

VIETNAM 1971

Our Board is composed of:

Mrs. Nguyen Thi Hai, General Secretary; Miss Luu Thi Dau, 1st Assistant General Secretary; Mr. Nguyen Van Minh, 2nd Assistant General Secretary; Miss Le Hong Hanh, Secretary; Mr. Nguyen Tan Tai, Vice-Secretary; Miss Tran Thi Hoanh, Treasurer; Mr. Le Van Hai, Vice-Treasurer; Mr. Nguyen Van Huan, Mr. Truong Khuong, Mr. Nguyen Tien Loi, Mr. Ha To Thuan, Miss Pham Thi Phi, Councillors.

I am very glad to report with utmost satisfaction the steady progress in general of the Viet Nam Section activities during the year 1971. Looking at the statistical figures of the Lodges and the strength

of membership, the Section, in my view, occupies a fine place in the Society.

During the year 1971, the main thought which occupied our minds, was one of preparation for the Centenary of the Theosophical Society. Most of the members try to live theosophically. They are encouraged by their leaders to tread the Path, and understand the supreme purpose of the Society. I hope that their fine work done with sincerity and enthusiasm in making Theosophy known to more and more people will make the Theosophical Society the most beautiful and helpful expression for humanity.

*Membership.*—The total strength of members in good standing on the roll

hall v  
The  
Lodge  
the co  
memb  
meetin  
lectur  
and  
stocke  
books  
for fre  
phy t  
Vietn  
The  
is the  
Lodge  
young  
day  
Some  
daily  
Franc

as at 30th September 1971 amounted to 947 as against 852 last year giving a net increase of 95. There were 7 deaths, no lapsings and no resignations.

*To increase membership.*—We all desire good workers, those who always stand for the Theosophical Society—in joy or in sadness. For that, we must have a great number of members, and we choose the best ones among them. We plan to encourage each member to bring to the Society during a year one person—a relative or friend. The member must set an example by his or her excellent conduct and comprehension of truths, as example is worth more than mere talk.

*Lodges.*—The Section has 15 Lodges.

The Kiem Ai Lodge continues to be the most important centre of Theosophical work in Viet Nam. It has public lectures, weekly study classes, members meetings and publishes a magazine *Anh Dao* for the T. S. The Lodge has a well furnished library containing many books. It has also a beautiful building with a lecture hall which is very much in demand.

The Dug Hanh (or Fine Conduct) Lodge is the next important Lodge in the country. This Lodge has only women members but men participate in its meetings. Its activities include public lectures on Theosophy, weekly meetings and discussions. It has also a well stocked library of Theosophical and other books. This Lodge has issued 9 booklets for free distribution on *The Key to Theosophy* by Mme. Blavatsky, translated into Vietnamese.

The Phung Su (Service) Lodge (which is the Youth Lodge) is the most active Lodge in Viet Nam with dedicated young members. There are weekly Sunday lectures, courses and discussion. Some members—young students—meet daily at the office of their leader, Mr. Francois Mylne, to read Theosophical

books or to work for the Lodge and for the Section by doing typewriting, duplicating by roneo, mailing, etc.

The Young Theosophists have issued for free distribution the following booklets (translated into Vietnamese): (1) *Practical Occultism* (H. P. Blavatsky), (2) *The Disciple* (H. P. Blavatsky), (3) *The Original Programme of the Theosophical Society* (H. P. Blavatsky), (4) *Occultism* (Annie Besant), (5) *The Maha-Chohan's Letter*, (6) *The Theosophical Movement and the Masters of the Wisdom* (C. Jinarajadasa), (7) *The Third Object of the Theosophical Society* (C. W. Leadbeater) and (8) *The Golden Stairs* by H. P. B. (Sydney A. Cook).

The Tu Bi Lodge (or Compassion Lodge), the Minh Triet Lodge and Saigon Lodge are also active. Their members gather for discussion meetings.

The Dinh Tuong Lodge and the Go Cong Lodge (in the provinces of those names) have courses and discussions every two weeks. The other Lodges, Chon Ly (at Hué); Kien Giang, An Giang (at Chau Doc); Bac Ai (at Tan Chau); Long Xuyen, Duoi Chon Thay (at Vinh Long); Vung Tau are also active.

In brief, every Lodge is working. *Service to Lodges.*—The Board sent every month the Theosophical courses on *The Higher Mental Body* (The Causal Body), *The Ancient Wisdom* and *The Secret Doctrine*, (translated into Vietnamese by Mrs. Nguyen Thi Hai or written by her) every month to the members of each Lodge. That encouraged the dormant Lodges to revive.

The work of reproducing leaflets in a new and attractive format was continued and has been done by the young members. The Youth Lodge (about 110 members) contributed actively to the work of the Section. The young members are enthusiastic and ready to serve.

*Headquarters activities.*—Every Saturday evening, members of two Lodges, Tu Bi and Saigon, met in the auditorium of the Headquarters to study theosophical courses.

Every Sunday morning from 8.30 to 9.30, members of Dung Hanh Lodge and Phung Su Lodge have meetings where they discuss various subjects. From 10.00 to 11.00, also in the same place, the members of the various Lodges come together to attend the public lecture or to study the courses on *The Secret Doctrine* or *The Higher Mental Body* conducted by Mr. Nguyen Thi Hai. Courses on *The Ancient Wisdom* are conducted by Miss Luu Thi Dau and Mr. Francois Mylne. From 11.00 to 12.00 o'clock, there is discussion.

*Headquarters Staff.*—In the office, I was assisted by Miss Luu Thi Dau, 1st Assistant General Secretary. She is a good worker. Besides the daily, weekly and monthly routine jobs, there is much variety of work in the many departments which makes the task interesting, if at times a little exacting.

*Publications.*—We continue to issue by roneo *Talks on At the Feet of the Master* in two volumes, translated from English into Vietnamese by Mrs. Nguyen Thi Hai. This book has been given by her to the Society.

We issued also 5,000 pamphlets *Short Explanations of Theosophy* by Mr. Nguyen Van Huan, for free distribution. The Lodges An Giang and Long Xuyen have published two small magazines for free distribution.

*Anniversaries.*—We celebrated the 17th of November, Wesak Ceremony, White Lotus Day and the birthday of Dr. Annie Besant.

*Convention.*—Our 19th Convention was held on April 1971 at our Headquarters with about 160 attending. Besides the usual business meetings, a symposium

was held on "Towards the Higher Mental". Delegates of all Lodges contributed. This gathering was a very inspiring one. The atmosphere was harmonious and brotherly. It is a channel, through which those inner forces of love and beauty and power and light must flow to aid in the healing of the world.

The Convention was closed by a fraternal tea-party at the Headquarters.

*Summer School.*—The Vietnamese Section Summer School was held at Pure Heart Centre (at the sea-side at Vung Tau) from 1st to 8th August 1971. There were about 100 participants.

Each day began with a guided meditation then a lecture and discussion. Our theme was "Personality and Ego". The meeting was a fraternal and inspiring one. I do hope that the Summer School will be the feature of every year in our Section.

*Theosophical Orphanage.*—We have a nice Orphanage with 50 children. It works well as it did before. We get a great deal of help from the Theosophical Order of Service in Australia and in the U.S.A. In September 1970, we received as donation from the T. S. in Australia a pretty microbus for our orphans. This car helped us very much. We express here our gratitude to this great Section.

*Travel.*—Our General Secretary Mrs. Nguyen Thi Hai was the Delegate of our Section at the Congress of the French Section which was held on the 8th August 1971. However she could not get the visa in time and arrived in France late. She has been in Holland (at Huizen) on 15th August, and saw John Coats, Georges and Rachel Tripet and many other great people. They all sent greetings to the Viet Nam Section and appreciated very much the true brotherhood existing among the members of our Section.

Ove  
to rec  
M  
Mr.  
es  
them  
into t  
The  
giving  
sugge  
chang  
have  
from  
of th  
work  
and p  
The  
—as  
tion t  
Lodge  
of  
matte  
Met-  
Du  
Euro  
1971)  
our  
We  
comr  
to m  
mon  
mem  
the  
work  
Be  
on t  
we  
22 %  
If w

*Overseas visitors.*—We were very happy to receive in April 1971 the visit of Mr. and Mrs. Geoffrey Hodson.

Mr. Hodson, an accomplished lecturer and teacher, attracted large audiences (about 400 persons), many of them young students. He guides them into the deeper aspects of Theosophy.

The visit of Mr. Hodson helped in giving impetus in this respect. I would suggest that national lecturers be exchanged from one Section to another. We have found, in our experience, that visitors from outside attract a larger audience of the general public than the local workers do, however talented, devoted and persuasive they may be.

*Thanks.*—I would like to express here—as in my last year—my deep appreciation to my fellow-workers throughout 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.

*Our Initiatives.*—(a) In my last tour in Europe (6th August to 30 September 1971), I have stated that everywhere, our Society suffers from lack of money. We could not raise the fees or make commerce in our Society. So we plan to make a 'Foundation' by borrowing money without interest, from the rich members or from sympathizers outside the Section who want to do charitable work.

Before the notary, we promise to repay on terms, over 10 years, this loan which we place in a bank at an interest of 22 % (the official interest in Viet Nam). If we could borrow 10 million Piastres

(U. S. \$ 1 is worth 275 VN \$), we shall have 220,000 Piastres of interest a month. With this sum, the Section could do everything. The Viet Nam Section is trying to realise this Foundation which will be called 'Brotherhood Foundation'. May the Masters help us!

(b) *Courses of training for the leaders.* Everywhere in the world, the members have some difficulties in choosing the leaders working for the Section.

On my return from Europe, I intended to form a course for training leaders.

This course is divided into two parts:

(1) Teaching how to manage the secretariat, how to do good work for our Theosophical Society, etc. . . (practical side).

(2) Teaching them to know the important side of Theosophy (like lecturing on *A Study in Consciousness* by Mme. Annie Besant, already translated into Vietnamese by Mrs. Nguyen Thi Hai).

We are trying to realize this course for the benefit of our Section. May the Masters help us.

*Conclusion.*—In spite of the war in our country, we try to be a channel for the Ancient Wisdom. With our inner conviction so deep and vital, our understanding of the Masters' message, our dedication to the Theosophical work, we are able to help the Inner Government of the world to lead humanity out of its suffering, caused by ignorance, into a new age of Truth, Brotherhood and spiritual unfoldment.

NGUYEN THI HAI,  
General Secretary.