

VIET-NAM 1964

Directive Council.—In July 1964 a new Directive Council was elected for a term of three years, consisting of twelve members: General Secretary: Mme. Nguyen thi Hai; Asst. General Secretaries: Mr. Nguyen van Huan and Mr. Nguyen van Luong; National Secretary: Mr. Nguon-Har. The other members include two assistant secretaries, a Treasurer and two assistant treasurers, and four Council members.

Activities.—The Theosophical Society in Viet-Nam carries on its regular activities without hindrance and is generally esteemed. The changing situation in our country makes us concentrate our efforts on consolidating our ranks, offering to our members and to the public our Theosophy which is so useful and precious. There are three aspects to our programme: (1) the physical side: increasing brotherly activities between members and philanthropic work towards society; (2) the intellectual side: the propagation of Theosophy by books and through our magazine, as well as by lectures and talks on Theosophy; (3) the spiritual side: encouragement of the study and practice of spiritual living.

On Sunday mornings we organize at our Headquarters lectures on Theosophy

in general endeavoring to throw a clear light on the problems of daily life. The talks are concerned with occultism and its practical application. They are followed by discussions or question-and-answer sessions. Many members and sympathizers take part in these meetings.

In addition, during the past year we have had a weekly course on Dr. Annie Besant's *A Study in Consciousness*. Many members attended it, but unfortunately these evening meetings are temporarily suspended because of the curfew.

Great benefit was derived from the visit of Miss Helen Zahara, General Secretary of the Australian Section, who came to Saigon in February 1964, bringing with her a vivid feeling of brotherhood which united us to all the Theosophical Sections of the world. She gave two public lectures and met members at various Lodges in the capital. Her talks were greatly appreciated.

In June 1964 Mr. and Mrs. Geoffrey Hodson toured the Section for a month, giving a number of lectures in Saigon at the Headquarters and to some of the Lodges there. Mr. Hodson also lectured to a numerous and enthusiastic audience, and inspired many persons in search of the Light to live and work for Theosophy,

during this time when the country has to meet a heavy karma.

We also have happy memories of Miss Edith Gray, President of the Theosophical Book Gift Institute in America. She donated valuable Theosophical books to our library, and also visited our orphanage. We are always glad to receive visits of members passing through Saigon who bring us into touch with Theosophists throughout the world, giving a feeling of real unity with them.

In addition to the lectures and talks on Theosophy we publish our magazine *Tim Hieu Thong-Thien-Hoc* bi-monthly, which plays an equal part in the spread of Theosophy. With a circulation of 2,000 to 3,000 each month it is well received by the intellectual public and in religious circles.

In the field of brotherhood among members and towards the public we have organized a system of mutual help and relationship, and we maintain an orphanage which cares for sixty young children, towards which many members contribute money and gifts of milk, clothing and medicine. We have also organized an annual distribution of approximately \$20,000 to the poor, and made special collections for people who suffered from the recent floods in central Viet-Nam. At Dalat, a spiritual Theosophical centre is in course of being established, where ~~several houses will be built for Theosophical families around a proposed central meditation temple, while a large building will be reserved for visiting members.~~ The idea is to form a nucleus of Theosophical brotherhood which will radiate the benediction of the Masters. The Centre is named "Centre Spirituel Théosophique Djwal Kul". It will serve as

the headquarters of a Lodge which it is hoped to form at Dalat.

Membership.—We received during the year 98 new members, many of whom hope to become workers for the Society. There were two re-joinings. Losses amounted to 5 resignations, 4 deaths, 47 lapsings and one transferred to another Section. The present membership stands at 710.

Lodges.—Lodges in the capital are most favorably situated and have furnished the greater number of workers. Each follows its own line, concentrating on public lectures, study talks to members, or participation in social work as the case may be. All join in the meetings at Headquarters for the Annual Convention, celebration of Theosophical festivals, and so on. The Lodges in the provinces are not able to make much progress, though some of them are able to hold study classes for the members.

Conclusion.—In spite of the difficulties which oppress our country and the critical situation generally we are still able to carry on our usual activities, and we hope to undertake further useful work. In working for the Theosophical Society and for the well-being (material as well as spiritual) of the members we feel the inner inspiration of the Masters of the Wisdom. May these Holy Ones, in the work consecrated in Their names, continue to enlighten us with Their Wisdom and inspire us with Their Compassion. And may the light of Theosophy illumine us so that we are the better able to serve Them in the Society and in our own country.

NGUYEN THI HAI,
General Secretary.

New
ended th
Society:
Francisc
Activi
cipal Th
ber, 17
White
collectio

For th
Federati
hold its
was beca
conditio
though t
be one o
that arr
should b
Last y
a new C
Centre h
Lodge a
least sev
ration, t
Federati
sideratio

This
having a
Dr. Rag
of the U
a profess
Prof. Iye
on a le
to the U
Immedia
contacte
our Whi
however