

VIET-NAM 1970

We are particularly fortunate to work in our beautiful Headquarters which can contain about 500 people. On the first floor, we have a nice sanctuary. In spite of the war in our country, the main thought which occupied our mind, during the year 1970, was one of preparation for the Centenary in 1975. According to oriental thought, and following "The Law of Cycle," we believe that the Year 1975 is the whole "Circle of Light," because the Centenary or the Millenary marks always a great event on earth, showing the result of this time. So, we try to prepare ourselves in order to fit in, by training methodically, by studying Theosophical teachings, by unselfish service and brotherly feelings towards one another. The result of all this is a fine atmosphere which attracts the public to our meetings.

Membership.—During the past year, there were 67 new admissions. The total membership on 30 September 1970 stood at 852, an increase of 68 over the

previous year. There were 5 deaths, 1 resignation, and 7 re-admissions.

Lodges.—During the year under report, one new Lodge named Dinh Tuong Lodge has been founded.

The Section has now 15 Lodges, 13 of which have regular members and public meetings. Besides lectures and study activities, the larger Lodges, Kiem Ai and Dung Hanh (Lodge of women named Fine Conduct), and Phung Su (Lodge of the Young named Service) have extensive lending libraries. The following Lodges which were dormant were revived during the year: Duoi Chon Thay and Bac Ai. The largest Lodge Kiem-Ai at Saigon had every week public lectures.

A monthly program of activities of all Lodges was sent to the Board, which made it known throughout the country every month. That helped to revive the dormant Lodges.

Service to Lodges.—Study aids and publicity material made available to the Lodges around the year, included

96,000 copies of study courses on The Higher Mental and The Ancient Wisdom, translated into Vietnamese by Mme. Nguyen Thi Hai and 600 copies of her lecture about the 94th Convention at Adyar. The work of reproducing leaflets in a new and attractive form was continued, and one new leaflet and three pamphlets were issued.

Visit to Lodges.—In February, six members of the Board and two other members of the Section went to Dinh Tuong (70 km. from Saigon) to inaugurate the new Lodge named Dinh Tuong Lodge. Miss Luu Thi Dau, Mrs. and Mr. Nguon Har and Mme. Nguyen Thi Hai went from time to time to some Lodges which needed help. They also gave talks to the new Lodges.

Youth Work.—Increasing numbers of university students and of college scholars are attending lectures. The Youth Lodge Phung Su directed by Mr. François Mylne contributed much to the work of the Section. The young members are enthusiastic and ready to serve.

Headquarters Activities.—Good team work has continued in the Headquarters Office. There is no doubt, that if we share fraternally a task, however arduous, it becomes easier. I am assisted by Miss Luu Thi Dau and would like to place on record my sincere appreciation.

Every Sunday morning, from 8.30 to 9.30, members of two Lodges Dung Hanh and Phung Su met in the auditorium of the Headquarters, to study *The Voice of the Silence* and to talk on various subjects. Then from 10 to 11, also in the same place, members of various Lodges came and studied *The Secret Doctrine* or "The Higher Mental," conducted by Mrs. Nguyen Thi Hai, or *The Ancient Wisdom* conducted by Miss Luu Thi Dau and Mr. François Mylne. The members, even the old ones, are eager to study.

Publications.—We continue to issue for free distribution to members monthly

the Theosophical courses, translated from English into Viet-Nameese by Mrs. Nguyen Thi Hai. We issued also 2000 *The Tenets of Theosophy* by Mr. C. Jinarājadāsa.

In the year 1970, the Saigon Lodge printed by roneo *Thought Power* by Mrs. Annie Besant, translated into Vietnamese by Mr. Nguyen Tan Tai.

The book *Daily Truth* (extracts from the Masters' Letters) is brought out by Mr. François Mylne, an ardent worker. The Bac Ia Lodge has issued by roneo *The Invisible Helpers* by C. W. Leadbeater.

Convention.—We had our Annual Assembly in December 1969 at our Headquarters with many members from different Lodges. At that meeting, I was elected General Secretary of the Viet-Nameese Theosophical Section for a 3 year-term 1969-1972.

Our 18th Convention was held on April 30th, 1970, at our Headquarters, with about 150 attending. Besides the usual business meetings, a symposium was held on "How Theosophy helps us to progress quickly?". The Convention was a very inspiring one with a harmonious and brotherly atmosphere. It was closed by a banquet at Headquarters.

Summer School.—The Summer School was held at the Pure Heart Centre at Vung Tau, facing the China Sea, from July 26th to August 1st 1970. There were about 85 participants.

Each day began with a joint meditation. Then lectures and discussions followed. Our theme was "How to be a servant of humanity?". The delegates attended also a Flower ceremony of the Round Table. The meeting was a fraternal and inspiring one.

Orphanage.—We have a nice Orphanage with about 60 abandoned children. We got much help from the Theosophical Order of Service in Australia and U. S. A. In September 1970, we received, as a donation, from the Theosophical Society in

Australia, orphans. A special th for r g Travels.

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Australia, a pretty micro-bus for our orphans. We would like to express here our special thanks to the Australian Section for their generous and selfless contribution.

Travels.—Our General Secretary, Mrs. Nguyen Thi Hai, represented our Section at the 94th Convention at Adyar. On her return, she gave an interesting lecture on her experiences during the Convention, and sent to each member a copy of her speech which was much appreciated.

In March, ten members of our Section attended the 1970 Australian Annual Convention. They were very enthusiastic and appreciated very much the true brotherhood existing among the members of this great Section. We are all looking forward to the visit in December 1970 by Mr. John Coats, and in April 1971 by Mr. and Mrs. Geoffrey Hodson.

I would like to express my deep gratitude and appreciation to my fellow-workers in all the Lodges and to all members for their good co-operation and ready assistance in all matters connected with the work of the Viet-Nam Section.

Conclusion.—There are many many thousands in our country who have never heard of the Ancient Wisdom and a great missionary spirit is needed at the present time. So the Theosophical work in our Section is most useful and indispensable to our compatriots. By leaflets and pamphlets to be distributed freely to people, we hope to spread the illuminating truths of the Ancient Wisdom, to make Theosophy widely known to all. Vigilance and pure dedication as well as spontaneity are needed to carry our work purposely forward into the future.

To this we are pledged for "The sun of Theosophy must shine for every one". To carry on this task well, we must be always optimistic and strong inspite of the lasting war—more than 25 years of fighting—between the North Viet Nam communists and the South Viet Nam republicans. May the Masters bless our country.

NGUYEN THI HAI,
General Secretary.