

VIET-NAM

1956

Membership.—The membership is 393, an increase of 43.

Public Lectures.—We have talks, socials and public lectures every Sunday at the Headquarters of the Society at Phu Nhuan (Saigon).

Our Review.—The official organ of the Theosophical Society in Viet-Nam is the magazine *Dao Hoc*, of which 2,000 copies are printed for sending to members and for sale to the public.

Publications.—We have just printed 2,000 copies of a work entitled *Dao Ly Thuc Hanh (Practical Theosophy)* in two volumes for free distribution to members and sympathizers. These contribute greatly to the propagation of Theosophy among the masses. We have reprinted in Vietnamese 5,000 copies of the little book *At the Feet of the Master*, which is also intended for free distribution.

The Library.—We have a Theosophical lending library which is open every day. The books are in French and Vietnamese.

Orphanage.—The Theosophical Society's Orphanage in Viet-Nam has always been well supported, and receives general approval. It has 35 beds and receives children less than two years old. Children who have reached the age of two are

transferred to another orphanage. They are very well looked after. Our resources come from the hiring of chairs, the gifts of benefactors, and an annual grant from the Vietnamese Government.

Lodges.—The work of the Lodges is satisfactory on the whole. Lodge Chon Ly (The Truth) at Hué, led by brother Hoa Giai, assisted by brother Le Van Mung, a very active Theosophist, does very good work. Weekly lectures take place regularly at their headquarters. A monthly bulletin is printed by duplicator and a number of copies are sent free to members and sympathizers.

Lodge Kiem-Ai (Universal Love) at Ban-Co (Saigon), under the leadership of brother Phan Van Hien (1st Vice-President of the Administrative Council of the Theosophical Society in Viet-Nam) functions regularly. Regular meetings with talks take place every Saturday evening at their headquarters. Theosophical books in Vietnamese and French as well as Theosophical bulletins are always displayed and can be borrowed free by members and sympathizers.

Lodge Duoi Chon Thay (At the Feet of the Master) at Vinh-Long, conceives its fundamental work to be: Brotherhood—

lived in the bosom of the Lodge; in the home; in society. Brother Nguyen Minh Tam, an active Theosophist, is president of this Lodge. Meetings for members are held twice monthly.

Lodge An Giang at Chaudoc has made great efforts which are worthy of our praise. Meetings are held each Saturday evening at their headquarters for the study of the teachings of Theosophy and of other religions. With a duplicating machine the leaders, brothers Chau Van Dong, Huynh Ba Nhe, Le Quang Dien and Truong Van Hieu, have been able to publish every second month a Theosophical bulletin which is much appreciated. Each time 1,000 copies are run off for free distribution to the members and sympathizers.

The other Lodges work in a somewhat irregular fashion, because the greater number of their members live at a distance from the Lodge, so that each member has to study at home, since meetings are held only rarely.

New Lodges.—During the visit to Viet-Nam of Brother M. Subramaniam he assisted in the formation of two new Lodges: (1) Lodge Saigon, with headquarters at No. 72/6 Rue Nguyen-Dinh-Chieu, Saigon—president of the Lodge, brother Nguyen Huu Kiet; and (2) Lodge Leadbeater, with headquarters at 420 Rue Vo-Di-Nguy, Phu Nhuan (Saigon)—president of the Lodge, brother Truong Khuong.

Visit of Brother M. Subramaniam.—Brother Subramaniam's visit to our Section lasted from 31st July to 10th August 1956. He gave public lectures and friendly talks at Saigon, Vinh-Long, Longxuyen and Chaudoc. At Chaudoc he spoke on Buddhism to an audience of more than 2,000 people grouped around the Vietnamese Budd Gaya. This was a great success.

Delegation to the 80th International Convention.—Two delegates from Viet-Nam were present at the 80th International Theosophical Convention at Adyar; brothers Phan van Hien and Truong Khuong.

Construction.—Brother Truong Khuong, authorized by the Directing Council of the Theosophical Society in Viet-Nam, has constructed at his own expense on the premises of the Headquarters, a house of two storeys which after his death will become the property of our Section. Brother Truong Khuong acts as host to the members visiting the Headquarters, who stay in his house.

Conclusion.—For some time past difficulties have arisen everywhere. It is the karma of our Section and of our country equally. However, we have done the best we could and the results have been satisfactory.

PHAM-NGOC-DA,
General Secretary.

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