



## *The Fifty-fourth Anniversary of the T. S.*

*Adyar, Dec. 24th, 1929*

### **Dr. Besant's Presidential Address**

Brethren:

Again I have the happiness of welcoming you here to the Fifty-fourth Anniversary of the Theosophical Society, and as ever, I ask you, those of you who believe in the Masters, to join me in the annual invocation to Those whom we believe to be our Guides, leading us from the unreal to the Real, from darkness to Light, from death to Immortality:

"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 with Their Wisdom, and energize it with Their Activity."

During the last year He whom many of us regard as the vehicle of the World-Teacher, has been working in the outer world, carrying far and wide His Message of Freedom to all who are in bondage of any kind. He has dissolved His Order of the Star, since He looked on it as an attempt to organize spirituality,

which cannot be organized. But He has sanctioned the formation of five Trusts, to carry out the physical plane work connected with the physical side of His labors. Personally I acknowledge Him as the vehicle of the World-Teacher in our world, but I cannot, of course, in any way bind the Society, which has no creed, leaving absolute Freedom to every member to belong to any religion or to none, each member being responsible to himself alone for his beliefs and his unbeliefs, creating his own future by his present, as he has created that present by his past. Man, as says the Upanishat, is the creature of thought; as he thinks, so he becomes. Therefore let him think upon Brahman, the Self.

There are two main dangers, we may think, in the way of the Theosophical Society, each of which we must avoid. The danger of orthodoxy, which would be its death by fossilization; we must oppose any tendency—world-wide, racial, na-

tional, local, the last in our Lodges—of identifying the Society with any religious, economic, political, or social beliefs.

We must avoid tearing it into pieces by party spirit, the result of such identifications, which easily cause the creation of parties. The religions of the world are the partial unveiling of Truth—that is, the unveiling of such portions of Truth as are needed to help the stages of evolution present at any given time. Hence the comings into our world of an embodiment of the World-Teacher, in connection with the appearance of a new sub-race. For each, Theosophy, the Divine Wisdom, has its special message through a special Messenger. If some of us believe in the coming of such a Messenger at the present time, we believe because our Theosophy taught us to look for such a Messenger, at the present epoch, in connection with a new sub-race, which has appeared in California, as H. P. B.—the Messenger from the Hierarchy in the last quarter of the nineteenth century—announced it as coming in America, (see *The Secret Doctrine*, Vol. ii, p. 464).

I notice that many confuse the Messenger who comes in the last quarter of the century with the coming of the World-Teacher in connection with a new sub-race. They are inclined to reject Krishnaji as the World-Teacher, who comes at His own time, whose disciples later make a new religion from His teachings, because He has come, as they think, half a century too soon. He *has* come, and is pouring out His

Life over the world. He has come "that ye may have Life, and that ye may have it more abundantly." \* \* \*

#### HEADQUARTERS' EVENTS

All our extensive and varied work at Headquarters has been carried on smoothly during the year, mostly by the same group of devoted members whom I mentioned last year. There have been but few changes. Owing to illness, Mr. S. Raja Ram has found it necessary to give up his work at the Theosophical Publishing House, and Mr. M. Subramania Aiyar, formerly of Rangoon, and a familiar figure at Headquarters, has taken up that onerous work. There has also been a change at the Bhojana-shala, where Mr. C. Subbaramayya has taken up the post of Manager, made vacant last year by the tragic death of Mr. J. Srinivasa Rao.

For the sake of producing a Magazine in a form which would make a special appeal to the modern reader, I have transferred the publication of *The Theosophist* to America, where, in Los Angeles, Mrs. Marie Russak Hotchener will act as Editor and Mr. Henry Hotchener as business Manager. In this I had the hearty support of the General Council, and the most generous help from my two American collaborators. At the same time I found it necessary—in fact, binding on me as President by Colonel Olcott's bequest—to have an Organ at the Presidential residence at Adyar; so I continue to publish from here what is now

called *The Adyar Theosophist*. I hope the Magazine started by H. P. B. and H. S. O. will in both parts of its new bifurcated form (*Adyar and America*), continue to win the support of the members, and those sections of the public for which they are especially intended.

Mr. Schwarz will now take a well-merited holiday for some months. He has had only three vacations abroad during his long service of twenty-two years as Treasurer at Adyar. During the last year he has also acted as Recording Secretary, but now that Mr. Ernest Wood has returned from his travels to take up that post, he will act as Treasurer also in the absence of Mr. Schwarz, paying back to him some of that karma which he has so richly earned.

My Brother Charles Leadbeater, after nearly sixteen years' residence in Australia, has returned to Adyar to make his home here as of yore. For several years he has been living in Australia for nine months and making a three months' trip to Adyar. Now he intends to reverse that process. I am happy to have him with me again, for he is always a tower of strength and a fount of wisdom. My Brother C. Jinarajadasa is also here for a few months, after his long trip through many countries of South and Central America, in which he aroused immense interest in Theosophy, and was instrumental in forming

no less than three new National Societies.

Many of our prominent membership of Humanity, and its Nalpers were gathered together in August at the great World Congress at Chicago, over which I had the pleasure of presiding. I have elsewhere described it as "a magnificent success." Many varieties of Theosophical opinion were there represented, but the spirit of more than tolerance—real Brotherhood—which was there as a perpetual flame made mutual understanding easy, and presented a rare spectacle of Theosophy living and triumphant in the nearly two thousand delegates who attended the meetings in the splendid Stevens Hotel, "the largest hotel in the world." Our thanks are due to the Joint Secretaries of the Congress, Miss Dijkgraaf and Mr. Rogers and their many helpers, for their excellent organization of so important a function of our Society.

Our Congress took place when Mr. Ramsay MacDonald, Prime Minister of Britain, was about to visit Washington to confer with the President of the United States, Mr. Herbert Hoover. Our gathering took the opportunity to send the following message to Mr. Hoover and a courteous acknowledgment was sent me through the American Embassy in London.

TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE  
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA  
May it Please Your Excellency:

The Third World-Congress of the Theosophical Society, and its National Sections in forty-five countries, was held in Chicago,

Ill., from August 24th to 29th. The first Object of the Theosophical Society is to form a nucleus of the Universal Brotherhoodal Sections are found in Europe, Asia, Africa, India, Australasia, Northern, Central and Southern America. Over 1,700 members from all parts of the world attended the Congress of 1929.

It held a farewell Banquet on August 29th, and I, as President of the International Society proposed, and Mr. Rogers, as President of the Theosophical Society in the United States of America seconded a resolution, which was carried by acclamation, that:

We, the Third World-Congress of the Theosophical Society, pray Mr. Hoover, the President of the United States of America, who saw in Europe the devastation wrought by war, and who nobly devoted himself to the relief of its victims, to lead the Nations of the world to the outlawry of war, and to the establishment of arbitration for the decision of international disputes.

Respectfully yours,

ANNIE BESANT,

*President, International Theosophical Society.*

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## *Items from National Reports*

The reports from the various countries are well worth reading in their entirety, but for the very busy reader a digest of pertinent points that are out of the ordinary may be of special interest. Taken in the order in which they appear, they are:

*United States.* The Theosophical World Congress, at which 27 countries were represented, and 1300 members attended, was an inspiring event. Splendid audiences came to hear Dr. Besant's lectures. The Summer School at Wheaton, with Dr. Arundale as Dean, was a great success. Nearly 1,000 Theosophical books were donated to 88 public libraries.

*England.* A One Day Campaign, in which most of the Lodges held lectures on Life After Death, drew a good deal of press publicity. Several

Lodges have acquired their own premises.

*India.* The minds of the members appear to be much occupied with an attempt to understand Krishnaji's teachings.

*Australia.* The largest part of the public work has been carried out through the medium of the Theosophical Broadcasting station (radio), which continues to pay its way. The News Service (printed) has in four months secured publicity to the extent of 253 full columns.

*Sweden.* The work will proceed in a free spirit, with the recognition that while, as Krishnaji teaches, a belief cannot be organized, the T.S. has no creed, and may therefore quietly hold its own position.

*New Zealand.* The Vasanta Garden School is making excel-

# Reports of National Societies and Allied Activities Adyar Convention, Dec. 24-27, 1929

## The Presidential Address

(Continued from Page 292)

### LODGES AND FELLOWS

The number of Charters granted from the commencement of the Society to the end of 1928 was 2,676. In 1929, 82 new Charters were granted, raising the number to 2,758. 4081 diplomas to new members were issued. The total number of active Lodges is now 1,592, and we have 43,625 active members.

No.	National Societies	No. of Lodges	Active Members	New Members added during the year	Remarks
1	T.S. in The United States	234	6,917	716	
2	" England	158	5,050	381	
3	" India <sup>1</sup>	342	6,764	511	
4	" Australia	33	1,559	71	
5	" Sweden	34	763	24	
6	" New Zealand	19	1,074	36	
7	" Holland	49	2,703	149	
8	" France	75	3,398	368	
9	" Italy	37	622	54	
10	" Germany	45	745	148	
11	" Cuba	25	468	92	
12	" Hungary	17	382	42	
13	" Finland	25	688	71	
14	" Russian T.S. outside Russia	14	356	47	
15	" Czecho-Slovakia	7	108	10	
16	" South Africa	22	528	42	
17	" Scotland	31	688	71	
18	" Switzerland	18	265	15	
19	" Belgium	12	475	71	
20	" Dutch East Indies	31	2,137	178	
21	" Burma	10	301	9	
22	" Austria	11	536	47	
23	" Norway	11	246	11	
24	" Egypt (See Federation, below)	—	—	—	
25	" Denmark	15	483	24	
26	" Ireland	7	131	14	
27	" Mexico	29	449	138	
28	" Canada	18	430	68	
29	" Argentina	18	453	104	
30	" Chile	20	285	38	
31	" Brazil	19	485	90	
32	" Bulgaria	8	200	24	
33	" Iceland	7	300	13	
34	" Spain	22	451	42	
35	" Portugal	10	202	8	
36	" Wales	20	373	49	
Carried forward		1,453	41,015	3,776	

<sup>1</sup> This number includes 722 active members and 163 new members of the All-India Federation of Young Theosophists.

No.	National Societies	No. of Lodges	Active Members	New Members added during the year	Remarks
	Brought forward	1,453	41,015	3,776	
37	T.S. in Poland	16	342	37	No Report
38	" Uruguay	10	145	—	
39	" Porto Rico	18	300	30	
40	" Rumania	11	243	34	
41	" Yugoslavia	8	149	30	
42	" Ceylon	7	89	14	No Report
43	" Greece	7	190	60	
44	" Central America	15	313	62	
45	" Central South Africa	9	200	—	No Report
46	" Paraguay	7	49	—	
47	" Peru	8	60	—	No Report
	Canadian Theosophical Federation	10	231	8	
	Federation of the Lodges of the T.S. in Egypt	3	45	9	
	Other Non-Sectionalized Lodges	10	254	21	
	Grand Total	1,592	43,625	4,081	

**UNITED STATES:** The Report from America states that the event of the year was the third session of the Theosophical World Congress, which met in Chicago in August, and at which 27 countries were represented. The maximum attendance was about 1,300, and splendid audiences came to hear the President's lectures. During the year, for very various reasons, 27 Lodges were dissolved. 8 new Lodges were organized. As to members—79 were lost by death and 88 by resignation and many were transferred to the inactive list. We took in 716 new members and have now 6,917, 942 less than last year. The Summer School at Wheaton was a complete success, with Dr. Arundale as Dean. Nearly 1,000 Theosophical books were donated to 88 public libraries, but the sale of Theosophical literature has fallen off about 40 per cent, on account of economic depression, the dearth of newly written books, and other factors. The visits of the President and a number of other overseas visitors have done much to revive the enthusiasm of the American membership. Good results are anticipated for next year from the recently started tours of Miss Codd and Mr. Hodson.

**ENGLAND:** England has now 5,050 members, 158 Lodges and 52 Centres. 381 new members were admitted, and 485 members lapsed, resigned, transferred to other National Societies, or died. Several Lodges have acquired their own premises, namely, Bolton, Liverpool, and High Wycombe. Students' Week and Week-ends have been a great success in various parts of the country, also a One Day Campaign, in which most of the Lodges held lectures or symposiums on the Life After Death, which drew a good deal of press publicity. There have been three very generous gifts: namely, the remainder of the 14 years' lease of Headquarters, a small property in East

London occupied by a Lodge, and the Mortimer Hall property.

**INDIA:** India reports general progress throughout the country. The minds of the members appear to be much occupied with an attempt to understand Krishnaji's teaching and to solve the problems which it raises. The Constitution and Rules have been revised in order to remove legal discrepancies and to bring them into closer relation with present needs. Newly formed and revived Lodges number 21, and 16 were dissolved, so there is an increase of 5. 10 new Centres were formed and 4 dissolved. There has been a loss of 34 members, and the active Youth membership has fallen from 829 to 722. The Federations of Central India and Rajputana, and Gujerat and Kathiawar became autonomous on October 1st, and promise vigorous work. The autonomous Southern Federations have been working well, but the Northern Federations are not yet quite so well organized. Conferences and Camps have been very well attended, and important educational work also continues. The finances generally are more satisfactory than in the past, there being a credit balance, and the Indian Bookshop shows a profit of Rs. 4,000. The Headquarters needs repairs, improvement of gardens, and sanitary installations.

**AUSTRALIA:** Australia reports a successful Thirty-fourth Annual Convention. Its chief features were addresses by Bishops Leadbeater and Arundale, and Mrs. Arundale; the adoption of the Active Service Fund (which is an appeal for one shilling a week from every member); the re-publication of the *Australian Theosophist* as the official organ; meetings for the Youth Work, Order of Service and Education; and the establishment of the "Advance Australia News Service." The largest part of the public work has been carried out through the medium of the Theo-

sophical Broadcasting station, which continues to pay its way. The Theosophical Society in Australia can be proud of its radio service to the Commonwealth, for its popularity is great and it has earned high praise from many sources. It also finances the issue of *Advance Australia* as a fortnightly newspaper, having a circulation of 10,000 copies. The News Service has in four months secured publicity to the extent of 253 full columns at least, the newspapers making much use of the four page budget of paragraphs which is distributed to over 500 editors in Australia every week. Perth and Claremont Lodges have new premises of their own; in the latter case the actual work of building was done by the members of the Lodge themselves.

**SWEDEN:** Sweden reports that the organization of the National Society had become rather loose, but is now being tightened up again. The work will proceed in a free spirit, with the recognition that while, as Krishnaji teaches, a belief cannot be organized, the T.S. has no creed, and may therefore quietly hold its old position. It is hoped that this will bring order into the somewhat bewildered ranks, and assist the strengthening of a real nucleus of Universal Brotherhood. The membership, having been severely revised, shows a decrease of deadweight to the extent of 340 indifferent members. The sectional magazine has changed its name to *Fri Horisont*. The subscription of shares for the Headquarters building project goes on slowly. (I hope some one will tell us the meaning of the new name.—A. B.)

**NEW ZEALAND:** New Zealand has 40 new members, while those who have resigned, lapsed, passed over, and been transferred to other Sections amount to 113. Still it has a large membership in proportion to population, namely 1,074. The sectional magazine, issued on alternate months, goes free to all members, and every new member has also received copies of *A Message from an Elder Brother*, *What is the Theosophical Society?* and *The Hidden Side of Lodge Meetings*. The Headquarters' library has 60 subscribing non-members. The Vasanta Garden School is making excellent progress, the eurythmic classes being especially useful. It has built a new Assembly Hall. The attendance is 42. The Vasanta Farm, a property of 114 acres, presented to the Section 18 years ago with the idea of establishing a Theosophical College and Retreat, is being successfully worked as a farm, and the Order of Service is now fully organized.

**THE NETHERLANDS:** The new Headquarters, opened in July, has attracted many members and much Press attention. The buildings form a very remarkable piece of ultra-modern architecture. They include a most beautiful bookshop and a splendid library. The membership returns show a loss of 240, and a gain of 149, the total now being 2,703. The Publishing House shows great depression of business, which began suddenly and unexpectedly in September, 1928. It is reported that the dissolution of the Order of the Star

is causing many T.S. members to question the value of the T.S. The Society is also suffering under the mistake which people make in identifying the Liberal Catholic Church with the T.S., but it is hoped that Dr. Besant's expressed intention (not to attend the Church herself) may gradually improve the situation in this respect. The Order of Service is being re-organized.

**FRANCE:** France reports 368 new members and a loss of 345, making the present total 3,398. The General Secretary is not satisfied with the situation as, although there is no decline, there is a lack of real progress, which he ascribes not to the members being less energetic than before, but to their using their energy not directly in the Society's work. As formerly, lectures and classes have been held regularly at Headquarters, but unfortunately Mlle. Aimée Blech's increasing ill-health now prevents her from taking part in this. The Theosophical work in Cochin China deserves special mention. It is rooted chiefly among the cultured classes—the Annamites. Some of the members are erudite Buddhists, to whom the teachings of Theosophy soon become familiar, and who likewise quickly absorb Krishnaji's messages, as they are so closely akin to Buddhism.

**ITALY:** In addition to its *Notes and News*, Italy has a new Review, *Il Loto*, which will endeavor to show the unity of life on the three lines of philosophy, science, and art. The Order of Service has done good work and is expanding. 96 members have been lost, and 54 have joined, the total now being 622.

**GERMANY:** An extremely brief report informs us that the membership has fallen from 902 to 745, the reduction being ascribed as partly due to the influence of Krishnaji's teaching. The General Secretary is endeavoring to bring about friendship between the T.S. and the Anthroposophical Society.

**CUBA:** Cuba reports benefit derived from several distinguished or prominent visitors—Mr. Jinarajadasa, Mr. D. Rajagopal, Mr. L. W. Rogers, and Mr. Adolfo de la Pena Gil. With Mr. Jinarajadasa as chairman, a meeting was held to form a Federation of the Spanish-speaking countries of North America, namely Mexico, Cuba, and other Antilles. The Lodges and members of San Domingo have been transferred to the Porto Rican T.S., so that they may have the benefit of the greater proximity. The magazine has been enlarged, and new and more pliable By-Laws have been passed. Membership shows 92 admissions and 217 losses, and the total is now 468.

**HUNGARY:** Hungary records a year of steady progress and an increase of members from 352 to 382. A special Convention of the T.S. in Hungary, held in May under the auspices of the European Federation, was a memorable event, and much strengthened the position of Theosophy throughout the country. The Headquarters has continued its systematic lecture courses, propaganda meetings, question and answer meetings, study meetings, and social gatherings. Kindred movements had

to remain suspended, owing to the strict policy of the Government. There is an International Correspondence League, communicating with members in 20 different countries. The Publishing Trust has been active, and has printed 10 booklets, 5 leaflets, a larger book, and a small magazine on a printing machine lent by Mr. Nicholas Miles. The donation of £600 presented by the President from the Hamilton legacy will enable the new Headquarters to be completed next year.

**FINLAND:** The T.S. in Finland has an increase of 30 members, making a total of 729. The Twenty-second Convention in the new Headquarters' building was very well attended and was very harmonious and brotherly. The propaganda Committee has been particularly active, sending out lecturers and selling literature at many meetings. A notable feature was the work of the travelling bookseller, Mr. J. Simpanen, who was sent out for two months, going from town to town and village to village, selling books and distributing pamphlets. Mr. K. Unho also travelled for some time. This work cannot pay the keep and travelling expenses of the workers, but is valuable if financed by the Society. The magazine *Teosofi* has 1,150 subscribers—very many more than the members of the Section. October was made a special propaganda month, during which the Section had the additional advantage of a Hindu lecturer, Mr. A. L. Simha. At Vammelsuu the Society has a summer resort, which was used by about a hundred members, combining health with congenial company. The General Secretary feels that the movement has entered upon a new phase: "The living of Theosophy by Theosophists."

**RUSSIA:** The "R. T. S. outside Russia" reports two new Russian Lodges, at Berlin and Brussels, making 14 all over the world. There are 47 new members and 8 have been lost; the total is now 356. A Convention was held in Paris on White Lotus Day, with delegates from London, Brussels, Berlin, and Geneva. The General Secretary, Dr. Anna Kamensky, and Miss C. Helmboldt have lectured in various towns. The little magazine *Vestnik* appears regularly, in spite of financial difficulties, and the help given by Mr. P. Raggis of Reval has made possible the publication of *The Voice of the Silence* and *In the Outer Court*. This is very precious service, because of the book-hunger of Russian Theosophists. Every Lodge works in its own way, and many are active in various lines of service and in artistic expression. The Russian Lodge in Tientsin, China, has been attacked by Christian Missionaries, but nevertheless has carried on its work bravely. In addition to her direct work for the Society, the Secretary has a Chair in the University, and holds courses on the Comparative Study of Religions, Vedism and the *Bhagavad-Gita*.

**CZECHO-SLOVAKIA:** The membership is now 108, a decrease of 7. Many public lectures have been given in different towns. Mr. and Mrs. Cimr publish a magazine *Esperoteozofia*, which does the very useful work of

giving information about Theosophy to Esperantists. The General Secretary remarks that this work is deserving of help from other National Societies.

**SOUTH AFRICA:** South Africa reports an increase of 4 members, the total now being 528. The Annual Convention was notable as the 21st, the "Coming of Age" of the Society in South Africa. In addition to its other work, it approved of the formation of a separate Central South African T.S., to be formed from its own Lodges. For some time advertisements have been inserted in the principal daily newspapers of the four Provinces, inviting those interested to apply for information on Theosophy; these have almost immediately brought in replies.

**SCOTLAND:** A drastic revision of the membership list leaves the total now 688, as compared with 743 last year. The Annual Convention held at Perth was a very happy one, with the President of the Society in the chair. Special mention must be made of the deaths of Mr. William McLellan and Mrs. Isabel Stead, valuable and very old workers, well-known to many of us.

**SWITZERLAND:** The membership of the Society in Switzerland continues its steady increase, this year from 245 to 260. A policy of very careful expenditure of money and elimination of all wastefulness has enabled the Society to reduce membership fees, carry on vigorous activities, and close the year with a credit balance of £40. Special mention is made of the activity of the International Centre organized by Mrs. Cousins, of Adyar, and Mrs. G. Kern. Mr. Meautis, the General Secretary, and Mme. Kamensky have been active in the lecture field. German Switzerland is especially active.

**BELGIUM:** Belgium reports an increase of 29 members, the total now being 475. The Lodges have been individually active, and the book-selling department has provided the T.S. in Belgium with good financial support. The Theosophical Order of Service has also helped much in the organization of lectures, concerts, etc. For some years we have had in Belgium a legal organization, the "Association Théosophique," to represent the Society in all financial transactions. This has now changed its name to the "Société Théosophique," so our Society has now a "personnalité civile" and can own, sell, receive legacies—and pay taxes.

**NETHERLANDS-INDIES:** The T.S. in the Netherlands East Indies reports 1,026 European members, 902 Indonesian and 209 Chinese, a total of 2,137, a reduction of 46. The General Secretary ascribes the decrease to the rising unrest caused by the teachings of Krishnaji, sometimes misinterpreted, and sometimes awakening the people to an earnest self-inspection which shows them that their place is not in our Society. He appears to agree that their place is not within the Society, though if they are true to their inner motives they will remain our friends and helpers outside, and he remarks that the Section is stronger for their absence. The Society publishes four magazines, pro-



viding for Dutch, Malay, and Javanese readers. The Lodge in Solo has undertaken the translation of the entire *Mahābhārata* into the Javanese language, and this has received an enthusiastic welcome. (Well done! brave little Lodge, shouldering so large a task.) There is great activity in the building of Lodges in no fewer than five places. Twelve of the Lodges now own their own buildings, and at some of them small Theosophical Communities dwell. The biggest effort this year appears to be at Bandoeng, which has raised almost £25,000. The great event of the year has been the visit of the Rt. Rev. C. W. Leadbeater, accompanied by a large circle of old and new friends. He stayed nearly half the year and visited nearly all the Lodges of the Section. Great benefit was also derived from the visits of Bishop Arundale, Mrs. Arundale, and Dr. van der Leeuw. The Convention was a great success, a new stepping-stone for the promotion of Brotherhood between the many different races and nationalities in Java. As it was held in Solo, which is a very characteristic Javanese cultural centre and the residence of two of the most influential Javanese Princes, it was decided not to give prominence to ceremonial work; the Liberal Catholic Church and Co-Masonry were therefore left out of the programme. In June a very successful Summer School Camp was held in Lembang. The subsidiary movements are carrying on their work, the educational being particularly notable. There are now 13 schools under Theosophical management, with over 2,000 pupils and 70 teachers.

**BURMA:** Burma reports 301 active members, including honorary Bhikku members, an increase of 8. Most of the Lodges have been very active, the Youth Lodge, Rangoon, deserving special congratulations. The General Secretary states that by far the best work done during the year was the splendid distribution of booklets and leaflets by post. Mr. A. Verhage contributed Rs. 300 for books, and a thousand copies of *Krishnamurti, Who is He?* The Sectional magazine has been dormant, but will now be revived. Nothing has been done with the land belonging to the Section, and attempts to sell it have not been successful so far. The Buddhist Educational Trust schools are having an anxious time, as the Trust funds have become involved to the extent of about Rs. 17,000, owing to the failure of the firm with whom the money was deposited. The deficit on the Girls' School has been made up by a generous member.

**AUSTRIA:** The membership has increased by 16, and now numbers 536. The General Secretary states that though activity has not been great, the Theosophical life has been intense. The Section benefited much from the visits of the President and Bishop Wedgwood. The Liberal Catholic Church has proved a tower of strength to some of the Section's best workers.

**NORWAY:** The principal events mentioned in the General Secretary's report are a series of public lectures held in the new Head-

quarters, to which many non-members were attracted, and the publication of a series of short booklets on popular Theosophy, which are doing much to spread the ideas all over the country.

**DENMARK:** Denmark reports 483 active members, being a decrease of 46. We must record with regret the death of Mr. August Plum, who founded and for 18 years worked for the Blavatsky Lodge at Copenhagen, and was also publisher and editor of the *Theosophisk Tidsskrift*. Successful Summer Schools have been held at Nakskov and Vadstrupgaard, led by Mr. Edwin Bolt. No books have been published this year, but the sectional magazine in its new form has been a great success. There is not much coöperation between the T.S., the Liberal Catholic Church, and Co-Masonry, but on the other hand there is no ill-feeling.

**IRELAND:** The General Secretary regrets to report once more that not much interest is taken in Theosophy in his country, probably because more than three-fourths of the population are strictly forbidden by their religious authorities even to attend our lectures. The membership shows an increase of 4. The visits of helpful friends are mentioned—in addition to the President—Mrs. Cannon, Miss Codd, Mrs. Yates, Dr. and Mrs. Cousins, and Prof. James Scott.

**MEXICO:** The chief event of the year was Mr. Jinarajadasa's tour, in which in 62 days he addressed 81 meetings in 26 places with an approximate total audience of 59,000. This visit came at a time when there was a transition from the old to the new spiritual life of the Nation. Most of the listeners were women, young people, and laborers, a remarkable sign of the awakening of the National consciousness. There are now 449 members. The Lodge at Vera Cruz has erected its own building. Over 80,000 leaflets were printed on a small press managed by the General Secretary. Mr. Jinarajadasa's *Gods in Chains* is being published in Spanish.

**CANADA:** The General Secretary explains that the T.S. in Canada has stood since its organization for Theosophy as expounded in *The Secret Doctrine*, the early literature, and the Masters' letters, while maintaining perfect freedom of thought and speech and the privilege of criticism. He hopes that the Federated Lodges will see their way to reunite with the Section, as the harmony that prevailed at the Chicago Congress amid decided differences of opinion indicated what is possible. A very successful lecture tour by Mr. Hampton, in which no debatable questions were raised, was arranged jointly by the National Society and the Federation. Since the last report there has been a loss of 73 members, the number being now 430. Mr. Smythe speaks of the very valuable work done by Theosophists who have been active in other organizations, and instances one who was head of a Dickens' Fellowship of 1,100 members, and also the lecturing of Mr. Roy Mitchell in many fields. The Sectional magazine has been the chief instrument of propaganda, and the

services of several of the very oldest Theosophists have been secured to write articles for it. There has also been a republication of several valuable books, including *The Evidence of Immortality* by Dr. Jerome Anderson. There is also a travelling library, which is sent to any part of the country.

**ARGENTINA:** The visit of Mr. Jinarajadasa aroused deep interest among the public, and more especially among the members. The General Secretary feels "that one of the greatest results of our brother's work was to bring the Argentine soul nearer to the reality of its own existence, revealing aspects of its own spirituality hitherto ignored or unappreciated." It has been the year of the most intense and effective work since the foundation of the National Society. On the administrative side, Lodges and members in Paraguay and Peru have been separated to form their own Sections. This takes away more than 100 members.

**CHILE:** Chile reports a reduction of two members, the total number being now 285. The outstanding event was the visit of Mr. Jinarajadasa, who spent 40 days in Chile, and attracted very large and enthusiastic audiences in 14 of the most important cities. The General Secretary feels very strongly that we are in the midst of a period of renovation, so that the near future will find us much stronger and more efficient in true spirituality than before.

**BRAZIL:** Reports an increase of three members, the total now being 485. The great event of the year was the visit of Mr. C. Jinarajadasa, which was of great benefit, and received much attention in the press. A notable feature has been the fraternization of Lodges, the two lodges in Sao Paulo, for example, having a monthly *Day of Fraternity*.

**BULGARIA:** Bulgaria reports 200 active members, the same number as last year. Public opinion is turning very much in favor of the Theosophical Society. One often hears of its members as philosophers, religious, truthful, and trustworthy; and almost all cultural organizations invite Theosophists for different kinds of social work. The members try to reach Liberation by service to other movements.

**ICELAND:** There are now 300 members in the National Society, 82 less than last year. Some of the Lodges are in a bad way, but others are getting on well. One librarian records the loan of 700 volumes, mostly to non-members. There is uncertainty in the minds of some of the members as to the value of our work.

**SPAIN:** Spain reports a gain of 28 members, the total now being 451. Six of the Lodges are mentioned as being especially active. The Section has to face unusual geographical and ethnographical difficulties, on account of the great variety of types, languages, and dialects, and the long distances between the principal cities and populated districts. The independent character of most Spaniards is also to be reckoned with. The present political situation and the power of the Church also prevent the free exposition of Theosophy from public platforms, but it is nevertheless permeating the thought of the cultured classes.

**PORTUGAL:** The number of active members is now 202, as against 331 last year. A large number of members have been dropped because they have failed to pay their subscriptions. What the General Secretary calls "the gust of purifying wind from Ommen" has caused some temporary inactivity in the South. At the same time the intense clerical reaction has assumed an aggressive aspect in opposition to Theosophical development.

**WALES:** Reports 373 members, which is 15 more than last year. Members have been active in many ways during the year, and steady progress has been made. An interesting point is that the University College of North Wales sent a request for a representative collection of Theosophical literature, which was duly provided. That is a remarkably good sign.

**POLAND:** This National Society has now 343 members, a decrease of 4. Its main effort has been to inspire its members with the ideal of service. A ten days' visit by Bishop Wedgwood was a great inspiration, and Mr. A. Knudsen also rendered most effective assistance.

**URUGUAY:** Sends no report.

**PORTO RICO:** The Theosophical work during the year has not been so intense and enthusiastic as formerly, chiefly on account of deep economic depression following the terrific hurricane of December, 1928. Certain interpretations of Krishnaji's messages have also caused some confusion in the members' minds. The number of members is now 300, a reduction of 41 in the year.

**RUMANIA:** Report arrived too late.

**YUGOSLAVIA:** Reports a present membership of 146. The library has increased to 600 volumes. The bi-monthly magazine continues and publishes a translation of Dr. Besant's *Karma*. Prominent members of the Section have given lectures, and Mr. A. F. Knudsen, described as "the Godfather of the Yugoslavia Theosophical Society," paid a visit for the third time and lectured every day.

**CEYLON:** Has now 89 members. The outstanding event of the year is the completion of the Headquarters' building, the result of the cheerful and steady sacrifice of many small savings and a few handsome donations. There is also a T.S. Sports' Club. The excellent individual work of our members in various organizations is a triumphant justification of our existence. The Headquarters is always a house of friendship, where friendly exchange of opinion and harmonious and pleasant intercourse are possible.

**GREECE:** Sends no report.

**CENTRAL AMERICA:** This new Society covers Guatemala, Honduras, El Salvador, Nicaragua, Costa Rica and Colombia, that is, all Central America with Colombia. The sense of responsibility awakened by the new organization has much stimulated most of the Lodges. The tour of Mr. Jinarajadasa, who spared no pains and efforts in order to visit all the Central American countries, also greatly strengthened the enthusiasm and vitality of the members. Despite the hostility of the Roman Catholic Church, his lectures were crowded every-

where. The number of members is 313, an increase of 61 in 4 months.

**CENTRAL SOUTH AFRICA:** This Society was also chartered in May, 1929, as an offshoot of the Theosophical Society in South Africa, which gave its kindly blessing to the new venture. There are 9 active Lodges with about 200 members.

#### UNSECTIONALIZED

**CHINA:** *The Shanghai Lodge* has given up its room in the Nanking road, and hired a letter box in the G. P. O. so as to have a permanent address. Its weekly meetings have been held at the residence of Mr. and Mrs. Browne. Mr. M. Manuk, Presidential Agent for China, visited the Lodge and gave two lectures, which were well attended. The membership stands at 34. *The Hong-Kong Lodge* has now 30 members. 79 meetings have been held, of which 34 were public lectures. Besides giving some of the lectures, Mr. Manuk conducted weekly classes in *The Secret Doctrine*, *The Bhagavad-Gita* and *The Voice of the Silence*, after which a Star meeting was always held. *The Chinese Lodge, Hong-Kong*, has 65 members, and has given 32 public lectures. It is printing 5,000 copies of *Life the Goal*, by Krishnaji, translated into Chinese, for free distribution, the cost of which has been provided by Commander Cather and Mr. Manuk. The Lodge also conducts two night schools, the teachers of which are members of the Lodge, who give their services free of charge. There are 127 students, consisting largely of office boys and shop assistants. *The Besant School for Girls* at Shanghai has secured new premises in Ferry Road, and has now 381 students. It is gratifying that after years of disappointing reverses the efforts of Miss Arnold and Miss Kwai show every promise of being crowned with success.

**EGYPT:** Report arrived too late.

**CANADIAN THEOSOPHICAL FEDERATION:** This Federation has now 10 Lodges, with 231 members, a net gain of 4 in the year. Mrs. Hampton's tour throughout the Lodges is mentioned as having been particularly useful. The Secretary speaks of much variety of opinion and activity among the members, but considers that this diversity will enrich and strengthen the movement.

**RUSSIAN FEDERATION WITHIN THE FINNISH SECTION:** This Federation consists of Russian refugees who are so poor that they need no Treasurer. In the various Lodges the studies were chiefly based upon the methods of Krishnaji.

**SINGAPORE:** Singapore Lodge reports little progress, but a persistency which has made the Lodge more coherent and the members more earnest. There have been weekly meetings for the public and Sunday classes for the members. The library is the chief means of propaganda. Visits of Dr. and Mrs. Arundale and Dr. and Mrs. Cousins were much appreciated. There are 15 members.

**BARBADOS LODGE:** Has now a membership of 30. The President, Mr. G. Clyde Williams, and the Vice-President, Mr. P. P. Spencer, have delivered a number of lectures, and there are regular weekly classes.

**SELANGOR LODGE:** This Lodge was founded at Kuala Lumpur in June, 1929, with 11 members, and it has now 13. Regular meetings and study classes are being held, and a library is being established.

**THE ADYAR LIBRARY:** Under the continued direction of Dr. C. Kunhan Raja, the Library maintains its reputation as an institution of great usefulness to scholars, many of whom have made use of it by personal visits and also through correspondence. The publication of the 98 Minor Upanishats with a good Commentary (the only complete edition with a Commentary) is now complete, and beautifully printed by the Vasanta Press. The Samnyasopanisat and the Rukminikalyanam have been issued, and other works are in hand. Much useful rearrangement and cataloguing has been done, and there are many additions.

**THE OLCOTT PANCHAMA FREE SCHOOLS:** There are now 267 pupils in the Olcott Free School, and 193 in the H. P. B. Memorial Free School. It was proposed to transfer the H. P. B. School to the Labor Department of the Madras Government, but the policy adopted by the Authorities has been to assist private agencies with substantial grants instead of taking over such institutions. Reports of visitors and Inspectors are very favorable. The health of the children receives particular care, and there is daily distribution of midday food.

**THE BRAHMAVIDYA ASHRAMA:** The work has been carried on with typical willingness, in the absence of Dr. Cousins, by Mr. A. F. Knudsen, as acting Principal. (Mr. Knudsen is now at Ojai, California).

**THE THEOSOPHICAL WORLD UNIVERSITY CENTRE IN LONDON:** The report on this subject contains an account of the history of the movement, suggestions as to methods which it may adopt, a list of the activities in the form of lectures at Brompton Road and in various other places, and a statement as to the financial conditions and the requirements for the immediate future. These are all too complex for brief statement, but it is evident that great and varied activities are a-foot, which may become the seed of a splendid world-wide Institution in process of time.

**INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE OF THE EUROPEAN FEDERATION OF THEOSOPHICAL SOCIETIES:** This Committee was founded to link the T.S. in friendly coöperation with the numerous international organizations in Geneva, especially the League of Nations. It has an excellent suite of rooms in a good position. Its chief activities so far have been a Peace Week, and various lectures by Mrs. Cousins, Dr. Cousins, Mlle. Brisy, and others.