these words of 'Abdul-Bahá, bequeathed to us in His Will and Testament, "O ye beloved of the Lord! It is incumbent upon you to be submissive to all monarchs that are just, and show your fidelity to every righteous king. Serve ye the sovereigns of the world with utmost truthfulness and loyalty. Show obedience unto them and be their well-wishers. Without their leave and permission do not meddle with political affairs, for disloyalty to the just sovereign is disloyalty to God Himself. This is my Counsel and the Commandment of God unto you. Well is it with them that act accordingly."

ILLUSTRATED LECTURE ON THE INTERNATIONAL EXHIBITION OF CHINESE ART.

Mr. F. St. George Spendlove who has been the Assistant-Secretary to the Exhibition and has edited the official catalogue, gave a lecture at the Centre on January 23rd. Mr. Spendlove had generously offered his services to the London Spiritual Assembly. About eighty people attended the lecture which was of great interest.

THE LONDON BAHÁ'I YOUTH GROUP.

The Youth Group activities have been carried on in spite of difficulties. We are now concentrating on the International Baha'i Youth Meeting which is to take place on Sunday, March 22nd. On that day similar meetings and conferences will be held by the Baha'i youth all over the world. In these days of distress and despondency the Baha'i youth look confidently to the future.

Bradford.

The Bradford group meets monthly at a fireside meeting. Mr. Alfred Sugar of Manchester to whose devoted efforts the formation of this group is due, attends the meetings whenever possible. Some friends come from Leeds quite often.

Manchester.

During the Winter activities in Manchester have been rather limited. Meetings have been held, though irregularly. On New Year's Eve a social gathering was held, and was a very happy event. With the approach of the Naw-Ruz, the friends look forward to a renewal of activities, and it is hoped a consequent widening of the influence of the Cause.

Information concerning the Baha'i Faith can be obtained from the Secretaries:

Address for letters:

MRS. ISABEL SLADE, Mallards Court, Stokenchurch, Bucks.
MRS. K. V. BROWN, Baha'i Centre, 86, Lancaster Gate, London, W.2.

SISTER CHALLIS, Rizwan, Broadstone, Dorset.

MR. JOSEPH LEE, 461, Princess Road, Withington, Manchester.

MR. ARTHUR NORTON, Marithur, Cranbourne Road, Chellow Dene, Bradford.

The address for cables is "Asgarzadeh, London." For the National Spiritual Assembly: "National, Care Asgarzadeh, London."

Books can be purchased from the Librarian, Baha'i Centre, 86, Lancaster Gate, London, W.2.

Baha'i Scriptures	10/6
Baha'i Administration, by Shoghi Effendi	8/-
Baha'i Prayers	2/3
Baha'i Proofs, by Mirza Abul Fazl	8/6
Baha'i Revelation, by Thornton Chase.....	4/-
Baha'i World. The, Vol. V. 1932-1934	10/6
Baha'u'llah and the New Era, by Dr. Esslemont cloth 6/- Paper	2/6
Coming of the Glory, by Florence Pinchon	1/-
Dispensation of Bahá'u'lláh. The, by Shoghi Effendi	1/-
Divine Philosophy	3/-
Drama of the Kingdom. The, by Mrs. Basil Hall	1/-
Gleanings from the Writings of Bahá'u'lláh	7/6
Hidden Words. Shoghi Effendi's Translation. Leather 2/6; Cloth 1/3; Paper	9d.
London Talks of 'Abdul-Bahá	3/-
Paris Talks of 'Abdul-Bahá.....	3/-
Promise of All Ages. The, by Christophil	5/-
Some Answered Questions	8/-
Unity Triumphant, by Elizabeth Herrick	2/6

PAMPHLETS.

Esperanto, Short Account in	2d.
Goal of a New World Order. The, by Shoghi Effendi	3d.
Principles of the Baha'i Faith	2d.
World Economy of Bahá'u'lláh, by Horace Holley	6d.
World Religion. The, by Shoghi Effendi	½d.
Baha'i Teachings on Economics	6d.

Postage Extra.