

# THE BOOKSHELF

[The Bookshelf is for the benefit of those of our readers who are interested in things literary. If you are a book lover and like the idea of a literary club that meets through the Bookshelf column, you are welcome. You are urged to write in to this department and comments on current or past literature that you have in mind. If you see questions in this column you care to answer, by all means do so. If you have questions to ask pertaining to prose, poetry or fiction in modern or ancient literature, send them in. Address communications to Editor of Bookshelf, Chicago Defender.]

## Real Christianity

"The Baha' World." National Spiritual Assembly of the Baha'is of the United States and Canada. P. O. Box 132, Station D, New York city.

A religion of peace and brotherhood, established in Persia 80 years ago and already represented by many hundreds of active centers throughout the world, including 70 in the United States and Canada, is described and illustrated in the Baha' World, the biennial international record published by an international staff of editors under the supervision of the National Spiritual Assembly of American Baha'is.

The present volume covers the period April, 1926-April, 1928, and bears the approval of Shoghi Effendi, appointed guardian of the Baha' cause in the will and testament of 'Abdu'l-Baha.

"For more than 80 years," we read in the opening article, "the Baha' cause has been steadfastly presented to the world as the expression for this age of the same universal spirit which in other ages spoke through Zoroaster, Muhammad, the Buddha, Moses, Christ, one divine utterance and continuous purpose, giving forth one and the same message, albeit adapted to the conditions and human capacities of each time. In Baha'u'llah, according to his explicit text, the message of God has been revealed to mankind in its fullness and universality, and the Baha' cause accordingly represents the fulfillment of that which was but partially revealed in previous dispensations."

The application of this faith to present world problems, according to

this same statement of the purpose and principles of the Baha' faith, gave rise in the interpretative utterances of 'Abdu'l-Baha to a series of principles by which the movement is usually identified: That the foundations of all religions are one; that where religious belief does not conform with science it must be regarded as superstition; that universal peace is the chief object of religion and government alike; the adoption of an auxiliary international language, etc.

Extracts from the will of 'Abdu'l-Baha, laying the basis for a worldwide religious community of Baha'is, with elective local, national and international administrative bodies without a professional clergy, are for the first time published in any western tongue. The contents of the Baha' World also include an outline of Baha' history, a description of the last days of 'Abdu'l-Baha and the honors paid by representatives of the British and Palestine governments and of Christianity, Muhammadanism and the Jewish faith at the funeral ceremony held at Haifa in 1921, a survey of current Baha' activities in the East and West, excerpts from Baha' sacred writings, an explanation of present-day administration under the guardianship of Shoghi Effendi, grandson of 'Abdu'l-Baha, and references to the movement in current literature.

In addition to articles on subjects and events of special Baha' interest, the volume contains a remarkable series of photographs collected from Baha' centers throughout the world. Of particular poignancy is that taken of the corpses of an entire family martyred in Persia some years ago.

The Baha' World. Baha' Publishing Committee, New York. \$2.50.