

VIET-NAM 1957

The Executive Council elected in 1955 has ended its second year of service. A misunderstanding occurred in the Council at the beginning of 1957 which affected the activities of the Society for a time. The Executive Council has now been partially re-formed, with the inclusion of new volunteers eager to smooth out the difficulties and overcome the troubles for the good working of the Great Plan. It is devoting itself to the immediate task of:

1. Reorganization of the administration of the Section;
2. Strengthening the ties of fraternity among the members;
3. Encouraging the activities of the Lodges;
4. Organizing an intensive campaign to spread the teachings of Theosophy.

The Council, which is composed of active members of good-will, has great hopes of giving a magnificent lift to the Theosophical Society in Viet-Nam.

Membership.—It has to be noted that at the present time a number of members have lost their link with the Society, the principal cause of which is discontent. It therefore follows that their interest in the Society's activities has gone, but that they rest, so to say, expectant. We hope that the good-will of the Council will bring about reconciliation. The registered members number 305; this year we have had 76 new members. In accordance with our national rules, 127 members who have not paid their dues for more than a year lost their membership. These members will be re-admitted to the Society in Viet-Nam as soon as they fulfil their obligations.

The Lodges.—At the present time we have 11 Lodges, 7 of them since the formation of the Section in 1952, and 4 new Lodges during the years 1955 and 1956.

The most active of the Lodges are: Lodge Saigon, Lodge Phung-Su, Lodge Chon Ly, Lodge Leadbeater, Lodge Duoi Chon Thay, Lodge An Giang, Lodge Kiem Ai. Lodges Vac-Ai, Long-Zuyen, Nhon-Ai and Viet-Nam are not very active, due to lack of organization or of co-ordination.

Propaganda.—Our official organ of the Vietnamese Section, the review *Dao-Hoc*, had its authorization withdrawn by the Government in July 1957. It committed the mistake of not appearing at the fixed, stipulated date according to the laws in force.

A committee for propaganda and the diffusion of Theosophical teachings is being formed under the presidentship of Madame Nguyen-thi-Hai. It envisages the publication of a Theosophical review which will be free to members, the organization of public lectures, and the translation of basic books on Theosophy. With the co-operation of all, the Presidents of Lodges and members of good-will, this committee hopes to be able to spread Theosophy in an effective manner among the members and among a more numerous public.

As a means of diffusion we have a review, *Tim Hieu Thong Thien Hoc* (For the Understanding of Theosophy). This is an organ which, although not officially that of the Theosophical Society in Viet-Nam, has been a means of propaganda for the Theosophical movement and its teachings for the past four years. About 6,000 copies of each issue are circulated widely to all classes of society, and chiefly to Government officials. We have been gratified to receive from the Minister of Information in Viet-Nam a letter of felicitation and approbation. Thanks to this review, directed by M. and Mme. Nguyen-van-Huan, many people have become acquainted with

Theosophy and have joined the Theosophical Society in Viet-Nam.

With regard to Theosophical books, during the year we have published Vol. II of *Dao-ly Thuc-Hanh* (Practical Theosophy) written by M. Pham-Ngoc-Da, with an issue of 2,000 copies for free distribution. Parallel to this book, M. and Mme. Nguyen-van-Huan have published a large volume on Theosophy entitled *Vo-Tru Va Con Nguoi* (The Universe and Man); this book is taken from Theosophical works such as *The Secret Doctrine*, *A Study in Consciousness*, *The Occult Evolution of Humanity*, *The Solar System*, *The Causal Body*. The book *Thê Phach Con Nguoi* (The Etheric Double), taken from the weekly lectures organized by Lodge Saigon, is in the press.

The Library of the Theosophical Society in Viet-Nam comprises about 700 volumes and continues to lend free to members and sympathizers Theosophical books in both the French and the Vietnamese languages. We should very much like to have gifts of works in English, for the intellectual elite of this country are beginning to familiarize themselves with this language and prefer to study Theosophy in the original publications.

Social Work.—The Orphanage of the Theosophical Society in Viet-Nam con-

tinues its social work under the supervision of its Director, Dr. Cao Van Tri. The 33 places reserved for young orphans are always occupied. This Orphanage is able to subsist thanks to the help of the Government, of the Red Cross in Viet-Nam, and gifts from members.

The World Theosophical Convention.—At the 81st Convention of the Theosophical Society held at Adyar in December 1956 there were three delegates from Viet-Nam: M. and Mme. Nguon Har and M. Nguyen-Huu-Kiet.

General Outlook.—Thanks to the wealth of lectures and courses on Theosophy given by Lodge Saigon and by the letters of the readers of the review *Tim Hieu Tjong Thien Hoc*, we have been able to keep the public interested in the teachings of Theosophy. The publication of the book *Vo Tru Va Con Nguoi* has also produced a response in favor of Theosophy.

Conclusion.—As we look towards the future, we cannot but be confident and optimistic. Viet-Nam is good ground for sowing the seed of Theosophical teachings. May we merit always the benediction of the Elder Brothers.

PHAM-NGOC-DA,
General Secretary.

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