

THE PRESIDENTIAL ADDRESS

BRETHREN :

With the deepest pleasure do I welcome you to the Forty-fifth Anniversary of the Theosophical Society, and once again to Adyar, its Central Home, the Centre consecrated by the lives and the work of H. P. Blavatsky, the lion-hearted Messenger of the White Lodge, and of H. S. Olcott, her devoted colleague, the President-Founder of our beloved Society. Since we last met here in 1914, the world has passed through the terrible War which she predicted, and it is still reeling under the effect of the blows rained upon it during those five and a quarter years of deadly struggle between the Forces which embody the Future and the Forces which embody the Past now outworn, the Lords of the Light and of the Shadow, the Sons of Love and of Hate. Still are we within the surge of the world-wide storm, still are we tossed on the waves of unrest and of danger. But beyond the clouds we see the STAR, shining with purest lustre in the untroubled waveless azure of illimitable Space. Through the moaning of the wounded world and the cries of anger and of hatred, we strain our ears to listen to the footfalls descending from Himalayan heights, and to the clear voice which presently shall send out its music, breathing the soft irresistible command to the raging billows : " Peace, be still," knowing that they will obey and kiss His Feet, as they sink down into calm.

Once more we repeat our yearly invocation to Those who are our Guides amid the darkness, Those whom we know and love : May Those who are the embodiment of Love Immortal bless with Their protection the Society established to do Their Will on Earth ; may They ever guard

it by Their Power, inspire it by Their Wisdom, and energise it by Their Activity.

THE GENERAL WORK OF THE SOCIETY

Three of the whilom enemy countries that we could not receive Reports from last year—Germany, Austria, and Bulgaria—are again inscribed as active, but the fourth, Hungary, is still too shattered to take its place in work. Iceland has just separated itself from Denmark, in consequence of the difficulties and delays in communications between them. So we number thirty-one National Societies.

I must put in a word of protest against the unauthorised use of the title of "National President," attached to the names of visiting members to National Societies other than their own. The T.S. in the United States has steadily urged the use of this title, but it has not been authorised by the General Council, though put before it several times. I raise no objection to officers in a National Society calling themselves anything which the laws of their country may demand as a condition of local incorporation, or which they may prefer. But the title should not be used outside their own country, as the Constitution of the Theosophical Society recognises only one President, and the Constitution can only be changed by the vote of the General Council. That has declined to change its nomenclature. As I have received it, I am bound to hand it on.

Fifty new Lodges have been formed during the year.

REVISED LIST OF CHARTERS ISSUED TO THE CLOSE OF 1920

1878	1	1893	344	1908	1,032
1879	2	1894	382	1909	1,125
1880	11	1895	401	1910	1,223
1881	19	1896	425	1911	1,329
1882	42	1897	487	1912	1,405
1883	88	1898	526	1913	1,483
1884	99	1899	558	1914	1,547
1885	117	1900	595	1915	1,578
1886	128	1901	647	1916	1,622
1887	156	1902	704	1917	1,677
1888	169	1903	750	1918	1,714
1889	199	1904	800	1919	1,784
1890	234	1905	860	1920	1,862
1891	271	1906	900		
1892	298	1907	958		

BRANCHES AND MEMBERS

National Societies	No. of Lodges	Active Members	New Members during the year	Remarks
T.S. in America ...	189	6,964	1,859	
" England and Wales ...	125	4,649	755	
" India ...	452	7,051	960	
" Australasia ...	22	1,902	312	
" Sweden ...	27	796	167	
" New Zealand ...	24	1,374	171	
" The Netherlands ...	32	2,049	282	
" France ...	51	2,144	495	
" Italy ...	23	392	66	
" Germany	2 reports, both claiming name
" Cuba ...	32	678	117	
" Finland ...	27	392	...	No report
" Russia	Closed by Bolshe- vists
" South Africa ...	14	380	...	Number of new members omitted
" Scotland ...	21	724	106	
" Switzerland ...	13	249	...	
" Belgium ...	10	228	38	
" Java ...	17	1,063	...	No report, but list of members re- ceived
" Burma ...	10	192	29	
" Austria ...	13	311	241	
" Norway ...	13	346	36	
" Egypt ...	8	77	18	
" Denmark and Iceland ...	14	481	107	
" Ireland ...	7	110	20	
" Mexico ...	14	312	105	
" Canada ...	20	852	170	No report
" Argentine Republic ...	15	338	98	
" Chile ...	10	142	...	
" Brazil ...	12	1,324	...	
" Bulgaria ...	7	144	114	
Non-Sectionalised ...	22	686	111	
Grand Total ...	1,244	36,350	6,377	

The countries vary in the date of closing their year, so the figures are not quite up to date, but the matter is not important, as each states its own year's progress.

America once more records the largest number of new members, 1,859. India again comes next with 960—103 less than last year, and England and Wales third, with 755. Australasia has a record year, with 312 as against last year's 167, but we must remember that she

alone has had the blessing of the presence of my Brother, C. W. Leadbeater. France has 495 instead of last year's 337, which we noted as remarkable last year; there is evidently an increasing interest there in the teachings of the Wisdom.

We now turn, as usual, to the general work of the National Societies.

It is a matter for the deepest regret that in America, our oldest Section, the trouble mentioned last year has increased, and a most regrettable contest, carried on with exceeding bitterness on both sides, threatens the life of the Section. Earnest and good men and women are enrolled on both sides, men and women whose long years of faithful work deserve respect and gratitude from us all. The Report sent is a mere list of statistics, and we miss the usual interesting account always sent to us from Mr. A. P. Warrington, who is away from the States on a visit to Bishop Leadbeater in Sydney, enjoying a well-earned rest from his heavy and continuous work. He is succeeded by Mr. L. W. Rogers, General Secretary, a well-known worker in the States.

The T.S. in England and Wales sends by the hands of its excellent General Secretary a long and interesting Report. It tells us of the starting of a new National monthly publication in place of the *Vahan*. The Society has received a very cruel blow from the Government in the practical confiscation of its beautiful Headquarters in Tavistock Square, on which over £100,000 had been expended. It was taken by the War Office during the War, and we willingly gave way to the National need, and lived in restricted quarters at great inconvenience without complaint; at the end of the War, we naturally expected its return, but the War Office took advantage of our having a very long lease, the conditions of which as to finishing the building could not be fulfilled in consequence of its above seizure, and, refusing to give any date at which it would surrender the property, forced on us its sale to itself for less than one-third of the actual cash expenditure on it, to say nothing of the value of the lease. The Government treated us as its predecessors treated the Jews in the Middle Ages, compelling a forced gift to it of a fine lease and over £60,000 in cash. Such was the reward to the Society for its loyalty and sacrifice during the War. I shall see if any redress is possible when I reach England in May next. Meanwhile we have had to take a house in Bedford Square, and endure the crippling loss inflicted on us in this high-handed way with such philosophy as we

may. The Report mentions the Lambeth Conference, before a Committee of which the T. S. was represented by the General Secretary, the Rev. Messrs. F. W. Pigott and Scott-Moncrieff and Miss Charlotte Woods, who put before them the position of the T.S. in relation to Christianity, and were listened to with great courtesy. We owe thanks to the Conference for its fairness and impartiality. Another interesting and notable circumstance was the invitation to the General Secretary to take part in establishing "a League of Religions, to support the League of Nations in its aim of securing Universal Peace". The T.S. is itself really such a League, but it is natural that a new one should be founded. We must rejoice over the ever-increasing recognition of the high truth of Universal Brotherhood, on the fact of which our Society is founded, and the recognition of which is the condition of our membership. The work of the National Society is spreading out in all directions. It is very active in the distribution of free literature, and has this year issued a series of ten little books on the chief Theosophical teachings, priced at 1d. each, of which 20,000 were sold in the first three months. The Report closes on a note of high endeavour and hope, fully justified by the facts recorded, and we may cordially congratulate the General Secretary and all the faithful workers, as well as the National Society as a whole.

Our Indian Report opens with a note on the unrest and excitement, the rage and indignation of the year, and the consequent difficulties surrounding the work of a Society pledged to the principle of Universal Brotherhood, transcending race, caste, and creed. Our earlier work was to claim equality in status for Indian with European; now we have to remind Indians that Europeans are our brothers, and to strive, as did our ancestors on Kurukṣhetra, to fight for justice and liberty, without hatred against those who deny them. A marked feature of our internal work has been the establishment of a Northern Federation with its centre at Benares, like the Southern Federation due to the initiative of my dear colleague B. P. Wadia, with its centre at Adyar. Within the subdivisions of these, local conferences are held, to the great benefit of all. Bro. T. Ramachandra Rao is our most helpful organiser here, and we owe much to his inspiring work. The Summer School held in Adyar and elsewhere was copied and improved in Benares this year, Messrs. B. Sanjiva Rao and Fritz Kunz and Miss de Leeuw—much aided by our members on the staff of the Hindū University, who supplied help in

apparatus and instruction—being the chief workers, and Messrs. P. K. Telang and Bhagavan Das being also very helpful. Greatly increased efficiency is hoped for as a result of the much improved organisation. The spirit in the Section is admirable, full of warmth and enthusiasm; and we have reason to be grateful to Rai Bahadur Purnendu Narayana Sinha, whose strong brain guides the work, and whose big heart has room for all of us.

The Australasian Report shows much steady work and progress, much lecturing work having been done by the General Secretary, Mr. Chappel, Mr. and Mrs. Van Gelder and others. A Publicity Bureau has been established under Mr. Van Gelder's direction and Theosophical Circulating Libraries have been formed by some branches. The Section Magazine is a remarkably good one, much helped by Bishop Leadbeater. Bro. C. Jinarājadāsa presided "splendidly" at the Annual Convention, and he and his wife concluded their tour, during which so much light has been spread and inspiration given.

Sweden reports very active propaganda work, and much increased activity.

New Zealand speaks warmly of Mr. and Mrs. Jinarājadāsa in their long tour, as sources of inspiration and help to all who came into contact with them. The National Lecturer, Miss Christie, whose invaluable work has done much in building up the Section, has gone to England for a change, and Mr. Harry Banks, an old member and returned soldier, has taken her place. He shows the soldierly qualities of invariable cheerfulness and devotion. Many subsidiary activities are mentioned, which shall be noted in their place.

The Netherlands report "specially active" propaganda and many visitors, notable among whom were Bishop Wedgwood and Dr. Rabindranath Tagore, the latter coming as the guest of the Society and the Free Congregation, which together organised a fine series of lectures.

France is doing very well, and among its new Lodges is one as far afield as Tonkin. The first Lodge in Portugal is temporarily placed under the fostering care of France, but I hope that an Iberian National Society will be formed for Spain and Portugal. The World-Congress, put off this year, in consequence of my inability to leave India, will take place next year in Paris, on July 23rd, and France hopes that every National Society in the world will send at least one delegate. Bros. C. Jinarājadāsa and B. P. Wadia visited Paris this year

to the warm pleasure of our ever genial and hospitable French brethren. I would add my plea to that of my dear colleague Charles Blech, urging that all National Societies will make our first World-Congress a grand success.

Italy reports little activity, in consequence of her terrible War and post-peace troubles, but we have full confidence in her future, in view of the deep devotion of many of her members. We send her loving sympathy.

Germany is in a very confused state, with rival divisions and secretaries. She has passed through such grievous troubles and is still so full of unrest, that the reconstruction of her National Society is beset with difficulties. I hope to be able to help her when in Europe.

Cuba is always devoted and energetic. It has virtually built the Mexican National Society, and speaks most hopefully of its future, to which it contributed nine of the Lodges previously belonging to it, but it has 32 left. I feel the necessity of good maps in these days and a better knowledge of geography than I possess, and shall promptly acquire it, both as regards southern North America and the new States in Europe. I send a special word of greeting to Bro. Rafael de Albear, for his most unselfish labours and his staunch loyalty to Theosophy.

In Finland Mr. Pekka Ervast wished the Society to be divided into two autonomous Sections, one for occult research, of which he would be the head, and one for political and social activity. This was impossible, but I wrote to him that he was perfectly free to form a body within the National Society for his line of study, the National Society itself remaining, and T.S. communications coming through its officers; the members who were not willing to accept him as teacher, did not wish to be classified as doing only political and social work, and they could not be compelled to take a label. This has not satisfied him, but he has finally formed a "Rose-Cross Finnish Occult Research Society," open to members of the T.S. and to others. This is, of course, an independent body, to which I wish all success if it does useful work, but I cannot recognise any "Occult Division of the T.S. in Finland". That is outside my jurisdiction as President of the T.S., and I am in no way connected with it. Mr. Pekka Ervast is a man of learning, and has done great service to the T.S.

Our Russian brothers live in grievous surroundings, and the Society was closed by the Bolsheviki in December, 1919; it was offered liberty

if it would spread among the populace the teaching that not only was there no God, but that religion was the primary cause of ignorance and injustice and therefore the maker of revolution and wretchedness. Our noble Anna Kamensky boldly refused, after being subjected to long interrogation and insult. She escaped with her life, but remains in great danger, with some other well-known Theosophists, and we have no further news. The above does not come from them, but from a person who was in Russia at the time. Communication with the outer world is forbidden by the Tyranny, and we have heard nothing since October last. When I bade her farewell in London, when she took up the work of the T.S. under the Tsar's *régime*, I said to her in the words of the Christ: "Behold, I send you forth as sheep in the midst of wolves," but the far worse wolves of Bolshevism were then undreamt of. May the Masters' Peace be with Their faithful ones; all is well with them, for, living here or there, they live with Them.

In South Africa, the T.S. held its Annual Session for 1920 at Christmas, 1919, in order to hold it in Cape Town, when there were longer holidays. Nothing notable happened during the year, but steady work has gone on.

Scotland and Switzerland are late with their Reports.

Belgium is recovering and is working quietly.

Java has sent no Report; we only have the numbers of Lodges and members in a list sent in connection with the Presidential election in 1921.

Burma reports some propaganda, but much indifference. It has circulated some literature, and has interested a number of Burmese monks, who take part in the meetings. Dr. T. M. Manikam Pillai continues his useful work, but is now on leave in consequence of bad health; the passing away of a faithful brother, C. G. S. Pillay, is a great loss to the Society. Tilanka, the Secretary of the Bhikkus' Branch, has also passed over, and also another devoted member, Maung Thin.

The Report from Austria is touching in its simplicity and affection. One feels the suffering through which the country is passing, and the strength reaching it through the T.S.

Norway has sent no Report.

Egypt struggles on bravely with its cosmopolitan membership and its many languages—Arabic, Italian, Greek, Turkish, Armenian, French, English—a veritable Tower of Babel. It needs a publishing office, a library, and lecturers, to carry on propaganda.

Denmark is showing a much increased interest in Theosophy, and has now a Publishing House of its own. Iceland also is doing well, but is starting its own National Society for administrative reasons. It has eight Lodges, so is ready to do so, but Denmark will need to form another, as there are only 14 altogether.

The young T.S. in Ireland is almost paralysed by the political condition of the country, but Theosophy has a future in the Island of Saints.

Mexico sends in its first Report, cheery and hopeful. It has three magazines—one in Yucatan—and is carrying on an active propaganda.

Canada has sent no Report.

Argentine Report has come late, as has that of Chile.

Brazil has shaped itself successfully and promises well from its first Report. It is active in educational as well as in T.S. propaganda work.

Bulgaria also sends in its first Report, and gives a brief and interesting sketch of Theosophy in Bulgaria. It was first spoken of in the year 1900, when a group was formed in Sofia. Lecturing and publication began in 1904, and the first Lodge was established in 1907; work went on until 1912, when it was checked by the Balkan War. Little was done from 1912 to 1919, the principal workers being away in the War, but after peace was made, the movement rushed ahead, Lodges were formed and a National Society appeared, vigorous and vocal. It has 144 active members in seven Lodges. We warmly congratulate our good brother, Sophrony Nickoff, to whose steady and quiet work for twenty years this blossoming out is due, under the Master's blessing.

UNSECTIONALISED

Spain. The Presidential Agent for Spain, the noble Señor Don José Xifré, the devoted friend of H. P. B., passed away last September. May Peace follow him; we miss him sorely. Major Julio Garrido sends an interesting Report, showing ten Lodges working actively. They will probably soon be formed into a Section.

South America was our chief unsectionalised division, but there are now National Societies in the Argentine Republic, including Uruguay and Paraguay, Chile, and Brazil. We have no detailed Report of the remaining countries, but the following reaches us from Mr. Cousins;

there Dr. F. Vallas Vargas told us last year of two Lodges, one in Bolivia, and one in Peru, that were not working :

Bolivia. "Information has been received that a Theosophical movement has sprung up recently in Bolivia. The recently retired Bolivian Ambassador to Japan has intimated his intention of joining the T.S. and linking up the new movement with India." We shall be glad to hear further.

(A Report has reached us and will appear with other late ones.)

Danske-Landsloge. This independent Danish Lodge continues its regular work.

THE T.S. IN THE WILDERNESS

I have classified as "the T.S. in the Wilderness" some stray Lodges which, if they were Bishops, would be less politely described as in *partibus infidelium*.

The Nairobi Lodge. This Lodge works on faithfully amid the difficulties which surround all Indian work in the British Colonies. It records visits from Lieut.-Colonel Peacocke, Mr. van der Leeuw, and Mr. C. F. Andrews. Mr. Merry, from England, has come to stay.

The Barbadoes Lodge. The Centre in Barbadoes has become a Lodge, thanks to the efforts of Mr. Edward Drayton, who was elected as its first President. Lectures are given; a Study Class has been formed, and a Lending Library started.

The Isis Lodge (Portugal). This Lodge in Lisbon is, as above said, related to France, with the permission of the President.

The Polish Lodge. This also, for satisfactory reasons, is attached to France.

Turkey. There are seven Russian refugees, Theosophists, in Constantinople, and also one belonging to an American Lodge, who wish to organise into a Branch. They cannot hold public meetings without permission from the local Government authorities, but this can be obtained if they are chartered as a Lodge. The Lodge will be attached to Egypt, as the Egyptian General Secretary, Signor Veronesi, is willing to include it in the Egyptian Section.

SUBSIDIARY ACTIVITIES

Education, as usual, bulks very largely among these activities, and the T.S. Order of Service has taken on a new lease of life, thanks to the

energy of its British Secretary, Mr. Arthur Burgess. The Order of the Star in the East makes the most marked advance in India, thanks to its most hard-working Secretary, Miss Annie Bell. Let us look at them in turn.

The Theosophical Educational Trust (Great Britain and Ireland) sends a long and interesting Report. It is fortunate in receiving large financial support in England, and can thus go on its way, useful and free from anxiety as to means. It has seven well-equipped and flourishing schools, of which details are given. The Netherlands have instituted a National Trust as part of the International Theosophical Fraternity in Education, and have started a very small school as a beginning, with the hope that it will grow. Belgium, France, India, Mexico and Sweden have branches of this; Australia has a "Fraternity of Education," but we cannot claim it, as it has omitted the word "Theosophical".

The Olcott Pañchama Free Schools in Madras have lost the valuable services of Miss Kofel, who is retiring from work, on account of failing health. A loving farewell was paid her at Adyar, and needless to say she is very much missed, for she poured her whole heart and life into her work and was the friend of every teacher and child. The new Superintendent, Miss Orr, took over charge from her, and promises to be a worthy successor. I am glad to say that the Schools have received more financial help this year than is usual, but it comes from abroad.

The Musæus Buddhist Girls' College, Colombo, grows satisfactorily, but Mrs. Higgins sorely needs an English Theosophical graduate, who can succeed to her place, as her long years of regular work should now cease, and allow her to retire into well-earned rest.

The Society for the Promotion of National Education, which grew out of the Theosophical Educational Trust, issues its own Report, and is not one of our "activities," though largely worked by Fellows of the Theosophical Society.

Among young peoples' movements the "Round Table," the "Golden Chain," and the "Citizens of To-morrow" are among our offshoots, but—except of one in Chile—we have no Reports of them.

The Order of the Star in the East is markedly flourishing in India as mentioned above, but I have no Report in time for this Address. I make a special appeal for its organ, *The Herald of the Star in the East*, in which the Head of the Order is now taking

an active interest, and is sharing with the Editor, Mr. Wodehouse, the responsibility for the Editorial Notes. Brazil and Chile report progress briefly.

A very interesting Report comes from the T.S. Order of Service in England and Wales; the Anti-Vivisection League has been meeting regularly for study, and has given some lectures. The Braille and Servers of the Blind League does steady, unostentatious and most admirable work, of which details will be found in the Report. The League of Healing is very active. A "Brotherhood of Nations League" has been started, to "support actively in principle the League of Nations Covenant".

The Order of the Brothers of Service is one of the most valuable of our activities. It admits to its highest grade of Brother those only who are both intellectual and devoted, and have some specialised ability to offer for work in the world. One of its Brethren is Principal of a large College in Allahabad; another, a woman graduate, is Principal of the S.P.N.E. Girls' College in Benares. A group of young Indians, with Oxford and Cambridge degrees, are working in the S.P.N.E. University in Madras. Another, who stood first in mathematics at Allahabad University, is head of the University School. Another is Principal of a large Girls' School in Poona. Two more are just appointed Principals of Girls' Schools in the Madras Presidency. Another is the life of the Scout Movement in Southern India, though I fear we have to spare him to take up Mr. Woodward's work in Ceylon. Everywhere they are spreading the high ideals of "Education as Service".

HEADQUARTERS

The work in Headquarters has gone on increasing. We are recovering from the effects of the War, which almost destroyed our publishing business by the lessened demand for the "luxury" of books, and by the extraordinary fluctuations of exchange. We had to remit the whole of the debt due from our London Branch, some Rs. 40,000, as it had suffered like ourselves from loss of business and the depreciation of the English pound sterling. We suffered also from the bad management of our American Branch, which instead of paying us for the books sent out, calmly used our money for printing American editions of our books to our serious detriment. Happily Mr. B. P. Wadia

—to whom the whole success of our Publishing House is due—was in America, and he placed a more responsible Manager in charge, who is guiding the business satisfactorily. Mr. Wadia's effective management was much missed here, during his unexpectedly long absence "in foreign parts," and that absence was taken advantage of by two responsible persons, who were discovered by Mr. Schwarz in the dishonest manipulation of balances, and who vanished from the scene promptly on the discovery. As Mr. Wadia is again likely to be away in Europe for a considerable part of the coming year, and as I also have to be in Europe for some months, he has advised, and I have agreed to, the establishment of a small Board of Directors for the Publishing House, of which we are both members, so that the business may be effectively looked after in our absences. The Board has appointed Mr. Fritz Kunz as Managing Director, and we have the valuable services of Mr. Rajarama, who has been the very successful Secretary of the Kumbakonam Municipality for twenty-seven years, having thus a thoroughly sound knowledge of office management. Mr. W. D. S. Brown remains as Assistant Editor of *The Theosophist*, work he has long been discharging most efficiently; Mrs. Charles Kerr, who has carried on similar duties to *The Adyar Bulletin*, also with great efficiency, is obliged to go to England on the imperative orders of her doctor, and therefore has regretfully relinquished her work into the capable hands of Miss de Leeuw. We shall miss Mrs. Kerr much at Headquarters, as she has been a great helper in many ways, especially in our Masonic work. Mrs. Gagarin, Mrs. Adair, are old and faithful workers in the T.P.H. Mr. and Mrs. Barker have helped much during the year.

My old helpers, Rao Sahab G. Subbiah Chetty, B. Ranga Reddy, A. K. Sitarama Shastri and J. Srinivasa Rao remain as ever. Mr. A. Schwarz is a tower of strength in all financial matters, and keeps our T.S. accounts straight. Several of my best workers, Miss Arundale, Mr. Arundale, Mr. Yadunandan Prasad, Mr. Rama Rao, Mr. Trilokekar, Miss Herington, Mr. Huidekoper, all live here, but are swallowed up by the Society for the Promotion of National Education, as are Mr. and Mrs. Wood and Mr. and Mrs. Cousins away from here. Mr. P. K. Telang works in the Hindū University and the Benares S.P.N.E. High School for boys, and Pandit Iqbal Narayana Gurtu does the same. Our old friend, Miss Palmer, has come back home from America and works in the Benares Girls' School, and Miss Veale in the College. All of these

are away from Headquarters, but seem part of it, as they live in its atmosphere. Mr. Dwarkanath 'Telang is here, bearing the burden of *New India* management, while Mr. Shiva Rao helps effectively on the literary side, as does Mr. Natesan. Mr. V. R. Karundikar and his wife work hard among the poor. Miss van Motman looks after Leadbeater Chambers, and Mr. Ross is our artist, and is a great help.

The Library had 2,263 visitors during the year; 995 books and 22 MSS. were lent to approved students. The Director has edited twenty-four *Minor Upanishads*, classed under Samanṭa Vedānta.

CONCLUSION

Brethren, in your hands is placed the greatest of all trusts, the helping forward of the spiritual life of the world. For Those who rule and teach the world have sent the Society out into it, and pour out Their Life through it, far and wide, for the uplift of mankind. Many Masters help various Societies, for everywhere They seek channels for the outpouring of Their Life on the world. But into this Society of the DIVINE WISDOM, Their special Messenger, the Herald of the coming Teacher, the whole Hierarchy sends forth the stream of Their abounding Love and Strength, in order that the whole world may receive Their benediction. In the Āshrama of the two Masters who founded the Society is a map of the world, a map with living motion, whereon are traced in lines of glowing colours the great religions of the world, like rivers beginning at a source and with many branches and streams and rivulets irrigating with spiritual life the countries of the world. And our Theosophical Society is there, a line of living light, white light, since it is the custodian of the Ancient Wisdom, which sends its currents into every Faith; and every Lodge is a little flame, like an electric spark, and glows or becomes dim as it lets its light shine forth or grow feeble. And there They who sent out the life-current, glance at its streamings, and see how each little centre is shedding its light on the world, or is letting it grow dull and faint. Such is your trust, your privilege and your responsibility. The Eyes that never sleep are watching over the world in this hour of its travail. They see the helpers and the sluggards, the workers and the idlers. See to it, each of you, gathered here in the heart of the Society, that you do not prove unworthy of your charge, unfit for your trust. Go out into the world, and spread the Light.
