

VIET-NAM 1965

The hard test which our country has been enduring for several years past brings about many difficulties in our Section. In a country where everything is in transition, to maintain normal activities is certainly difficult. Nevertheless it alerts the members to the necessity of making a great effort for their own evolution and for the good of all. The field of activity must be enlarged for interior work as well as for exterior.

General meetings which are organized frequently furnish the members with occasions to meet and exchange points of view concerning Theosophy, as well as practical experiences regarding spiritual life. Mutual comprehension thus consolidated, brings along with it really sincere and efficacious co-operation in the grand work of the Theosophical Society. The majority of the Lodges meet weekly or once a fortnight. We also advise the Lodges to form study groups taking as their base the works of Theosophical leaders. Thanks to this work members are enthusiastic concerning the Theosophical ideals and become capable and enlightened workers.

Our exterior work comprises principally the spreading of Theosophy and social work. Weekly talks are organized each Sunday morning at our Headquarters. The study includes the basic teachings of Theosophy and general aspects of spirituality. There is one discussion session at the end of the month. A good number of members and sympathizers attend the meetings. The Section's official organ *Tim Hieu Thong Thien Hoc* also contributes to the spreading of Theosophy. This work has for the past ten years rested principally on the shoulders of Mr. and Mrs. Nguyen van Huan. The work of spreading Theosophy enjoys general esteem, both among

religious organizations and among leading intellectual circles.

A group of members recently published translations of *Thoughts for Aspirants* by N. Sri Ram and *The Occult Life of Man* by A. Besant. This was undertaken by two Lodges in the capital.

Our social activities are largely in connection with the Theosophical Orphanage and a free sewing class. People find in these activities the Brotherhood proclaimed in our first Object. Our fellow-beings suffer so much that the little we can do to help is greatly appreciated.

Ever since the Theosophical Orphanage was taken over by the Section, its standard both in the matter of service and personnel has improved year by year. About sixty very young orphans (abandoned or victims of the war) are cared for by a devoted staff, all members of the Section. This effort is so well regarded by the Government's Social Service that the Theosophical Orphanage is classed by them as among the best of its kind. The Orphanage also enjoys in Saigon the constructive and substantial attention of UNICEF.

A free sewing class, assisted by the Ministry of Works Apprenticeship Service, gives free instruction to about fifty young girls and the pupils receive at the end of the year a diploma of aptitude which guarantees them a good way of earning their living and enables young girls of the working classes to resist the temptation of an easy life. Our social activity is thus a material contribution paralleling the spreading of Theosophy in the service of our country.

It is chiefly in Saigon and in the bosom of active Lodges that new members are enrolled. This year we had 52 new admissions. The number of outgoing

members was 37, making an increase of 14.

As in previous years the Lodges grouped in the capital are most active and show effective work. These favored Lodges collaborated also in the Section meetings held to celebrate Theosophical festivals, the annual Convention, etc. The majority of Lodges conduct very encouraging study classes, especially Lodges Kiem Ai, Minh Trist, Saigon, Dung Hanh, Tu Bi and Phung Su at Saigon. In the provinces Lodges Long Xuyen and Duoi Chou Thay show some activity. Lodge Chou Li in the centre of Viet-Nam carries on a program of public lectures of general interest at the beginning of each month. As its social work, it renders assistance to war orphans.

For long years the menace of insecurity and material troubles of a country at war have been unfavorable to the attempt we ardently desire to make for our Section. Our principal preoccupation is to keep the ground already won. During the short periods of easing up we co-operate in efforts for new realizations. To group the members together

is our aim. That is why last year we elaborated plans for establishing a Theosophical spiritual centre at Dalat, in the hills about 300 km. from Saigon. Three groups of houses are being bought. Theosophical families will reside there and the centre will soon be able to receive passing members who desire to rest far from the noise and stir of present-day life.

At Saigon we propose to construct some apartments in the Headquarters premises to receive Theosophical visitors from abroad and provide permanent shelters for workers who aspire to devote themselves to the service of the Section. We hope this project will be realized in 1966.

Such is our year's activity, a humble offering in the work of Theosophical Sections throughout the world. We are doing our best to serve the Theosophical ideal. Two of our members, Miss Luuthi-Dau and Mrs. Nguyen-thi-Quan are at present at Adyar for the international Convention and the School of the Wisdom.

NGUYEN-THI-HAI,
General Secretary.

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