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VIET-NAM 1960

*The General Council.*—This is the third and last year of the term of our General Council which has at present 12 members.

*Activities.*—From the various and new activities during the past year we mention our participation in the Indo-Pacific Conference and in the first Theosophical Summer School in Viet-Nam.

At the end of December 1959, following the appeal made by Miss H. V. Zahara, General Secretary of the Australian Section, and Organizer of the Indo-Pacific Conference, a delegation of the Theosophical Society of Viet-Nam went to Sydney. Its members included the General Secretary. Thanks to this Conference we had the opportunity to study the methods of work of the main Theosophical leaders in Australia, New Zealand, Indonesia and

Pakistan. The exchange of ideas was most profitable.

Our first Summer School took place in Long-Hai during Easter. The main theme was "Nature and the Spiritual Life". The beauty of the hills and of the sea lifted the thoughts of the participants to a high spiritual level. After one week the 58 members of the School departed, enriched by their experiences.

The annual Convention was held in conjunction with the Summer School. Our programme included vital discussions on the progress of our Section which assisted in a fuller realization of the Objects of the Theosophical Society.

*Teaching and Diffusion of Theosophy.*— With the help of our best Theosophical students, we are organizing successively

three courses for our members. The study is based mainly on the following works: *Theosophy in the 20th Century*, by Mr. Marcel Bohrer; *The Ancient Wisdom* by Dr. Annie Besant; *The Solar System* by Mr. A. E. Powell.

These courses, held weekly, are regularly attended by 60 members. Public lectures are being held monthly. Weekly question and answer meetings are well attended.

Our Review *Tim Hieu Thong-Thien-Hoc* (For a better understanding of Theosophy) is appearing bi-monthly. It is much appreciated by the public and by the intellectual classes. The Review forms also a link between the Headquarters in Saigon and the far-off Lodges in the country.

In order to neutralize the handicap of our insufficient command of English, our Review publishes regularly a French translation of "Theosophists at work around the World" from the Supplement of *The Theosophist*.

This year we published a pamphlet (5,000 copies) entitled *The Mission and Realization of Theosophy in the 20th Century*, written by Mme. Nguyen-thi-Hai, and distributed free of charge. Mr. Nguyen van Huan published 5,000 copies of the pamphlet *Summary of Theosophy* (Thong-Thien-Hoc luoc giai), the total revenue of which will benefit the Theosophical Publishing Trust.

The translation of the fundamental works on Theosophy, though desirable, is not yet possible because of financial difficulties.

**Membership.**—Our Section, like a young tree, has plenty of new leaves. This year one of our members passed away and others left the Society. But new members are joining. Some of the older members who lived for some years in Europe returned to Saigon, and take part now in the work of the Section. There are also a few re-admissions. The total of our

membership amounts to 594, with an increase of 37.

We are glad to report that a spirit of understanding and harmony is predominant in our Section. We are also endeavoring to keep alive the enthusiasm of the new members in the study of Theosophy.

We have many promising young members. The Lodge of the Young Theosophists is organizing group discussions, living in communities, groups of service. The Round Table and the Scout Movement are also in the stage of formation.

**Lodges.**—The number of our Lodges is 14—the most active are in the capital, Saigon.

**Social Works.**—Our main activity is the maintenance of the Theosophical Orphanage. Under the active supervision and benevolence of Doctors Cao-van-Tri and Huynh-cong-Chieu this institution takes constant care of 45 little abandoned orphans.

The financial support comes partly from the Government, from the Dung-Hanh Lodge, but above all, from the donations of Mr. and Mrs. Nguyen-van-Luong, its permanent benefactors.

Our Section adopted a plan to build a two-storied new home for the Orphanage and to return the old home to Mr. Nguyen-van-Luong. The new Orphanage will be situated near Headquarters. This gives a certain importance to our Society.

**Conclusion.**—Our aim in the past year has been to present the Ancient Wisdom in a manner suited to inspire our brethren to live the spiritual life. This is a difficult and arduous task because of the present political events, but we have obtained some results and hope ardently that the illuminating light of Theosophy will touch more and more human hearts. Then there will be peace to all beings.

NGUYEN-THI-HAI,  
General Secretary.

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