

VIET-NAM 1967

The Executive Committee elected on 25th December 1966 for the term 1967-70 was constituted with Miss Luu-thi-Dau as General Secretary, Mr. Nguyen-van-Minh and Mr. Nguon Har as Vice-Presidents, Miss Le-Hong-Hanh as first Secretary and Mrs. Vu-thi-Dung as first Treasurer, and seven other members of the Committee.

Section Membership.—Because of the prolonged war, many members have been called for military service, and others have moved without communicating their new addresses. The number of members in Viet-Nam is now 685, including some who had ceased to pay their annual fees since 1962. We will try to mention it to them and to those who became inactive by our visits or by post. I have not received any letters of resignation but there are 20 lapsings. There were 3 deaths; 82 new members joined between 1st January and 30th September 1967.

Lodges.—The number is now 13, including one new Lodge. Four Lodges: Viet-Nam, Leadbeater, Nhon-Ai and Bac-Nha were dissolved, having been inactive for many years.

Theosophical diffusion.—Weekly public lectures are given at the Headquarters on Sunday mornings and at Kiem Ai Lodge on Sunday afternoons. There is great interest, our auditoriums being often crowded.

There are regular study courses with discussions at each Lodge at week ends.

Madame Nguyen-thi-Hai, our former General Secretary, continues to hold with the collaboration of Mr. F. Mylne, at her house a study course on *A Study in Consciousness* by A. Besant.

Some of our members have given lectures in Buddhist and Caodaist Temples.

Publications.—Kiem Ai Lodge has issued a quarterly Theosophical magazine *Anh*

Dao (The Light of the Way) which is distributed gratis to members. Long Xuyen, Angiang and Bac Ai Lodges also have published Theosophical magazines and booklets to distribute to people in the country.

This year we have two new books for sale: one *The Masters and the Path* translated by Mr. Nguyen-huu-Kiet, and the other written by Mr. Nguyen-van-Luong entitled, *The Way of Liberation*. Both are having a great success, particularly the latter.

Two other books: *Cung ai bi khoc (To those who Mourn)* and *Dao ly thuc hanh (Theosophy in Daily Life)* are in the press. Books sales have increased.

In order to re-start our library, I have written to several Sections asking for donations of spare Theosophical books in English and French. I have received some answers. I hope that others will answer our appeal too.

Theosophical Order of Service and other activities.—This year, the Theosophical Orphanage has about 60 children from new-born to 4 and 5 years old. Thanks to the devotion to duty of Mrs. Nguyen-thi-Vien, who is both Director and Manager, our orphans grow nicely in a normal way. Our Theosophical members and visitors bring them almost every day their love and their caresses. There were 15 children adopted by Vietnamese and foreign families mostly American. Our orphanage has been aided by many people, of several religious, civilian and military welfare groups; the Executive Committee is not faced with the question of finance but they often lack domestic staff to take care of the house and the children.

A group of Theosophical members of the Kiem Ai Lodge have founded on the hill at Vung Tau about 80 miles from the capital, a Centre called "Pure Heart

Centre". Facing the China sea, this Centre constitutes a peaceful place for the Society's members who want to take a rest or a spiritual retreat as at the Dalat Centre.

The Summer School was held at the "Pure Heart Centre" from 18th to 24th June 1967 with 80 participants. The topic for study was "Love". There was meditation three times a day, and lectures and discussion in the morning, and entertainments in the evening such as lantern slides, bonfire, music, recital of poems, etc.

During the Summer School we visited the older Theosophical members in the province. A bodhi tree was planted in front of the statue of the Buddha. The Young Theosophists helped to lay out a path through the forest for the erection close to a brook, of a statue of the Mother of the World.

The small school at the Centre receives free of charge about 20 children from the village.

Every Sunday afternoon, the Young Theosophists meet at the Kiem Ai Lodge. They are getting ready to start the Order of the Round Table, and will organize the first ritual service at the approach of Christmas. They also study music and dance.

In the last dry season, the lady members of Dung Hanh Lodge collected a fund to help the victims of fire. They begin now their visits to members in the Capital.

As in the previous years, we organized our Convention on April 30th, 1967, when delegates of seven Lodges took part in the discussion on the topic: "What is real happiness?" White Lotus Day was cele-

brated on May 7th, the ceremony of Wesak on the evening of May 23rd and Dr. Besant's birthday on October 1st.

Our projects.—We plan to make visits to the remoter Lodges in the dry season. Our project to visit Vinh Long last month was cancelled owing to the damaged routes.

We wish to found near our Headquarters a free kindergarten for poor children, then in the future some schools like Olcott School in Adyar.

It is to be considered desirable that only one outstanding Theosophical magazine belonging to the Section should be published for the whole country.

Theosophy on the Air.—We plan to give radio talks on *The Ancient Wisdom* by A. Besant, 15 minutes a week.

I think that Theosophical pamphlets will help many people, above all the beginners to know and understand Theosophy easily. Maybe next year we shall have them in our book shop.

Conclusion.—In spite of the critical situation in our country, we strive to do our best to spread Theosophy by our activity and life. If each member understands Theosophy as a light on his way, works for the Society as for his own family, loves the others as his own brothers, I think it would make a great change in him and be a real happiness for the nation. This vow is extremely difficult to realize in the present disturbed times, but we are trusting to the future and have implicit confidence in our work.

LUU-THI-DAU,
General Secretary.

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