
VIET-NAM 1969

Membership.—Between 1st October 1968 and 30th September 1969 there were 66 new admissions. Against this there was 1 resignation, 21 lapsings and 5 deaths. The number of members in Viet-Nam is now 784, an increase of 39.

The number of Lodges is 14. One new Lodge is soon to be founded in Dinh-Tuong.

Theosophical Activities.—Every Sunday morning from 9 to 11, members of three Lodges meet in the auditorium of the Headquarters to study *The Key to Theosophy*, *The Secret Doctrine*, and the Universe and Man. Saigon Lodge studies *The Power of Thought* at Headquarters on Saturday afternoons. Kiem Ai Lodge continues to give public lectures every Sunday afternoon and conducts a study

course on Saturday evenings. They have completed their study of *Gods in Exile* and *Meditation for Beginners*. Regular courses on Theosophy with discussions have been held at the other Lodges at week-ends.

Publications.—We continue to issue for free distribution to members a twice-monthly Theosophical *Bulletin*; and *Anh Dao (The Light of the Way)*, a monthly magazine. This year the Bac Ai Lodge printed by hand two booklets for free distribution in country areas. These booklets, entitled *Practical Theosophy*, Parts I and II, are very useful to people in the villages, helping them to combat superstitions by explaining the real meaning of ceremonies and traditional customs.

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This year we published two translated books, *The Voice of the Silence* and *Meditation for Beginners*. We plan to publish two others: *Theosophy in Lessons* and *Theosophy for Beginners*. People of other religions are beginning to take a great interest in our teachings.

We had our Annual Convention on December 25, 1968 at our Headquarters with many members from the Capital and delegates from the Lodges in the provinces.

The Anniversary of our Section was held on April 6, 1969 with prayers for peace to our country, and a symposium on the topic: "What Theosophical teachings have helped us in this present time?" treated by the delegates of some Lodges.

On C. Jinarājadāsa's Commemorative Day, June 18th, we had a visit from the Venerable Jinarakkhita from Indonesia. He was a delegate of The Buddhist World serving Humanity. In the name of the Society in Indonesia, he offered to our Section a picture of a Buddha painted on silk. We all spent a happy time although very short.

Our Summer School was held as usual at Pure Heart Centre facing the China sea, from July 27th to August 3rd, 1969. There were 80 participants. First they attended a flower ceremony of the Round Table and later a big bonfire in the evening. Each day began with a joint meditation, then lectures on Bhakti, Karma, Jnana and Raja Yoga. After each lecture, there were group discussions, bringing together the ideas and application in a general meeting in the afternoon.

This year, after the Summer School we organized at the Headquarters a week's study course about Evolution and Theo-

sophical work in the Lodges. This first course was appreciated very much by young people.

Three members of our committee attended the 1969 Australian Annual Convention at Clarendon. They were very enthusiastic, and have learned many things from this great Section. It was also for them an opportunity to make a link with members abroad.

Other Activities.—Before leaving Viet-Nam for France, Mr. Nguyen-van-Luong donated a part of his land on which are built our Headquarters and The Theosophical Orphanage.

Our Orphanage works well as before. Now we find easily the maids to take care of the orphans. We have received much help from the Theosophical Order of Service in Australia and U. S. A. The big problem for us now is how to help Vietnamese youth in the right way since they will constitute the future of our country.

Conclusion.—In my opinion, I think that the cause of all disputes, quarrels and wars is the lack of understanding between people, who feel that they are different from others in everything. We cannot realize that all are One, that God or Natural Goodness is within each person, the Reality which is the Purest Light shining in every creature.

Briefly, in our Section, we need more mutual understanding, tolerance and a solid and frank co-operation between old and new members, above all between aged and young members. Each of us must put aside his self and think more of our beloved Society as well as of our unfortunate country.

LUU-THI-DAU,
General Secretary.