

The Directive Council has now completed its second year out of its term of three years with some changes due to the needs of the work.

Meetings for study are encouraged and held regularly at our general Headquarters and in several Lodges. Last year we completed a course of study on *The Solar System* by A. E. Powell, and we are at present making a detailed study of *A Study in Consciousness* by Dr. Annie Besant. About thirty members take part in this weekly study course actively, the subject for discussion being distributed in advance to the members.

The monthly public lectures interest a fairly good audience, and several have become active members.

The bi-monthly review, *Tim Hieu Thong Thien Hoc* ("Seeking to Understand Theosophy"), the official organ of our Section, has reached its ninth year of publication. It furnishes to the members news taken

from "Theosophists at Work around the World" from THE THEOSOPHIST; and also presents to the public, as well as to our members, good Theosophical literature. This review is able to accomplish its mission, thanks to the material and financial help supplied by Mr. and Mrs. Nguyen van Huan. At present 2,000 copies are printed.

For some time past we have been organizing each month a meeting which we call "Life in Common," where members meet during the afternoon to talk, discuss some spiritual subject, meditate as a group, and partake of refreshments informally. These meetings consolidate the existing links between members.

In addition to the regular meetings we organize also meetings to commemorate Theosophical festivals, to keep alive in our hearts the ideals of Service.

An active social work is our Theosophical Orphanage. It is now taking care

of sixty little orphans or abandoned children. Their health is looked after by Dr. Ha Thuan Hung and Mme. Nguyen thi Vien; Mme. Le thi Xang is in charge of the administration; and Mr. Nguyen van Huan, assisted by some members of the Directive Council, is occupied with the financial side of the institution, a vital part of the work. The annual costs incurred on account of the Orphanage amounts to nearly 500,000 \$ VN, = Rs. 10,000/- So it seems a reasonable figure, but the budget is stabilized, thanks to the contributions and gifts of numerous benefactors (members and non-members).

In spite of the very critical situation in our country and the economic crisis which influences all our activities, new members continue to join our Section. The number of members who are active and earnest grows, and this is an encouragement to our work. With 54 new admissions during the year, and 32 outgoing through deaths, resignations and lapsings, there is an increase of 22 making a total of 658 active members in the Section.

For the greater part the Lodges maintain their activities as in former years. The majority of Lodges are grouped in Saigon; and among the others, Lodge "Kien-Ai" has shown itself particularly

active, with meetings and weekly talks organized in a popular district.

In spite of the good results already obtained, we feel that there still remain many things that could be done for the welfare and the progress of our Section.

The study of Theosophical teachings and their diffusion constitute our principal activity, for from these comes the light which rejoices the heart; they give us an understanding as to the causes of our heavy national karma.

As a parallel to this activity we have at present a system or program of mutual aid. It is a form of Mutual Security, where each who belongs to it contributes voluntarily something, so that it may come to the aid of some other member who is in difficulties or in sorrow. The organization has as its aim the fostering of the spirit of sympathy and fraternity which exists among the members.

The Section is progressing surely though slowly. We hold to the firm hope of a brilliant future in which Theosophy will reach all hearts and bring real peace, spiritual knowledge and universal love.

May the Wisdom and the Compassion of the Masters illuminate and sustain us in Their Work.

NGUYEN THI HAI,
General Secretary.

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