IT is well to remember that even in the holiest undertakings what God requires of us is earnest, willing labor and the use of such means as we can command; but He does not require success of us: that depends solely upon Himself, and sometimes in very love for us He refuses to crown our best intentions with success.

—Jean Nicolas Grou

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## Books


Many a Friends family has dreamed or talked about getting to know the people of a community. Often acquaintance with a group in a foreign land is viewed as a means of understanding another culture and of viewing our own in perspective.

This book by the chairman of the Romance Language Department at Haverford College reports a successful effort to learn about a typical southern French community. The Wylie family lived in the village for a year, sharing in its life and observing its workings. It was a family project. The resulting book, however, clearly is the work of one person who combines devotion to teaching and command of the emerging analytical skills in studying a community with a sensitive regard for his fellow men.

_Village in the Vaucluse_ goes a long distance in explaining some of the motives and processes in French culture: why the village votes Communist, his attitude toward authority, his view of family life. It probes deeper than the common journalistic appraisal of the behavior of "the French," and deals with the aspirations and loves and frustrations of particular French families. In so doing, it uses newer concepts and methods of anthropology, but it is not burdened by scientific terminology. It is written with humor and loving concern, and in telling about France suggests the kind of understanding we might hope to cultivate for our fellows anywhere.

_Gilbert F. White_  


An English educator gives his enthusiastic impressions of Kees and Betty Boeke's famous Workshop school in Bilthoven, Holland. This unusual school, founded for the Boeke's own children and known throughout Holland as a crazy experiment during the 1920's and 1930's, began to receive state support after the war when the three Dutch princes were enrolled there. It now has 850 students. All forms of force or compulsion have been eliminated in the Werkplaats, boys and girls address teachers by their first names, and everywhere is apparent that spirit of loving helpfulness exemplified by the Boeke's in their own lives. Their twin-fold purpose in founding the school was to encourage in students a spirit of spontaneity and self-expression, while maintaining an atmosphere of peace, quiet, and order. Their extraordinary success in achieving these diverse goals have brought them world acclaim. Now that the Boeke's have left Holland permanently, it is fortunate that their methods and techniques have been set down by Mr. Rawson in cogent and explicit detail. One wonders, however, how successfully the Workshop can be duplicated elsewhere without first of all the deeply ingrained self-control of Dutch children and, secondly, the compelling personalities of the beloved Boeke.

_Betty Hannah Hoffman_
**Editorial Comments**

**Ralph Waldo Emerson**

Emerson died seventy-five years ago, and little is being done to celebrate this anniversary. Friends may have special reasons to remember him because he lived, spiritually speaking, next door to us—at least at some phases of his life. There were other times when he let nature embrace his every thought and feeling to a degree that human relations seemed secondary to such experiences. In a near-pantheistic mood he fused the essence of his being with that of trees, stones, water, air, and the ether. These rapturous states seemed to expand his soul to infinite proportions; the Walden Pond mysticism made his vision approach such superhuman dimensions that Nietzsche, the later philosopher of the superman, spoke of Emerson as “the richest American of our time.” Emerson’s youthful ecstasy sensed the minute rhythms of the universe reverberating as parallel laws in all human life. God was in man, he felt, and it was natural that Quaker teaching as to the inner light appealed greatly to him. Every man, so he thought and taught, was to listen to this voice within. A collective soul was the vision rising from such universal search. This oversoul would live in harmony with all life, give the individual moral strength to stand alone and trust the cosmic order ruling our hearts. Our minds would spark the general progress of mankind, as it had done in representative men like Zoroaster, Plato, Mahomet, and his own contemporaries.

Emerson’s world is out of tune with the sin-centered theology of our days that belittles man’s worth. Yet many of his ideas appeal to us today and will be valued in the future. (FRIENDS JOURNAL hopes to publish in an early issue an article on Emerson’s thought.)

**Conscientious Objectors in Germany**

Conscientious objectors are everywhere inconvenient people. The Federal Government of Germany is now having its first experience with them. As we reported in an earlier issue the number of young men claiming C.O. status in this first draft year was small and is now variously reported as being somewhere between 393 and 517 out of a total of 60,000 men accepted for military service.

The number of those who had to register was 98,000; over one third of these were either deferred for one year or exempted for medical reasons.

Friends in Germany are making every effort to inform members of the Bonn Parliament about experiences with C.O.’s in England and the United States. They are working toward the completion of an acceptable legislation that will regulate the details of alternative civil service.

Opposition to military service is stronger than the small number of C.O.’s might indicate. The ranks of those rejected for service are likely to contain potential C.O.’s, and the number of “returnees” to East Germany has enormously increased during the drafting period. It is estimated that between 1,200 and 1,500 West Germans have evaded the draft by “going East.” The widely shared hope is that elections this fall will produce a Socialist majority that will replace the conscripted army with one recruited from volunteering, professional soldiers.

**In Brief**

The United States Department of Commerce reports that in 1955 Americans spent a total of $10,090,000,000 for alcoholic beverages, a billion more than was spent for all milk and dairy products that year. It exceeds the combined total paid to the nation’s physicians, spent on all books, magazines, and newspapers, and contributed to all religious and welfare activities during the same year.

The proposed budget for the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania (June 1, 1957, to May 31, 1959) estimates the income from alcoholic beverages to be $184,000,000, or 11.8 per cent of the total income.

The Scandinavian Lutheran city of Willmar, Minnesota, with a population of 10,000 and only six Jewish families, has elected Seymour Grossman, Jewish engineer and pharmacist, to be its mayor.

Prime Minister Kwame Nkrumah of the new state of Ghana states that he will continue to welcome Christian missionaries into the nation.

A commission of five international jurists drafting the constitution of Malaya, which becomes independent in August, has recommended that the constitution should not declare Islam to be the state religion.
A Catholic Institute for the comparative study of various Christian denominations was opened in Paderborn, Germany. Also a new Catholic academy was established in Munich which hopes for “good neighborly relations with the Evangelic [Protestant] Academy.”

Twenty-three per cent of the West German population are refugees or expellees from Eastern territories or immigrants from the Soviet-occupied zone.

Justice Claude Prevost, Montreal, Canada, dismissed a damage suit brought by Mrs. Noella Lauzon because she could not be sworn. The justice quoted from Quebec’s Code of Civil Procedure according to which a witness and plaintiff “must affirm not only a belief in God, but also in reward and punishment after death.” Mrs. Lauzon belongs to a sect which does not believe in reward or punishment after death.

A Five-Year-Old in Meeting

By HELENA M. SHEWELL.

When I was five years old I began to attend Redcar Meeting regularly every Sunday morning. It was an orthodox Friends meeting of that time, men and women sitting strictly apart on the left and right of the meeting. It was fairly large in numbers, especially in the school holidays. There must often have been at least a dozen children under twelve years old. Meeting lasted an hour and a quarter, there was no children’s class, and I do not remember one single address given especially for the children.

Under such circumstances what would a little child think about? How would she occupy the 75 minutes, a good deal of it in silence?

Fortunately I have a long memory and I can recall my own reactions quite clearly. First let me say that I did not dislike meeting, and that I found plenty to occupy my mind. Of course we cannot suppose that a young child would be able to concentrate her thoughts for more than a very few moments. Before my first meeting my mother had told me I could spend the time by saying my little daily prayer and then thinking of “a nice text.” Even these two excellent things would scarcely have occupied three minutes.

I can remember that first meeting quite well. First, I was amazed to see, sitting on the ministers’ form facing the meeting, one whom I took to be Elijah. I had not been told that Elijah would be at meeting. I thought he had gone up to heaven long ago in a fiery chariot. His presence somewhat awed me, but I knew I must not whisper in meeting, so I could not ask about him. After meeting I found that Elijah was Alexander Holmes, a well-known North-country Friend. The thrill was gone, yet on the whole I was relieved to find that Elijah was still in heaven, where he belonged.

During that first meeting Edward Robson spoke, using the text from the first Epistle of Peter, “that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvellous light.” Somehow those words—the difference between darkness and marvelous light—struck me forcibly. I seem to remember that Edward Robson repeated them many times, and I still connect them with my first Sunday meeting.

I always listened to what people said in meeting; after all there was little else to do, and it is surprising what a small child will catch on to and understand after a child’s fashion. I am told that present-day children, who usually only sit for a short time in the adult meeting, do not always listen to what is said on the ground that this part is for grownups only.

Even so, still for me there were large spaces of time to be filled in somehow between addresses or prayers. I soon learnt to use these spaces, and quite enjoyed myself. First, there were the Friends to count, a most interesting and fairly exacting task for a five-year-old. After that I counted men, women, and children separately. Then I would study the Friends in the ministers’ gallery and try to guess which Friend would rise to speak first. If and when my guess came right, I was thrilled, and I listened with attention to the speaker’s opening words at least.

Once or twice during meeting I would remember that I ought to “think about God,” and I might try to do so, and my thoughts always ended up within a minute or two by trying to imagine what God looked like. Sometimes, because there were many young children in the meeting, there was some highly dramatic incident. I remember one small boy, of no more than five, suddenly bursting into loud crying and calling out, “My foot hurts me.” His father, coming over from the men’s side, carried him out. How virtuous we other children felt!

Such times have gone, not to return. No young child is expected to sit through more than a very short period of silence, and there are children’s classes or children’s meetings for most young Friends under fourteen years of age. Did we, of the former times, gain anything? I believe we did. Certainly it is true to say that very large numbers of the children of my generation remained in the Society for life, and became valuable and deeply attached members of their Preparative and Monthly Meetings.

On Vocal Ministry in Meeting for Worship

WHAT is “inspired” ministry? As far as I have been able to see, it is speaking which has helped someone. I have envied speakers who have specific sensations which they feel authenticate their words, but I have always been doubtful whether such feelings are indicative. It is too easy to be satisfied with one’s own efforts. After all, Faith and Practice asks how the meeting, not the speakers, appraises the quality of the speaking? The impulses which cause one to speak are, as far as I am concerned, completely mysterious. We just have to do as seems right at the time, often blundering.

Nor do I know any criterion for subject matter. Strange subjects prove useful to someone. But the message must come deeply from the heart of the speaker. Casual talks have their places but not in the meeting for worship. Thereby rests the responsibility upon all members, but especially upon a few concerned Friends in each Meeting, to keep their minds centered as much as possible throughout the week upon the great realities of life.

Counseling speakers is delicate business. A slight remark of either appreciation or gentle caution often is very influential. All members of the Meeting, but especially members of Worship and Ministry, have responsibility to watch the character of the speaking and of the silence. In general a minimum of comment, even in private, is wisest. How often a speaker would wish above all else to escape with no comment! He knows his effort must have been faulty. Comments in passing, even though altogether sincere, cannot help seeming conventional. After all, the whole company of worshipers, if his effort was useful, has been partner in his exercise.

May I testify that later fruition has often come when some member has mentioned to me, often with much feeling, that he did wish someone some time would attempt to deal vocally with a subject which he then mentioned? Such suggestions go round and round in our minds until perhaps some time they come out in words.

A practical comment: Raise your voice if you can. Usually some persons with deficient hearing are present. I have been greatly chagrined to be told I had allowed my voice, possibly for emphasis, to drop below hearing range. I have no excuse! We cannot think much about loudness or good enunciation when we are speaking, but if we do so often to ourselves it will help. But always remember the timid, low-voiced offering, in testimony or search or vocal prayer, may be most useful.

About visiting: Vocal Friends should do it. There have been notable instances where a Meeting was sadly impotent upon the death of a vocal member upon whom others relied. Also a voice, and line of thought, well known at home, may be stimulating to a different group. Early or late? No rule. Fortunately we do have a strange sense of rightness. Sometimes an early contribution releases others, who naturally await the visitor. Sometimes it is more useful to wait. The meeting may develop greatly before the visitor speaks. I suppose all frequent speakers have had the whole range of experience, from carrying a definite topic in mind for a particular Meeting (possibly for months) to having a subject clearly in mind upon arriving or soon after removed and another, or silence, substituted.

The miracle is how wonderfully our worship is blessed. All our meetings might be disrupted, yet they are seldom troubled. Even unbalanced or fanatical speakers are somehow controlled by the communion which we call Divine. Worshipers from all kinds of backgrounds, with infinitely varied needs, become deeply united in spiritual fellowship, ministering to each other in silence and by words. Thanks be to God.

J. Passmore Elkinton

Letter from London

It has been pleasant today to meet in the sunlit corridors of Friends House some of our very young people on their way to their own Junior Yearly Meeting at York. It reminds me that the conference season, soon to begin, is this year of unusual interest. Several Easter gatherings, some on a Quarterly Meeting basis, have been held, and during the last week in May, Yearly Meeting itself will follow. Young Friends not only are hoping to share in these activities, but also have their own local gatherings in prospect, and their Central Committee has cast long-ling looks on the Conference of North American Young Friends, and on the Seminars which the American Friends Service Committee is to hold in Europe. They have actually decided, after careful, thoughtful discussion, to send some of their number as observers to the Moscow Youth Festival in August.

The great event of July will be the Conference of European Friends, and, following it, our younger members are arranging a “conducted tour” for the other Young Friends from overseas who will be there. I should not be surprised to see some of them also at the “Holiday Pilgrimage” at the end of August, when a large company of Friends (with some Americans among them, we hope) will visit the North West countryside. There, among hills and dales, so many of the pioneers of our movement lived and worked three hundred years ago. Already the numbers of would-be Pilgrims for this year is so large that every prospect is for a repetition of the phenomenal success of the 1952 Tercentenary celebrations.

June 1, 1957
The Conference of European Friends is to be something quite out of the ordinary. About a hundred Continental Quakers are to share in the discussions, and will be accommodated for the week in the Selly Oak Colleges (of which Woodbrooke is one). The opportunities for such Friends to meet with us in Britain and with each other have been in the past very few, and possible contacts very limited. Yet the problems of Quaker life on the Continent are, in some respects, most strikingly different from our own. Fundamentally, there is the question of how far the Quakerism which we now practice here can be followed in the very different conditions which apply abroad. The same question, in the larger setting of East and West, is troubling our Friends Service Council.

Henry J. Cadbury, who is this year's Swarthmore Lecturer, has chosen as his subject "Quakerism and Early Christianity." Consideration of such a theme should prove a valuable help not only to Yearly Meeting itself but to the European Conference. Most of the work of the latter is to be done in groups, and the subjects to be taken up include Quaker fellowship, our relationship to the Christian Church, ourselves and politics, and the missionary urge. Still more demanding will be the question: "What is our common faith?" This is likely to be no mere excursion into theological niceties; it is the most vital issue for Continental Friends. We Quakers in Britain, through two wars and all the consequent economic and social upheaval, have still been able to talk of Christian love, of peace, of "that of God in every man," without much cost to ourselves. Only after the collapse of Germany and the release of documents did we in Britain realize to the full how near to invasion we had been, and how grave its consequence, if successful, would have been to us. But such possibilities for us proved to be realities for many of those who will be at the conference in Birmingham. We shall find therefore that their emphases are not ours; they have tested their religion in the harshest schools of stark experience.

As preparation for the conference, a handbook has been prepared which includes in its contents essays from four Continental Friends—from Denmark, Norway, France, and Germany. Reading it, I get the impression that Quakerism seems to people of the countries named more difficult to fit into the general framework of the Christian Church than it is here. This is perhaps what we should expect wherever Quakerism has to be deeds rather than words. I can only pause with respect when those who have suffered talk of "the magnificent liberty" which we enjoy or should enjoy as the children of God. One of these writers ends his contribution with these words: "We have Christ's spirit, Christ's light, which shows us today, and enables us to do, what may seem hopeless but still stands in hope, because it is God's eternal work." I find it moving to recognize again such courage. This is unshakable faith that stands the test of time, and there we find the calm certainty that even in "an atomic world" God is still not lost.

Horace B. Pointing

Thou Shalt Not Kill—Maybe

BY FREDERIC BABCOCK

THE greatest book ever written (and the best seller of all time) relates that a long while ago Moses received from God the Ten Commandments, one of which was: "Thou shalt not kill." The same book contains the prophecy: "They shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruninghooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more."

The greatest man who ever lived (and the best teacher of all time) was the inspiration for what has come to be known as the Christian religion. He taught us that we can attain our goals through spiritual, rather than physical, force. His mission was to achieve peace on earth, good will toward men. However impracticable his words...
Cowards or Heroes—Which?

You should know that when the next war comes you who hold out against it and refuse to fall for the mock patriotism and the manufactured hatred, and thereby become conscientious objectors, will be denounced as cowards. Later on you will learn that the real heroes are those who refuse to succumb to mob hysteria and that the real cowards are those who lack the stamina to stand up against that hysteria.

You are hereby being warned that certain patriots will shout at you: "What a glorious thing it is to die for one's country!" (It is very highly spoken of—by those who don't do the dying.)

You will hear that they are willing to shed the last drop of blood (somebody else's blood).

They will scream at you: "Go on in, boys; we'll stand behind you." (You can just bet they'll stand behind you—thousands of miles behind you.)

You will learn that our enemies in yesterday's war have become our allies in today's war, but will be our enemies again in tomorrow's. And you will be informed that God is always on our side—whichever side that may happen to be.

Your preachers will lead you in prayers to God to help you kill youngsters overseas. The preachers overseas will lead those youngsters in prayers to God to help them kill you young Americans. God will comply and be pleased by the slaughter of His people. Individual murder will still be a crime, but wholesale murder will be lifted to a higher plane than those ordered by the kings.

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Simple-minded, sincere young Americans by the millions will answer the call in the belief that they are doing something fine for humanity. They won't know that it is a call to unreasoning violence; they won't know that they are listening to the voice of the beast rather than the voice of the crucified one.

The Slaughter of the Serfs

A man named Clifford Raymond once wrote for the Chicago Tribune an editorial titled "The Twilight of the Kings." It said: "Before establishing hell on earth the pious kings turned their subjects over to the Lord." It told how the then rulers of Germany, Russia, and Austria had commended their serfs to God and bade them pray for His help as they marched forth to kill one another.

That was more than forty years ago. But, in view of what has been taking place in recent months in Eastern Europe and in the Near East, Clifford Raymond's editorial applies equally well today. As he said, the human sacrifice seemed needless at the time. But it was not altogether needless if out of it there should come a resolution, firmly taken, to have no more serfs offered up with prayer to the Almighty in a feudal slaughter, armed against one another without hate and without cause they knew, or, if they knew, about which they would give a hoot how it was decided. (The serfs are still being offered up.)

Because of the tense situation overseas, the religious bodies of this country are being urged to pray for world peace. It can be hoped that these prayers will be on a higher plane than were those ordered by the kings.

What Did It Profit Us?

Forty years ago we who were then youngsters were seduced into a war to end all wars and to make the world safe for democracy. It brought on a whole series of wars and made the world safe for despotism and dictators.

We were told we had to get rid of the Kaiser. We got rid of him, all right—and got Hitler in his place. In World War II we were told we had to get rid of Hitler. We rid the world of him—and got Stalin. You may well ask: What did this profit us? The answer is, of course, that in modern warfare nobody wins; everybody loses.

In the next war you will be informed that you have to get rid of somebody-or-other, it doesn't matter much whom. But the information will be somewhat shopworn.

Some of us can recall the time when we re-elected a President on the strength of the slogan: "He kept us out of war." We were in the war a month after his second inaugural.

More of us can recall the time when we re-elected another President after he had assured us parents: "I have said this before, but I shall say it again and again and again: Your boys are not going to be sent into any foreign wars." They were sent in less than a year after his next inaugural.

The Chinese have a saying: "Fool me once, shame on you. Fool me twice, shame on me."

Today we have a President who has been through war, knows the horror and the utter imbecility of it, and has pledged us that he will do his utmost to keep us out of it. We have reason to hope he will keep that pledge.

And we trust that you youngsters will join us oldsters in the fervent prayer that, in this and all succeeding crises, you can keep your courage, your sanity, your reliance on the eternal truths taught you by the Prince of Peace.

Haze

By Sari Kane

I must strive to see the right
though haze, as breath upon a frosty window,
obscures it.
I must seek the fingernail of truth
and scratch through
to clearness.
The Danger from Fallout

WE wish to commend the effort on the part of many Friends to acquaint themselves with the complex scientific and medical aspects of radiation from atomic explosions, as exemplified by the report in the May 11 issue of the FRIENDS JOURNAL of a talk by John S. Laughlin, a specialist in radiological physics, at the Scarsdale Meeting House. The explicit reporting probably attests in part to the clarity and accuracy of the talk itself. One cannot disagree with the explanation of the source of radiation and its effects upon human tissues or of the probable magnitude of the exposure in comparison with that from natural radiation. However, the opinion that increased radiation from testing is "not serious or alarming" or that "the amounts of strontium-90 due to tests are believed too small to cause any appreciable increase in the incidence in bone cancer" is not shared by a large number of responsible scientists throughout the country.

Recent information on the amount of strontium-90 in the bones of children at the present time coupled with estimates of the soil strontium-90 over the next twenty to thirty years from tests completed last fall permits an estimate of the total strontium-90 stored in the bones of children over the next twenty-five years. The average child born in 1957 will reach a strontium-90 level in his bones equal to about 3 per cent of the amount considered to be safe for large populations. To base estimates of danger on the average child is wholly misleading when wide variations from the average are to be expected due to factors such as biologic variation in children and regional differences in the calcium content of soil. A statistical analysis of the variation in strontium-90 content in children's bones from the data published by Kulp and others in Science (Vol. 125 [1957], p. 219) indicates that 1 in 1,000 children born in 1957 will have ten times or more the average strontium-90 bone content. This means that 20,000 children in the United States or 50,000 of the world's children born this year will have 30 per cent or more of the safe amount. In fact, certain bones in these particular children, such as the breast bone, may well have over 100 per cent of the safe amount if the meager data on strontium-90 distribution in various human bones is confirmed by further study.

If testing continues, an additional 360,000 or more children each year will find themselves in a definitely dangerous situation. At this time the safe levels of strontium-90 in adults or children cannot be known with sufficient accuracy to permit a significant number of children to reach or pass the "30 per cent" level. The British Medical Research Council last fall issued just such a warning.

The chances of a "1957" child in the United States reaching or passing the "30 per cent" level are the same as the chances that the child had of acquiring polio in its lifetime before the Salk vaccine; two times greater than the child's chances of being killed in an auto accident; three times greater than the child's chances of developing all types of meningitis.

It is clear that the risk the "1957" child runs of reaching a dangerous level of strontium-90 is equal to or greater than risks which are universally recognized to be legitimate public health concerns.

We feel sure that Friends need not necessarily be convinced of a public health hazard from strontium-90 in order to show concern for these children. We need only ask ourselves whether the life of a single child dead from radiation-induced bone cancer is worth a desperate arms race—a race whose outcome can easily lead to war and the destruction of millions of children.

We are encouraged by the efforts of the Syracuse Monthly Meeting in expressing their opposition to the present series of H-bomb tests by writing letters and telegrams to the President. Encouraging, too, are the powerful statements of Albert Schweitzer and Linus Pauling, both Nobel Prize winners, outlining the dangers of continued testing and calling for a halt in H-bomb tests. Scientific opposition is also being mobilized in this country.

We hope that Friends engaged in scientific work and other Friends may also care to express their concern to the President at this most opportune time by following the example of the Syracuse Monthly Meeting.

JOHN M. FOWLER, PH.D., Assistant Professor of Physics, Washington University, St. Louis, Mo., and
WALTER C. BAUER, M.D., Resident Fellow in Pathology, Washington University Medical School

The United Nations Eleventh General Assembly

THE Eleventh General Assembly, preceded by two emergency sessions, was a memorable one in many ways. Major crises were encountered; war was stopped in the Middle East; the Suez Canal was cleared; a United Nations Emergency Force (UNEF) was stationed between two belligerents to represent a force, as the Secretary-General said, "not to fight a war but to serve peace and justice and order under the authority of the United Nations"; and thousands of refugees from Hungary were assisted under the office of the High Commissioner for Refugees in pursuance of a resolution of the Assembly.

A new nation, Ghana, was born in this period, having been assisted in its growth by the Trusteeship system. Nations just born and older ones knocking at the door—81 in all—became members during the Tenth and Eleventh Sessions of the Assembly; the members now total 81. This is an almost unprecedented number for a world organization, but there are still more who are anxious to enter, among these the tragically divided nations, and others emerging out of old empires into statehood. This accretion of membership results, of course, in an approach to universality, an aim of the Charter. Seated in the public gallery one has a feeling, listening to delegates speak, that here is meeting under one roof a cross section of world opinion. All are heard and all are respected.

This increase of members from Africa and Asia mirrors the great political transformation taking place in these parts of the world. Whereas the balance has rested in the Americas and Europe, now many nations contribute to the total expression of ideas and seek the largest amount of agreement. Relative
influence in the General Assembly is not measured by regional strength, but results from the wisdom, the stature, and the capacities which the members of delegations have and which contribute to harmony and to solutions that raise the prestige of the United Nations. Such people carry the load for the positive program. This increased membership gives the United Nations greater influence in the world, and through it, the moral judgment of mankind is expressed.

The presence of 21 new members raised the question of whether the number of members in the Security Council (11) and the Economic and Social Council (18) and the number of Judges in the International Court of Justice (15) should be increased. Such a change requires an amendment to the Charter. The general subject of Charter revision will come up at the Twelfth Session.

In thinking about the crises—the establishment of a cease-fire, the U.N. force, the withdrawal of the forces of Israel, England, and France, the opening of the Canal, in addition to the Hungarian situation—we realize what a remarkably constructive role was played by the Secretary-General. Much leadership was left to the Secretary, naturally, in carrying out the Resolutions. In the case of the UNEF the plan was worked out in thirty-six hours, was approved by the Assembly, and in thirteen days the first men were in Egypt. This force has functioned in a dignified and effective way from November to this date.

Prince Wan Waithayaken, who was president of the session, spoke in his concluding address of the Secretary-General's work in part as follows:

The General Assembly rapidly passed Resolutions couched in general terms, and the Secretary-General has implemented them by delicate and arduous negotiations, supported therein by the force of world opinion. The efficacy of Assembly action depends on its moral force which in turn depends on the understanding by world opinion of the moral principle underlying each Assembly recommendation.

In addition to these major and for the most part urgent questions, the Assembly had an agenda of nearly seventy items. Here are listed some of the important accomplishments in the business of meeting world needs: (1) The Disarmament Commission was asked to reconvene its subcommittee and to consider the advisability of recommending a special Assembly session on disarmament or a general conference. (2) The Expanded Program of Technical Assistance was allocated a record $30,127,600. (3) The 1957 Budget is $50,815,700, assessed on the members. (4) A plenipotentiary conference is to be convoked in March 1958 to examine the law of the sea. (5) As regards the establishment of a world food reserve, it was left to the Secretary-General to explore the possibilities. (6) The relationship of the new United Nations Atomic Energy Agency to the United Nations is to be negotiated by the Advisory Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Atomic Energy for submission to the next Assembly. (7) The proposed United Nations Fund for Economic Redevelopment (SUNFED) was again postponed in order to consider the legal framework.

This historic Assembly closed after fifteen weeks of almost continuous work. Because of urgency, some sessions called for nearly round-the-clock meetings. The United Nations is an embryonic instrument in the machinery of mankind to regulate affairs. It is growing, and its nurture is our business.

Esther Holmes Jones

Friends and Their Friends

This year's Avon-at-Pembroke institute dealing with the topic "The Quaker Approach to Contemporary Affairs" will take place at Pembroke, New Hampshire, from July 20 to 27. Russell Johnson, Peace Secretary of the New England American Friends Service Committee, will be the dean.

A similar conference will be held at Chatham College, Pittsburgh, Pa., from July 14 to 19. There will also be a special section for teen-agers.

Attendance is limited to 150 at each of the conferences. The cost for each of the institutes is $35.00 per person.

Information about the Avon-at-Pembroke institute is available from the A.F.S.C., P.O. Box 247, Cambridge 38, Mass. For information concerning the Chatham Institute write to the A.F.S.C., 20 S. 12th Street, Philadelphia 7, Pa.

Gilbert F. White, Professor of Geography at Chicago University and for ten years President of Haverford College, is an expert in water resources and river valley developments. According to the News of the U.N., the United Nations has repeatedly invited him during the past years for consultation. This year he was a member of a panel of seven members dealing with River Basin Developments. The other participants were from Colombia, France, the Netherlands, Pakistan, the United Kingdom, and the Soviet Union. He was elected chairman, and he will be responsible for the preparation of the panel's report to the 25th session of the Economic and Social Council.

According to the Newsletter of Pittsburgh, Pa., Monthly Meeting, Winthrop M. Leeds, our correspondent for the Lake Erie Association, will soon leave for an extended business trip to various European countries and will also spend eleven days in Russia.

Friends Home Service Committee, Friends House, Euston Road, London, N. W. 1, has published a 47-page booklet entitled Through Fellowship to Action (1s. 6d.). It contains five essays which European Friends wrote in preparation for the July, 1957, Conference of European Friends to be held in Birmingham, England. The titles of the papers are as follows: "What Is Our Common Faith?" by Thyrza Solmer Folke; "The Quaker Fellowship," by Wilhelm Aarek; "Quakers and the Christian Church," by René and Yvette Vague; "Quakers and Politics," by Emil Fuchs; "Sharing the Quaker Message," by Gunnar Sundberg. Harold Louker wrote an introduction to the booklet.

The opening lecture at the two Baltimore Yearly Meetings which will take place from August 6 to 11 will be given by Elton Trueblood, Professor of Philosophy at Earlham College.
The second issue of News of the U.N., published by Friends General Conference, has appeared in May. Sydney D. Bailey writes on "What Do Friends Think?" Esther Holmes Jones, Friends General Conference Representative, briefly reviews the March 21-22 special conference on "Issues Before the United Nations," which was attended by over ninety Friends from five Yearly Meetings. She points at the core of the United Nations philosophy when she writes:

The United Nations has no autonomous will. Its strength depends on the members, their aims and modes of operation and loyalty to it. It rests also on its appeal to the hearts and minds of men and women. They must sustain it through perspective and patience and overcome the machine-gun events of daily life.

An interesting news section and a question box conclude the News, which is published four times a year. Subscription rate is $1.00 for two years. Special rates for Meetings. Order from Friends General Conference, 1515 Cherry Street, Philadelphia, Pa.

The Friends World Committee for Consultation has just published the Directory of Friends' Meetings in the United States and Canada as revised for 1957-58. This pocket-size booklet listing the location of Meetings, together with their clerks and the time of meeting, also contains a list of Friends' schools and colleges and Yearly Meetings throughout the world. Copies may be obtained for 25 cents each from the Friends World Committee offices at 29 South 12th Street, Philadelphia 7, Pa., and Wilmington College, Wilmington, Ohio.

This year's Jeanes Fair Baby Photo Contest sponsored by the Women's Auxiliary of Jeanes Hospital, Philadelphia, Pa., ends on July 31. A donation of one dollar entitles the purchaser to have a child photographed at the Jean Sardou Studios in the Strawbridge and Clothier store in Jenkintown; the picture will be submitted as an entry to the Contest. Only children born between January 1, 1952, and December 31, 1956, are eligible. Entry coupons may be secured at Jeanes Hospital, at the Jean Sardou Studio, or by calling Mrs. Joseph Wurster (Pilgrim 5-0431).

William Worthy, the American newsman whose recent venture into mainland China has been widely reported, will be a leader at the 5th annual American Friends Service Committee "Avon Institute" to be held at Pembroke, New Hampshire July 20-27. Now a student at Harvard, William Worthy also spoke recently on the Harvard campus in a meeting sponsored by the A.F.S.C. and the Harvard Crimson. The A.F.S.C. has prepared a tape recording of an interview between William Worthy and Edwin Randall of the A.F.S.C. staff for use by radio stations across the country. Other recent tape recordings made by Edwin Randall include those by Clarence Pickett, recently returned from a journey around the world, James Bristow of the A.F.S.C. Peace Education staff, and Henry Russell of the A.F.S.C. staff, who lived as a child in Egypt.

Construction of the two new classrooms as originally planned for Plymouth Meeting, Pa., Friends School has begun. According to William Sheppard of the Parent Committee, "We have raised a total of $19,000 in cash and pledges and we are confident that ways will be found which will enable us to reach the total of $25,000 needed. We are especially grateful to Members of the Religious Society of Friends in other Meetings for their help in our cause, which had unique problems to combat..."

Some time ago Friends in England sent a message of greeting to the new state of Ghana, in Africa, as did the American Friends Service Committee. George H. Gorman, a London Friend, records in interesting detail in The Guardian (Madras, India) the share which Christian churches of various persuasions had in the preparation of the former Gold Coast for the independence it has now attained. His article "The Church's Role in Ghana" points out that the first Christian missionaries came to this part of Africa in 1482. The Christian churches in both their African and European membership made Africanization a working creed and "produced the first, and still by far the greatest, large-scale African organization on the Western model." Most of the progress made in education on all levels goes to the credit of missionary efforts. The Basel Mission has made a particular contribution to the development of good housing, agriculture, and industry. The churches have now formed a Christian Council of the Gold Coast; a local Presbyterian Church under its own Moderator has been established, and the Methodist, Anglican, and Catholic groups have organized themselves according to their traditional patterns.

Honolulu Friends

The Japanese Ministers Association of Honolulu invited Herbert V. and Madeline Nicholson to come out from Pasadena, Calif., and give the month of March and part of April to visiting and speaking at special meetings and institutions in the city and on the neighboring islands, in connection with the observance of the seventieth anniversary of the beginning of evangelical work among Japanese in Hawaii. The wide knowledge in our Islands of Herbert's part in the distribution of goats in Japan, and his work in Japanese prisons, hospitals, and leper colonies, opened wide the door for work in kindred institutions and in Christian churches in Hawaii. Besides this, Madeline's scattered kindred in the Islands helped to make them feel at home here.

One very effective part of Herbert's work in Hawaii was his wide showing of his film, "The Song of Light," picturing the work of Dr. Ichiro Okouchi's Hospital for Crippled Children, in Taira, Japan. As one concrete result of showing this film to the different classes in the (private) Punahou School in Honolulu, one little polio girl offered her pin money toward providing the needed swimming pool for the crippled children of this Japanese hospital. With that stimulus the pupils of the school started various work projects by which they have at this date earned $2,700 for these Japanese crippled children's swimming pool (and presumably other needs).

Through entertaining Herbert and Madeline Nicholson
Letters to the Editor

Letters are subject to editorial revision if too long. Anonymous communications cannot be accepted.

Benjamin Kirson’s letter of May 4 expresses some wonder at people who, rightly concerned for Arab refugees, accepted more calmly the worse fate of more refugees, with less semblance of excuse, two decades ago. The explanation may be simple, and a very human one.

Because no one falls heir to his traditions piecemeal, Christians inherit their Christian tradition in its entirety, as a whole. They must be as much marked by its imperfections as by its spiritual strength. From the first clashes with Synagogue to the Ten Commandments or the Twelve, it is part of us, like the divine life, ever lived on earth.

The Fifteenth Street Meeting, New York, has belonged to the National Council for thirty-odd years. Perhaps Friends may be interested in the “formula” by which we joined.

I was secretary of the Meeting from 1914 to 1928. Some time during that period the citywide Federation of Churches was set up, and we were invited to join. I pointed out our belief in the indwelling spirit in every man and our acceptance of the idea that Christ lived the most perfect life, the most divine life, ever lived on earth. Our creed left belief in the divinity of Christ to the individual.

Next year, the Federation had another Secretary, and we received another invitation to join. I answered it exactly as before. But immediately an answer came back, “If you do not deny the divinity of Christ, then you belong with the Federation.”

We joined at once, and have been members ever since, and as members of the Federation, we belong to the National Council. It has been a valuable membership to us. But I wonder now if that statement on which we joined was a “formula.” I do not think we thought of such a thing at the time. We agreed with the one requirement of membership which was set before us. We certainly did not compromise in any way.

The Federation accepted our statement of creed and varying interpretations of that creed, and assured us that we belonged.

New York, N. Y.

Anna L. Curtis

BIRTH

Paul—On May 15, at Presbyterian Hospital, Chicago, Ill., to David Garver Paul, Jr., and Betty Johnson Paul, a son, KIRK JOHN-son Paul. The father is a member of Central Philadelphia Meeting, as are the grandparents, David G. and Mary G. Paul.

DEATHS

Brown—On May 5, at Fawn Grove, Pa., at the home of her grandson, Dr. Thomas W. Brown, where she resided, HANNAH R. BROWN, widow of Thomas W. Brown, aged 94 years. She was a birthright member of Deer Creek Monthly Meeting, Darlington, Md. She is survived by one daughter, Mrs. Edie Wiley, of Delta, Pa.; two sons, William R. Brown, Delta R. D., and Ernest M. Brown, of Fawn Grove, Pa.; 17 grandchildren; 37 great-grandchildren; and one great-great grandchild.

Whitson—On April 11, BENJAMIN F. WHITSON, aged 89 years. He was a member of Media Monthly Meeting, Pa. He is survived by his daughter, Esther W. Cope, two grandchildren, and three great-grandchildren.

Coming Events

(Calendar events for the date of issue will not be included if they have been listed in a previous issue.)

JUNE

1—9—Institute of International Relations for college-age people, Camp Fern Brook, Pottstown, Pa., sponsored by A.F.S.C.; theme, “A Search for Alternatives to Violence.”

1—Millville-Muncy Quarterly Meeting, discussion, 8 p.m., at the home of Sarah Girton, Millville, Pa.

2—Chappaqua Mountain Institute Student Reunion, at Quaker Road meeting house, Chappaqua, N. Y.: 11 a.m., religious meeting; 1 p.m., business meeting—D.S.T. Bring box lunch; coffee served.

2—Dover, N. J., Meeting, Quaker Church Road, Randolph Township, Third Anniversary Meeting: 11:15 a.m., meeting for worship, followed by picnic lunch.

2—Haverford Quarterly Meeting, at Valley Meeting, Pa. See issue of May 25.

2—Middletown Day, at the meeting house, Lima, Pa., 11 a.m.: meeting for worship; lunch (provided for visitors). All Friends welcome.

2—Millville-Muncy Quarterly Meeting, at Millville, Pa., Meeting House: 10 a.m., meeting for worship, followed immediately by First-day School; lunch: 1:30 p.m., business meeting.

2—New York Meeting, Open House, 221 East 15th Street, 3:30 to 6:30 p.m.; about 4:15, Rev. Karl Baehr, member of the United Nations Speakers Research Committee, illustrated talk on “Technical Assistance, the Bridge of Hope.” All invited.

7—Downingtown, Pa., Friends Meeting House, 150th Anniversary, beginning at 5 p.m.: Pageant, picnic supper, meeting for worship. For supper reservations write Enid S. Brown, Brown Avenue, Downingtown, Pa. Rain date June 8.


9—Baltimore Quarterly Meeting, at Gwynn’s High Meeting House, near Sparks, Md.: 9:45 a.m., Ministry and Council; 11, meeting for worship; picnic lunch; 2 p.m., business meeting, with conference session following.

15—Haddonfield Quarterly Meeting, at Evesham Meeting, Mount Laurel, N. J., 3 p.m.

15—Salem Quarterly Meeting, at Salem, N. J., Meeting House, 4:30 p.m.
REGULAR MEETINGS

ARIZONA
PHOENIX—Meeting for worship, 10 a.m., 17th Street and Glendale Avenue, James Dewees, Clerk, 1922 East Washington. Telephone South 2-6296.

TUCSON—Friends Meeting, 129 North Warren Avenue, Worship, First-days at 11 a.m., meeting for worship, 10 a.m., meeting for worship at 11 a.m., 745 East Fifth Street, Tucson 2-2562.

CALIFORNIA
CLAREMONT—Friends meeting, 9:30 a.m. on bocks in connection with Columbia, Ferger Nuhn, Clerk, 420 West 9th Street.

LA JOLLA—Meeting for worship, 11 a.m., at Meeting House, 7800 Eads Avenue. Visitors call GL 4-7460.

PASADENA—Orange Grove Monthly Meeting, Meeting for worship, East Orange Grove at Oak Lane, First-days at 11 a.m. Monthly meetings, 8 p.m., the second Fourth-day of each month.

SAN FRANCISCO—Meetings for worship, First-days, 11 a.m., 1890 Sutter Street.

CANADA
MONTREAL—Meeting and Sunday school, Rooms 316-8, Y.W.C.A., Dorchester Avenue, W., 11 a.m. each Sunday. Clerk, PL 1920.

CONNECTICUT
HARTFORD—Meeting for worship, 11 a.m. at the Meeting House, 144 South Quaker Lane, West Hartford.

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
WASHINGTON—The Friends Meeting of Washington, 2111 Florida Avenue, N. W., one block from Connecticut and Columbia, May-September: $1.00; October-April: $3.00. Telephone ROCK 4-5211.

FLORIDA
GAINESVILLE—Meeting for worship, First-days, 11 a.m., 215 Florida Union.

JACKSONVILLE—Meeting for worship and First-day school, 11 a.m., 113 E. 4th St., 11 a.m., First-day school, 10 a.m. Miriam T geopol, Clerk: TU 8-6308.

LONG ISLAND
NEW YORK—For information telephone UN 3-6252.

NEW JERSEY
ATLANTIC CITY—Discipline group, 10:30 a.m. meeting for worship and First-day school, 11 a.m., Friends Meeting, South Carolina and Pacific Avenues.

BIRKEMEYER—Meeting for worship, First-days, 11 a.m., 144 East 8th Street.

NEW YORK—New York Friends Meeting, 43 State Street, Phone 3-3080.

BUFFALO—Meeting for worship and First-day school, 11 a.m., 127 Delaware Avenue. Telephone 3-6150.

LONG ISLAND—Manhasset Meeting, Northern Boulevard at Shelter Rock Road. Meeting for worship, 10 a.m., First-day school at 11 a.m.

NEW YORK—Meetings for worship, First-days, 11 a.m., 2400 Broadway.

OHIO
CINCINNATI—Meeting for worship, 11 a.m., 8001 Victory Parkway. Telephone EdwIn Moon, Clerk, at 4-2904.

OHIO—Meeting for worship and First-day school, 11 a.m., 1018 Magnolia Drive. Telephone TU 4-2000.

TOLEDO—Unprogrammed meeting for worship, First-days at 11 a.m., 1201 East 26th Street.

MISSOURI
KANSAS CITY—Meeting for worship, 10 a.m., First-day school at 11 a.m., 3601 Main Avenue. Telephone 2-3920.

MINNESOTA
MINNEAPOLIS—Friends Meeting, 45th Street and York Avenue South. First-day school, 10 a.m. Meeting for worship, 11 a.m. Richard P. Newby, Minister, 4421 Abbot Avenue South. Telephone WA 6-9675.

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