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THE MESSENGER

VOLUME II.

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The official organ of The American Section of The Theosophical Society, published monthly. Edited by the General Secretary, A. P. Warrington, Krotana, Hollywood, Los Angeles, California. Entered as second-class matter at the Post-office at Los Angeles under the Act of Congress of March 3rd, 1879. Subscription price 25 cents a year. Change of address should be sent promptly. We cannot be responsible for lost copies.

The American Theosophist Discontinued The Board of Trustees decided at their meeting following the Convention to discontinue the publication of *The American Theosophist*.

The resolution reads: *Whereas*, It is deemed advisable by the Board of Trustees of The American Section of The Theosophical Society, under the conditions prevailing at present in the various countries of the world, and in order to strengthen the circulation and influence of the Adyar *Theosophist* which will undoubtedly be affected by said conditions, and for other reasons deemed good and sufficient by the Trustees, to discontinue the publication of *The American Theosophist* for the present: Now, therefore, be it *Resolved*, That after the October, 1914, number, the proper officers of the Section cease to publish this magazine; that they take proper and sufficient steps to adjust the financial obligation of the Section to subscribers; that they use all possible endeavor to push the circulation of the Adyar *Theosophist* throughout this Section, and that *The Messenger* be enlarged to include the editorial and other vital departments of *The American Theosophist*. It is believed that this step will link the

American Section even more closely with our international headquarters at Adyar, and in general will be found to be a wise and therefore a progressive step in the right direction, at the present trying time. Attention should be called to the fact that the October and November numbers will come out as a double copy.

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The Magazine Management In discontinuing this particular arm of our Service, I wish once more to bear testimony to the fact that the excellent standard enjoyed by this magazine was brought about by the skill and ability of Miss Isabel B. Holbrook, the Assistant Editor; by the energy and one-pointed devotion of Mr. Robert W. Ensor, the Business Manager; by the ceaseless devotion of these and their faithful helpers, and by the generous financial assistance given by Mr. Elliot Holbrook.

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To the Magazine Subscribers

Arrangements are being made with the publisher of *The Theosophist* of Adyar, Madras, India, the Presidential organ, founded by H. P. Blavatsky, to carry out the Section's con-

tracts with the subscribers of *The American Theosophist*. The price of Mrs. Besant's large monthly is \$3.00 per year, being twice the regular non-member's rate for *The American Theosophist*. So that in supplying the more expensive magazine the length of time needed for fulfilling the subscription will necessarily be lessened. The arrangement will give to all subscribers the benefit of getting into touch with this exceedingly valuable magazine. Each month Mrs. Besant presents her views editorially, while the articles by herself, Mr. Leadbeater and other widely known contributors, on various philosophical, religious, ethical, scientific and occult subjects are of exceptional merit. The book reviews cover a wide field and are discriminatingly prepared.

To those already taking Mrs. Besant's magazine we can extend their subscriptions for the proper time, or we should like to supply something from our book catalogue in exchange for what is due on the unexpired subscriptions. The catalogue will be mailed to each home in this class on postal request.

So, unless we hear from subscribers to the contrary, we shall proceed upon the above basis in each case.

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The Messenger *The Messenger*, the official journal of the Section, will soon be somewhat enlarged and improved, and will go to the membership free as heretofore. It will continue to supply the needs of members only and will not be used as a public propaganda publication.

Later on some steps may be taken to meet directly and with one-pointedness born of practical propaganda field experience, the needs of the non-member and the new member.

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Thanks The grateful thanks of the administration are due and are heartily given to all who, whether by pen, money or active effort,

have contributed to the upbuilding of *The American Theosophist*. We all have to realize that no effort is ever lost and also that in the midst of a work of such great importance as that of Theosophy, in which we find ourselves engaged, we must be prepared to meet any situation with promptitude and detachment, throwing next thing."

I hope our literary contributors will continue to send articles and papers. We shall be able to use them to some extent in *The Messenger*, or in some cases to suggest their use in *The Theosophist*, at least when their merit makes such possible.

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The Convention

Many and frequent were the remarks made that the Washington Convention was of greatest benefit to its attendants. Quite a number of new members were present and these as well as members of longer standing voiced their pleasure at being the witnesses of so much brotherly feeling. Certainly those present acquitted themselves as Theosophists and true followers of our illustrious President. Non-attending members will be interested in reading the rather full report herein of the official proceedings.

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**Mr. Cooper
and
Mr. Rogers**

When it was announced at Convention that Mr. Cooper would resume his work in the lecture field, the announcement brought forth a storm of applause, and the demands immediately made upon him to visit various lodges were of a flattering number. Mr. Cooper will begin his work in the East, and lodges wishing to communicate with him should address him for the present in care of Mr. Harold C. Stowe, 172 S. Oxford Street, Brooklyn, N. Y. It is quite obvious that the field work will be greatly strengthened by Mr. Cooper's activities, as in this his rare talents enable him "to shine."

Mr. Rogers, who has already done

much excellent service in the field, has been made Propaganda Secretary and will organize a campaign for the year's propaganda that we feel sure will produce striking results. He has established temporary headquarters at Indianapolis (General Delivery will be his present address) and expects to throw himself into the lecture field with undiminished zeal.

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Assistant General Secretary Mrs. E. R. Broenniman succeeds Mr. Cooper as Assistant General Secretary. Possessing as she does an unusual business ability and an unquenchable enthusiasm for the success of Theosophy in America, "it goes without saying" that her management of the office will be able and effective.

Membership Records Private At a recent meeting of the Board of Trustees of the American Section, a ruling was adopted to the effect that the general membership records of the Section must be confined exclusively to the office of the General Secretary. The object of the ruling was to prevent the names of members falling into the hands of persons other than the chief responsible officer. This same ruling applies to the lodges. So, lodge secretaries should be more than careful never to send out a list of the members of their lodges to any one except the General Secretary. The possession of this record both by the General Secretary and the secretaries of lodges is a matter of mutual confidence between them and the members, and it should be faithfully guarded.

Lodge Officers It would be of considerable assistance to Headquarters if each lodge secretary, who has not done so recently, would send in a complete list of all the lodge officers. Of course this is usually done after each election, but just now we

need this information, since in November it is necessary to send to Adyar a list of all the lodges with their officers.

Lodges Dissolved

White Lodge of Chicago has have affiliated with other dissolved and the members lodges. Alcyone Lodge, of Detroit, Mich., has merged with the Vive-lius Lodge. This will increase the effectiveness of the work, for it is better to have one strong lodge than two weak ones.

A Warning to Members

We have heard from New York and from Oklahoma City of men claiming acquaintance with Mrs. Besant and others, attending lodge meetings and borrowing money from members. We urge the lodge secretaries to be extremely careful in these matters, and if there is the slightest doubt, to write at once to Headquarters giving us the name of the person who professes to be a member. We shall then verify his statements and give what information we can.

A Tribute to Mrs. Besant

We have received from India a copy of an address presented to Mrs. Besant by all the Indian lodges and centres on her landing at Bombay a few weeks ago. The original copy of the address was printed on vellum and illuminated with gold and colors. She was also presented with a handsome silver casket, bearing a representation of the headquarters at Adyar and at Benares. On another page of this issue is given in full the text of the address.

In the August issue of *The Messenger* mention was made of the death of Frederick A. Nims, of Muskegon

Lodge, but we wish to speak further of him and of his services, because he was one of the oldest members of the American Section. Mr. Nims was a supporter of Mrs. Besant during the Judge controversy and he was one of the few remaining presidents of those branches that did much work toward the rehabilitation of the parent Society in America. He has long been associated with Muskegon Lodge and was well known to the members in Michigan and elsewhere. Mr. Nims was a man of letters and prominent in many ways in Muskegon and was held in the highest esteem by all who knew him.

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**Of Interest
to
Vegetarians**

A number of our members who are vegetarians have asked from time to time whether a preparation on the market called "Crisco" was purely vegetable in nature. We therefore wrote a few weeks ago to Proctor and Gamble, its manufacturers, and asked them to send us a statement sworn to before a notary public in which it was explicitly mentioned whether "Crisco" was a purely vegetable product and did not contain animal fats of any description. We received a most courteous letter from the manufacturers, with which was enclosed the following affidavit which we quote in full:

Ivorydale, Ohio, July 17th, 1914.

I, A. E. Anderson, do hereby certify that I am the Superintendent of the factories of The Proctor & Gamble Company, at Ivorydale, Ohio, and that "CRISCO" is exclusively manufactured in these factories under my supervision.

I further certify that I am familiar with all of the materials, processes and methods employed in the manufacture of said "CRISCO"; that I know and hereby assert and affirm that it is made from pure vegetable oils exclusively, and that it contains no animal fat or fats of any kind whatsoever.

"CRISCO" is a pure vegetable product, containing no trace of fat other than pure vegetable oils.

A. E. Anderson.

Sworn to before me, a Notary Public in and for Hamilton, State of Ohio, this 17th day of July, 1914.

(SEAL)

H. J. Van Dermark,
Notary Public.

Peace

The following communication and Peace Prayer have been sent out by Mr. C. E. Nelson, General Secretary of the Theosophical Society in South Africa. Certainly it is necessary for Theosophists to do all in their power to contribute thoughts of steady strength and peace during the present distressing time. Mr. Nelson has also sent the same petition out to the churches within his jurisdiction.

Dear Colleague:

One of our members has suggested that the T. S. might do something at the present time towards helping on the Peace of the World by an invitation to concentrated and united thought.

In response to that suggestion, I have prepared a short "thought-prayer" as catholic as possible so that men of whatever sect, creed or religion may join in.

Copies are being sent to each lodge in South Africa, together with a circular letter and copies for the various clergymen, in order to get the co-operation of the churches.

Will you assist by having copies sent to your lodges and thus reach the majority of your members, that so the members uniting together may increase by geometrical progression? If you could get the churches interested, too, it would be an advantage.

In this way the Fellows of the T. S. will be doing a share in the work of hastening the preparation for the coming of the Prince of Peace, and the time when wars shall cease and the banner of peace shall be unfurled by every nation.

We must have before us the fact that war is not THE evil, but is the outward expression and a symptom of the real evil, which is the lack of the consciousness and practice of Universal Brotherhood.

With fraternal greetings,

(Signed)

C. E. NELSON,
General Secretary.

PEACE

You are requested to meditate at noon each day on the following prayer-thought:

"May the Spirit of the Almighty Father so dwell in the minds of men that this war shall teach the nations the necessity for universal peace, and may the Peace of the Eternal so enter into the hearts of men that the Way may be prepared for the coming of the Prince of Peace and the cessation of all strife."

Will you make three (or more) copies of this and send to friends, so that the united desire for Universal World Peace may rapidly spread and become productive?

(Copy the whole, so that the chain may be continued.)

A TRIBUTE TO MRS. BESANT

To Mrs. Annie Besant,

President Theosophical Society.

Revered Madam:

Since the day you first set foot on Indian soil at Tuticorin on November 16th, 1893, to this day, when we, the members of the Indian Section of the Theosophical Society, welcome you as our President for a second term of seven years, you have been to us in this land a Recorder of the glories of our past, and a Herald of the greater glories that are to be. With the magic of your word and with the grace of your pen, you have taught us the life-giving Truths of Theosophy that exist in Hinduism, Buddhism, Zoroastrianism, Christianity and Mohammedanism. You have taught us to know that behind the diversities of race, creed, sex, caste and color there is a Unity that nothing can destroy.

Since the mantle of our great H. P. B. fell on your shoulders twenty-three years ago, what you have done for Theosophy is public record. You have made thinking men and women, the world over, realize that Theosophy is a living power in the daily life. What, too, you have done for our beloved Society, during the seven years just over of your first term as President, we all know—how as the result of your work the Society is now stronger by some eight thousand additional members, four hundred new Lodges, and twelve more National Societies. But all this splendid achievement is ours because you

have been our Leader, by right of Service.

To Theosophists everywhere you have been their splendid Leader and President; to thousands of us here in India you have been also a beloved Mother to whom we have looked for guidance and encouragement, from whose hands we have received more than life itself.

Twenty-one years ago, when you first came to us in India, you gave us your message in these words:

"Climb, in order to stoop down to help others; learn, in order that you may teach; gain power only for the service of others.

"There is only one reward worth taking, only one prize worth receiving, and that is the opportunity for increased service to the race; and I pray all the great Gods to give that we may stand until all the others have passed on, even while our hands should be upon the latch.

"This is the great privilege, that we may be the first to attain and the last to enjoy."

It is because we have partly understood and have tried to live according to your words that we gather here today to welcome you. You have changed our lives; in return we offer a perfect trust and loyalty to you as our Leader in the years to come and a heartfelt gratitude for the Light you have brought us and the help you have given.

Your grateful and devoted friends and pupils,

Members of the Indian Section.

Bombay, 10th July, 1914.



REPORT OF THE TWENTY-EGHTH ANNUAL CONVENTION
of
THE AMERICAN SECTION OF THE THEOSOPHICAL SOCIETY
Held in the Raleigh Hotel, Washington, D. C.,
August 27-31, 1914

All day Thursday, August 27th, the Convention Members poured into Washington, many coming to the Raleigh Hotel, where the Convention meetings were held. At 3 o'clock in the afternoon the members of the Washington lodges provided at their own expense a sight-seeing tour, complimentary to the visiting members. This trip was much enjoyed because it enabled those unfamiliar with their capital to visit the magnificent public buildings and beautiful private residences found in Washington. Of course, the usual photograph was taken, with the members seated on the Capitol steps.

At eight o'clock Thursday evening a reception to all visitors by the Washington Theosophists was held in the spacious and attractive banquet hall of the Raleigh Hotel.

The Convention was called to order at ten o'clock Friday morning by the General Secretary, Mr. Albert P. Warrington, and after a short address by him the members united in silent meditation accompanied by a piano selection by Miss Marie Poutz. The Convention then proceeded to business.

The General Secretary had previously appointed Mr. E. C. Reynolds (chairman), Miss Jeanette Eaton and Mr. F. H. Smith as the Committee on Credentials, which Committee reported that there were present in person and represented by proxy approximately 2050 members, nearly twice the proportion of the membership required by the By-Laws. The

Convention was therefore declared duly organized.

The minutes of the previous meeting having been published in the November, 1913, issue of *The Messenger*, the reading of the same, upon motion duly adopted, was dispensed with. The General Secretary then read his annual report which appeared in the September, 1914, number of *The Messenger* and it was duly referred to the Resolutions Committee. The report of the Treasurer was then read and duly referred to the Auditing Committee.

Letters and messages of greeting were extended to the Convention by visiting Theosophists from other countries and by several of the lodges and federations of the Section.

The General Secretary thereupon appointed the following committees: Rules and Order of Business Committee: Miss Julia K. Sommer, Mrs. Paul. Auditing Committee: Mr. T. D. Dawkins, Mr. E. C. Reynolds and Mrs. A. Ross Read. Resolutions Committee: Mr. J. Harry Carnes, Mr. Max Wardall, Mrs. E. R. Broenniman. Nominations Committee: Miss I. B. Holbrook, Mr. A. F. Knudsen, Dr. Lillian Daily.

(A matter was here introduced which afterward, by motion unanimously adopted, was excluded from the minutes.)

The Convention reassembled at two o'clock and listened to the reading of a number of resolutions which were then referred to the Resolutions Committee.

REPORT OF L. W. ROGERS, NATIONAL LECTURER

My field work for the year 1913-14 consisted of two tours—one beginning at Big Rapids, Michigan, the day after the close of the Convention of 1913 and extending westward through the northern part of the U. S. and the southern part of Canada to the Pacific Coast and thence southward to Krotóna; the second extending eastward through Texas, northward through Oklahoma and Kansas, eastward to Cleveland and thence westward through Michigan, Iowa, Nebraska, Colorado and Utah to San Diego, and concluding at Los Angeles. With the exception of the holiday stop at Krotóna—December 24 to January 10—I was continuously in the field between the dates above given.

No. of cities visited.....	41
No. of lectures given.....	281
No. of daily papers publishing lecture reports (estimated)	103
No. of reports of lectures published (estimated)	420
No. of cities visited in new territory.....	12
No. of new lodges organized.....	11

The cities where new lodges were organized are: Everett, Wash.; Fresno, Cal.; El Paso, Galveston and Dallas, Texas; Oklahoma City, Okla.; Wichita, Kansas; Columbus, Ohio; Des Moines, Iowa; Colorado Springs, Colo., and Ogden, Utah.

The cities visited in old territory are: Big Rapids, St. Paul, Minneapolis, Duluth, Superior, Winnipeg, Regina, Calgary, Vancouver, Victoria, Tacoma, Spokane, Seattle, Portland, Long Beach, Oakland; San Antonio, Austin, Houston, Fort Worth, Topeka, Kansas City, St. Louis, Cleveland, Grand Rapids, Omaha, Denver, San Diego and Los Angeles.

Only one lecture was given at Long Beach—a substitute engagement—and none at Regina, on account of inability to get a suitable hall on short notice. At Enid, Okla., I utilized an unengaged Saturday in passing through, by giving an afternoon and an evening lecture in the Court House to large audiences. At each of the other cities regular courses were

given, varying from five to fourteen public lectures.

On the second tour I had the great advantage of the assistance of Mr. Charles Hampton, who acted as advance agent, traveling a week ahead of me, engaging halls, interviewing editors and putting out a large amount of advertising matter. This assistance was invaluable and enabled me to visit twice as many places within a given time. With his efficient help I found no great difficulty in organizing a lodge a week.

Among the interesting things of the season were an unusually large number of High School engagements, with such subjects as *Thought Power* and *Psychology*; the favorable attitude of the press and an increasing readiness to publish reports; the formation of large classes in old territory; and in new territory the organization of a lodge in every city visited for that purpose. It is perhaps worthy of notice, also, that the engagement at San Diego was characterized by the greatest success of the year. At the close of a two weeks' course a class with an enrollment of 129 was organized. Los Angeles came second with a class of 95.

A point that should not be overlooked is that nine of the new lodges were organized in the short period between February and May. This was made possible only by the employment of an advance agent, which enabled me to give uninterrupted attention to lecturing and organizing. During that time I also visited eleven other cities with old lodges, giving from six to ten lectures in each.

One of the things impressed by this feature of rapid organization is the great need of "follow up" work. The second tour demonstrated that we can go into new territory, give a six-night lecture course and organize a lodge; but if we move on immediately to the next city the new lodge must be left to its own resources. Lodges that I thus organized five years ago are still flourishing but that is not likely to be true of all of them.

An organizing force in new territory should consist of at least four people and new lodges should not only be in touch with the Section by mail but a lecturer doing secondary work should follow close behind the organizer in order to get the best results.

The total amount expended by the Section in connection with my work for the year was \$1089.95. If from this there be deducted the amounts I sent to headquarters for new lodge charters and dues (\$229.65) it will be seen that the cost of getting the new lodges was \$860.30, or \$78.20 per lodge. But this takes no account of the fact that two cities having lodges, and therefore classed above as old territory, should properly be reckoned as new territory because the lodges were dead, while a third, Calgary, had just applied for a charter when put on my list and was therefore really new territory. It should also be remembered when looking at the work of the year from the viewpoint of its value to the Section as an investment, that the above statement takes no account of the increase of membership in the old territory cities visited, which was by far the larger part of the work.

Financial Statement

Receipts

Propaganda Fund	\$1089.95
Collections and Donations.....	460.49
Charter Fees and Dues.....	229.65
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	\$1780.09

Disbursements

Charter Fees and Dues to General Secretary	\$ 229.65
Salary Account, Advance Agent..	72.50
Advertising Account	371.75
Hotel Account	262.75
Rent Account	374.00
Railway Account	386.74
Miscellaneous Account	82.70
	<hr/>
	\$1780.09

The work in old territory was financed on the first tour by the collections and an occasional paid admission lecture. No advance agent was employed. On the second tour, in old territory, admissions were charged to most of the lectures. This plan is still experimental and will require further testing. In some places the audiences were very small and the expenses greatly exceeded the receipts. In others the audiences were larger than at previous free lectures in the same city. One favorable point is that with paid admissions we can do extensive advertising and attract the attention of more new people. It involves some financial risks for the lecturer but it relieves the lodge of all responsibility. A statement of the closing engagement of the season may be of interest as an illustration. It resulted in a class of 95 beginners and did not cost the lodge a penny. The weather was perfect, there were no serious counter attractions and nothing went wrong. Any one of a half dozen things might easily have lowered the receipts by \$50 and have left a deficit.

Financial Statement, Los Angeles Course

Total Paid Admissions.....	\$261.25
Printing	\$36.00
Newspaper Advertising.....	38.16
Paid to Advance Agents.....	32.50
Hotel and Traveling Expenses	19.05
Hall Rent and Miscel.....	97.60
	<hr/>
Total net receipts	\$ 37.94

The subject of free or pay lectures is a very complex one and cannot be settled offhand. There are many strong points in favor of each plan. But one of the certainties that has emerged from the many uncertainties, is that the plan finally adopted will have to be a combination of both in order to meet all the requirements in a territory so vast and varied as ours.

REPORT OF D. S. M. UNGER, NATIONAL LECTURER

Herewith my report as National Lecturer for the year ending August 25th, 1914.

During the past year I have visited thirty-two cities outside Chicago, gave therein eighty-one public lectures, held thirty-six meetings for members, and fourteen general E. S. meetings, not including special meetings at Lake Shawnigan.

Of the thirty-two cities mentioned, I have visited Minneapolis, St. Paul, Lincoln, Kansas City and Akron twice, St. Louis three times, and Cleveland four times. The cities visited once are as follows: Milwaukee, Omaha, Saginaw, Duluth, Superior, Big Rapids, Nashville. In Canada—Winnipeg, Regina, Calgary, Edmonton. In British Columbia—Kelowna, Victoria, Vancouver. On Pacific Coast—Seattle, Portland, San Francisco, San Jose, Berkeley, Tacoma. In the Northwest—Spokane, Wallace, Butte, Anaconda, Helena.

Beside giving lectures in the cities named I have attended two Federation Conferences, namely, the Northern California Federation at San Francisco, and the Northwest Federation at Lake Shawnigan, Vancouver Island, at both of which conferences I took active part.

At Lake Shawnigan we held an E. S. meeting every morning before breakfast, a business meeting at 11 o'clock, a question meeting at 4 o'clock, a lecture at 7:30 and a devotional hour at 9 p. m.—this the daily program for nearly ten days.

While attending the Northern California Conference, President Walters loaned me to San Jose and Berkeley, thus making my stay in San Francisco somewhat limited. Both Conferences showed a splendid enthusiasm, a promise, therefore, for big things in the future.

Besides the Federation Conferences named, I visited during the year two State Conferences in the Great Lakes Division, one in Akron, Ohio, and one in Minneapolis, Minn. These Conferences were well attended by delegates from the

lodges in their respective states. Interesting programmes were faithfully carried out, much good work done and inspiration carried away for future strength.

The result of the work done as National Lecturer is best known to the centres visited and to the General Secretary.

Many new members have been added to the Society and to the Order of the Star in the East, as a result of the public work done, but the most telling work has been accomplished among the members themselves, through the E. S. and members' meetings and counsel given through private and individual conferences, in which work I have endeavored to build strong lodges, strong characters, and to inspire a devotion to the work, rather than the seeking for personal progress.

The character of the audiences I have faced—some of them numbering 600 people, and rarely less than 100—is that of men and women hungry for the Truth which Theosophy has to give. I have been impressed, too, with the high grade of intelligence that has characterized my hearers—governors, mayors, senators, jurists, clergymen, literateurs, artists, business men—all seeking the larger view of life.

The success of my work as a lecturer is very largely due to the efficient labors of the Theosophic Press Association, the major part of the work being done by Mrs. E. Prather, assisted by Miss Clara Linder, and financed by Mr. Elliott Holbrook. The Press Association has not only composed and caused to be printed attractive advertising matter, to be used by the lodges whose centre I was scheduled to visit, but also sent advance notices to the various newspapers and, at the same time, synopses of the lectures to be given, so that if the papers could not send a reporter to hear the lecture, they could print an expert report thereon. The result has been that hundreds of thousands of people who have read the papers have thus received the message of Theosophy.

I cannot speak too highly of the work done by Mrs. Prather and Miss Linder. They have my heartfelt gratitude and, I am sure, the blessing of those Great Ones who see the labors of their hands.

The world is ready for the message of Theosophy, ready as it has not been before, therefore a great responsibility is upon the American Section to see to the spreading of the truth in America.

We should have three or four qualified lecturers in the field all the time, for the people will listen when they will not read, and the potency of the sound of the speaker's voice and the pervading influence of the hour, are more far-reaching than many magazines or propaganda leaflets—these should be auxiliary to the spoken word.

In conclusion, I must impress upon you who form this Convention, that the important thing—as I see it—is to tell the world of Theosophy. When Mrs. Besant approved of my becoming a National Lecturer, she said to me, "The important thing is to tell the public of Theosophy," and this should be, as I see it, the thing foremost in the mind of you who are here today.

The Theosophical Society and its work is known to the public by the personnel of its laborers, and, as an active worker in the field, I know something of the

needs of your lecturers, and something of the needs of the field. The centres—every one of them—should be visited at least once a year. Last summer I visited one lodge, Great Falls, Montana, which had not had a visit from a lecturer in seven years. I visited another lodge which had not had a visit from a lecturer in four years, and I visited some lodges which, though in existence some years, have never had a visit from a lecturer, and I presume there are in our American Section many similar instances.

The remedy lies in your hands, my brothers, and if you would have your centres radiate the truths of Theosophy you must send lecturers to aid them. If what Mrs. Besant said to me is true, that "the important thing is to tell the public of Theosophy," then let us use every effort and means at our disposal to do that thing.

I know something of the overshadowing that goes with a messenger and I feel certain that every lecturer who goes forth in the name of Theosophy, whether he knows it or not, has the blessing of the Masters of Wisdom.

I trust you will consider today ways and means of helping the work of your National Lecturers and, if possible, formulate a plan whereby their number may be increased from time to time.

REPORT OF MRS. RUSSAK, NATIONAL LECTURER

In September and October I gave several lectures in New York to the united and individual lodges, and assisted at the Federation. The Berkeley Theatre was taken for two public lectures and it was filled to overflowing on both occasions. I was ably assisted by Mr. Hotchner. The officers of the different lodges were most devoted and efficient in the arrangements for the advertising and propaganda work. It was a great pleasure to see the lodges working so harmoniously together and doing such fine work.

Visits were made by Mrs. Duff, Mr. Hotchner and myself to the following places where lodge meetings, Temple of

the Rosy Cross meetings and public lectures were held: Washington, Boston, Rochester, Albany, New Haven, Wilmington and Reading, and we then returned to New York, where more meetings were held.

About the middle of November we started for a tour westward. On the way we paid second visits to Boston (also visited Springfield) and Washington; then Pittsburgh, Toronto, Chicago, Kansas City, Minneapolis, Seattle and San Francisco. In all these places we were most cordially received and held enthusiastic meetings. The public lectures were given to very large audiences. Seattle had the

largest public audience of about 900 persons.

We reached Hollywood about the first week of January and after a few weeks' rest, took an active part in the Krotona Winter Institute.

Mr. Hotchner and I, assisted by Mrs. Duff, gave a series of five public lectures in Los Angeles, with the co-operation of the Krotona Institute and the Los Angeles Lodge. These lectures aroused so much interest that we decided to repeat them at the Summer Krotona Institute.

In May we took part in the Southern California Theosophical Federation Conference at Long Beach, Cal.

So closes a busy year of work which has been a great pleasure and almost satisfies my rather exacting conscience in respect to service. This satisfaction is also especially due to having aided in the founding of twelve Temples of the Rosy Cross and the encouragement of loving friends. My heartfelt thanks are due to Mrs. Duff and Mr. Hotchner, who have made so much of my work possible by their understanding and co-operation.

The benediction to the year's activities is a beautiful letter from Mrs. Besant expressing her faith and trust in me, and requesting me to disregard all obstacles and gossip and to continue my work.

REPORT OF IRVING S. COOPER, NATIONAL LECTURER

My report this year as a National Lecturer is necessarily very brief, since all my time has been spent at Krotona, where I have acted in the capacity of Assistant General Secretary. I have, however, found time to give a few lectures in and around Los Angeles, and on one trip which I made to San Diego. It has also been my privilege to assist in the

Winter and Summer Sessions of the Krotona Institute.

Since my last report I delivered 32 lectures for the Theosophical Society, and 4 lectures for the Order of the Star in the East. I have conducted 24 meetings under the auspices of the Krotona Institute.

REPORT OF DR. J. C. MITCHELL

The only lecturing I have been able to do was at Indianapolis, Ind., where I lectured to nearly one hundred people in the Propyleum on June 19th upon *The Dead—Where Are They?* At that time we got the names of several interested people and I think Mrs. Foulke will be able to have enough to start a lodge there soon. I hope to be able to give a series of lectures there this fall.

I tried last fall and this spring to make arrangements in Richmond, Ky., but was unsuccessful. On the Indiana trip I tried to get into Ft. Wayne and South Bend but could find no one in either town who would or could make the necessary local arrangements.

Going to Washington this summer I hope to be able to take a "circle trip" and will offer my services to the lodges in Cleveland, Buffalo, Toronto, and possibly one or two others.

REPORT OF DR. B. W. LINDBERG

In reporting the lecture trips I was able to take last year, will say that the first was one lasting exactly sixty days, taking in fifteen cities and covering 5532 miles.

The cities visited were as follows: St. Louis, Memphis, Birmingham, Monroe, Ft. Worth, Austin, San Antonio, Houston, New Orleans, Fairhope, Tampa, Norfolk, Harriman, Nashville, Louisville and back to St. Louis, where the trip ended.

I was able to interest enough people to start a lodge in Fairhope, Ala. I was also able, with the help of Rev. Mr. Anderson of Tampa, Fla., to get a number of the old members of Tampa Lodge back into the Society as well as a number of new ones.

In Harriman, Tenn., I lectured in the Unitarian church and Rev. Mr. Rogers reports that the class under his leadership has kept up to about twenty members.

The number of persons attending the lectures naturally varied in the different cities. The smallest audience was in Monroe and the largest in New Orleans, where one of the lectures was attended by about 250 persons, the majority being men.

The newspapers, however, gave me splendid help in every city and without exception they printed the synopsis of every lecture which was sent to them. This propaganda must have reached a million persons and Mr. Blum, who wrote the synopses, and Mrs. Hillyer, who had the onerous work of sending them out on time, should receive the credit for this good work.

A second tour was made to Birming-

ham and Fairhope, when I was able to establish a lodge in the former city and was present when Fairhope Lodge elected its officers.

A third tour was made to Lincoln, Nebraska, where I lectured in the Universalist Church to two good audiences. I was told that in this city I received better treatment from the local press than any Theosophical lecturer, so we are gaining all the time in public opinion.

The lectures given on these tours were: *The Signs of the Times*, *The Way to Salvation*, *The Power and Use of Thought*, and *Reincarnation*. The two last named are stereopticon lectures.

The net result of the year's work seems to be three lodges and a study class.

SATURDAY SESSIONS

The Convention re-convened at 10 o'clock Saturday morning, Mr. L. W. Rogers in the chair. The Resolutions Committee, being called upon, reported favorably upon the following resolutions which were duly adopted by the Convention, with the exception of Resolution D., for which a substitute resolution was recommended by the committee, but after discussion on the floor the original resolution was duly adopted.

A. *Whereas*, Mrs. Annie Besant, the President of our Society, has signified her intention to be present at the session of the Congress of Religious Philosophies to convene at the Panama-Pacific International Exposition on July 26, 1915; and

Whereas, The administration of said Exposition has set aside the week beginning on said date for the use of said Congress, and for the American Section T. S. if it should determine to hold its next Annual Convention at said Exposition and during said week: Therefore be it

Resolved, That the Annual Meeting of the American Section of the Theosophical Society for the year 1915, be held at the Panama-Pacific International Exposition at San Francisco or Oakland, California, on Monday, July 26, 1915, at 9:30 a. m., the precise location of the hall or place of meeting to be announced in the official

notice of the meeting to be issued according to law. Carried.

B. *Whereas*, Our beloved President of the Theosophical Society having been recently re-elected:

Resolved, That this Convention send to her its loyalty, love and congratulations. Carried.

C. *Resolved*, That the hearty thanks of the Twenty-eighth Convention of the American Section of the T. S. be extended to the able and courteous management of the Raleigh Hotel for the charming hospitality extended to the Convention and the individual members thereof, and for the use of the superb accommodations so cordially offered. We shall surely wish to come again. Carried.

D. *Whereas*, The Book Concern is not able to maintain an existence by giving a discount of 25 per cent to the lodges which purchase books from it,

Resolved, That this discount be reduced to 20 per cent, until such time as it may be possible to restore it to 25 per cent. Carried.

E. *Resolved*, That the American Section of the Theosophical Society in Convention assembled on this 28th day of August, 1914, do extend our loyal and affectionate gratitude and esteem to our elder brothers, Mrs. Annie Besant, Mr.

C. W. Leadbeater, Mr. C. Jinarajadasa, Dr. Weller Van Hook, Mr. J. Krishnamurti, Mr. J. Nityananda, and Mr. George S. Arundale. Carried.

F. *Whereas*, At the last Convention it was recommended to the Board of Directors that an amount not exceeding \$1200 a year be appropriated from the general funds of this Society to the General Secretary for his personal expenses on behalf of the Society for the fiscal year beginning July 1st, 1913, therefore be it

Resolved, That the same courtesy be extended to him this year by appropriating a sum not exceeding \$1200, for the same purpose as heretofore, for the fiscal year beginning July 1st, 1914. Carried.

G. *Resolved*, By the Theosophical Society in Convention assembled at Washington, D. C., on August 28th, 1914, that we commend the calm and patriotic words of the President of the United States in his recent remarkable appeal for national neutrality in the present European crisis.

His words stimulate every American to temperate thought and action, and strengthen within us the power of self-control.

We pledge him, our honored President, our earnest cooperation in this respect.

Further, that the Recording Secretary be instructed to transmit a copy of this resolution to his Excellency. Carried.

H. *Resolved*, That the thanks of the Convention be extended to the International Lecturer, Mrs. Marie B. Russak, for the excellent work she has done in the Section during the past year and hope she may long continue to work with us. Carried.

I. *Resolved*, That the thanks of the Convention be extended to our National Lecturers, Mr. L. W. Rogers and Mr. David S. M. Unger, for the large number of new members they have brought into the Society and for the new lodges formed during the past year. Carried.

J. *Whereas*, It is desirable that the property at Krotona, belonging to a corporation under Mrs. Besant's control, should be cleared of indebtedness with all possible dispatch and especially before

Mrs. Besant's visit to the Section in 1915: therefore be it

Resolved, That the Section looks with favor upon the efforts made in the Section by the Krotona administration to accomplish that end. Carried.

The Committee recommended the rejection of the following:

K. *Resolved*, That the Judiciary Committee be instructed to present a revision of the By-Laws that shall be in harmony with the principles of popular government. After discussion the resolution was carried.

The Committee recommended the rejection of the following:

L. *Whereas*, The Section's Book Concern is in debt to the amount of over \$4,000.00, and its success and the honor of the Section require that this debt shall be paid:

Resolved, That this Convention appropriates the sum of \$3500.00 for the Book Concern, which may not be used for any other purpose than the payment of its debts and the upbuilding of its business, and which shall be appropriated as follows:

\$1250.00 to be paid September 15th, 1914; \$1250.00 November 1st, 1914; and \$1000.00 January 15th, 1915, and that the Manager of the Book Concern make due accounting therefor.

Thereupon on the recommendation of the Resolutions Committee the following substitute was duly adopted:

M. *Whereas*, The financial statement of the relations between the T. S. and the Book Concern shows a large amount owing the T. S. by the Book Concern, the exact amount of which cannot be determined at this time, but which is approximately \$800.00: therefore be it

Resolved, That said debt be canceled. Carried.

The Committee recommended the rejection of the following:

N. *Whereas*, The present method of choosing proxies is open to serious objection in that the Section may not be adequately represented in its Convention and a majority power sufficient to carry all

questions and all elections may be vested in the hands of a few persons controlling sufficient proxies:

Resolved, That Section 5 of By-Law 8 be amended by adding the following sentence: "The Judiciary Committee shall be responsible for getting the proxies."

Thereupon, on the recommendation of the Resolutions Committee, the following substitute was duly adopted:

O. *Resolved*, That the matter of the form of proxy to be used by the American Section of the Theosophical Society, a corporation, be referred to the Judiciary Committee with instructions to submit a form and method to be used in the next and subsequent elections. Carried.

The Committee recommended the rejection of the following:

P. *Resolved*, That the first sentence of section 2, By-Law 6, be amended to read as follows:

"Officers: There shall be a General Secretary, a Recording Secretary, a Propaganda Manager and a Treasurer of this Society.

"Duties of the Propaganda Manager:

It shall be the duty of the Propaganda Manager to superintend and direct the various propaganda activities. He shall systematically utilize the press, to the extent that may be found possible, for placing Theosophical ideas before the public and shall give especial attention to establishing new centres in unorganized territory. He shall draw upon the treasurer for funds to meet the expenses of the propaganda work in such amount as shall be determined by the Annual Meeting.

Whereupon the following substitute was duly adopted:

Q. *Resolved*, That the report of the Committee be amended to provide that the resolution shall be sent to the Finance Committee with instructions to favorably consider the same, and to provide in the budget for support of not less than \$1200.00 for ensuing year for Propaganda Manager. Carried.

The Committee recommended the rejection of all the following:

R. *Whereas*, The business of the Book Concern would be increased by the establishing of Branches in New York and in Chicago,

Resolved, That this Convention appropriate the sum of \$1000.00 for this purpose, \$500.00 to be paid immediately (Sept. 15) for the continuance of the Chicago Branch Book Concern and \$500.00 on January 15th for the opening of the New York Branch.

S. *Whereas*, The General Secretary, Mr. A. P. Warrington, has originated and evolved the plan of dividing the American Section into divisions, and the appointing of Divisional Representatives, for propaganda purposes, and

Whereas, In furtherance of that plan Divisional Federations of lodges have been formed, and

Whereas, By his efficient handling of the trying duties of the office of General Secretary, Mr. A. P. Warrington has won our utmost confidence, now, therefore, be it

Resolved, By the Middle West Federation of Theosophical Society Lodges in conference assembled, that we have the utmost confidence in our General Secretary, Mr. A. P. Warrington, on account of his efficient handling of the trying duties of that office, and in particular we heartily approve of his plan of the divisions, and we recommend to the coming Sectional Convention at Washington, D. C., that it pass such resolutions as may be necessary, empowering the General Secretary to fully develop his divisional plan by allowing him, if he sees fit, to divert some of the funds of the American Section to the Divisions for the use in propaganda work, or if a new source of revenue may be discovered, that the General Secretary be empowered, if he sees fit, to use such revenue in the development of this plan as he may think necessary, and, be it further

Resolved, That we recommend to Convention that Mr. A. P. Warrington be re-elected General Secretary, and be it further

Resolved, That copy of this resolution, signed by the President of the Federa-

tion and attested by the acting Secretary thereof, be forwarded to the General Secretary for presentation to the coming Convention of the American Section.

T. *Whereas*, The work of the Theosophical Society in America is now divided into various divisions for the carrying on of its propaganda work, the expense of which has to be met locally in each division, now therefore be it

Resolved, That the lodges of the Northwest Division in conference assembled at Koenig's, Lake Shownigan, B. C., request the American Section of the Society at its Convention to be held August 27th, 1914, to pass such resolutions as will empower the Executive Committee of the Section to set aside each year a portion of the General Fund to be used by the officers of the several divisions for the purpose of developing the Theosophical movements in said divisions.

U. *Whereas*, The work of the Theosophical Society in America is now divided into various divisions for the carrying on of its propaganda work; and

Whereas, The burden of the expense of this work has to be met locally and at great sacrifice to its members; now therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Northern California Federation of Lodges, now in regular session assembled, request the American Section, at its Convention convening in Washington August 27th, to pass such resolutions as will empower the Executive Committee to appropriate each year a proportion of the amount turned into the General Fund, to be used by the officers of each division for the purpose of opening up new centres and infusing new life into old ones, by sending lecturers into the field, etc.

V. *Whereas*, The Northwest Conference of Lodges of the Theosophical Society has been greatly blessed by the presence of David S. M. Unger, of Chicago, and being deeply appreciative of the services rendered by him, and recognizing his special ability to awaken Christian people to the teachings of Theosophy: now therefore, be it

Resolved, That we, the Northwest Federation, in conference assembled, express our sincerest gratitude to Mr. Unger; and be it further

Resolved, That the Conference requests the Convention of the American Section of the Theosophical Society, convening August 28th, 1914, to make such provisions as the funds of the Society will warrant for keeping Mr. Unger in the lecture field.

W. *Whereas*, It has been the privilege of this Northern California Federation of Lodges of the Theosophical Society to have the presence and the assistance of Mr. David S. M. Unger, of Chicago, and

Whereas, This Federation deeply appreciates and is grateful for the services rendered by Mr. Unger; and further realizes that Mr. Unger is doing an important work in the Theosophical Society, by bringing Theosophy to Christian people in a way which no one else can do; therefore, be it

Resolved, That this Northern Federation of California Lodges, in Convention assembled, express its sincere gratitude and appreciation to Mr. Unger for the services he has rendered; and be it further

Resolved, That this Federation request the Convention of the American Section, which is to convene in Washington on August 28th, to make some provision by which Mr. Unger will be kept in the lecture field constantly, if possible; and that a fund be provided for that purpose.

X. *Whereas*, An International Exposition is to be held in San Francisco in 1915; and

Whereas, It is the desire of the members of the Theosophical Society that its great international work be made known to the millions who will attend the Exposition: now therefore, be it

Resolved, That the American Section of the Theosophical Society in Convention assembled August 28th, 1914, make a suitable appropriation from the General Fund of the Section for the purpose of building a booth that will appropriately represent our Society and its work.

Y. *Whereas*, -An International Exposition is to be held in San Francisco in 1915, and

Whereas, It is the desire of the members of the Theosophical Society that its great international work be made known to the millions who will attend the Exposition:

Resolved, That the American Section in Convention ask that an appropriation of \$500.00 be made from the General Fund of the Section, for the purpose of building a suitable booth that will appropriately represent our Society and its work.

Whereupon, on the recommendation of the Committee, the following was adopted as a substitute in each instance, for Resolutions R to Y inclusive:

Z. *Resolved*, That those resolutions involving the expenditure of sums of money in connection with propaganda work be favorably considered by the Board of Trustees at the time the budget for the ensuing year is made up, and that persons interested in specific projects be given an opportunity to be heard before the Board before appropriations are made. Carried.

So many resolutions were presented to the Convention that it was necessary to cancel the "Members' Forum" and postpone Mr. Cooper's public lecture until Saturday evening. The Convention re-assembled Saturday at two o'clock.

The following report was submitted by the Auditing Committee:

Your Audit Committee, to whom was referred the report of the Treasurer of the American Section, report that we have checked same against the report under oath, made by a public expert accountant, and while his report shows the receipts and disbursements under many more subdivisions than the Treasurer, we find them in harmony with respect to the most of the items on either side of the account, and in accord in so far as the cash on hand to begin with and on hand at the end of the year, June 30, 1914.

T. D. Dawkins,
E. C. Reynolds,
Mrs. A. Ross Read,
Committee.

REPORT OF "THE AMERICAN THEOSOPHIST"

During the twelve months which have just ended *The American Theosophist* has had a most successful year, indeed the best year of its existence, and its success—I am glad to be able to report—has been in more ways than one. We have received much more assistance from the members than heretofore, both financially and otherwise, and they are taking more interest in the magazine than they have ever done.

Through the generosity of Mr. Holbrook and a few others, it has not cost the American Section anything to publish *The American Theosophist* since the first of last October, and too many thanks cannot be given to Mr. Holbrook for his very generous donations. While his gifts were most liberal, amounting to \$2,660 between October first and June thirtieth, the magazine did not use all he donated and we start the new fiscal year with \$1,389.37 from this source alone.

The income for the year from all sources, according to the Auditor's Report, which I have verified, was \$10,914.82, including the \$2,698.75 donated by Mr. Holbrook and a few others; while the expenditure was \$8,975.99, making a total loss for the year of \$759.92 when the donations are not counted, or a profit of \$1,938.83 if the donations are added.

Last year, which included only ten months, owing to the change of the fiscal year, the total income, according to the Auditor's Report, was \$4,583.68 and the total expenditure \$9,787.67, making a loss for the ten months of \$5,203.99. This year our loss is \$759.92 for twelve months, and the greater part of this was in the first months of this year.

The income from

Subscriptions was	\$3,937.06
Advertising	2,430.35
Sales	1,253.45
Profits on books and pamphlets	124.40

In the coming year we should be able to report to next Convention a nice profit on the year's work.

It seems to me this is a very good

showing indeed, for you will remember that last year I asked that a sum of not less than \$450.00 per month be devoted to publishing *The American Theosophist*; but this year I do not ask the Section for any money and I feel sure we shall not need to call on the Section again for funds for its support.

On June 30 we had the following subscribers on our list:

Members	2,672
Non-members	1,055
Libraries	192
Theosophical lodges.....	23
Prisons	7
Exchanges and free copies	60
<hr/>	
Total	4,009

As we have been issuing 6,000 copies monthly, the balance is sent to the news stands and sold to lodges and individuals at cost for propaganda work. Last year we had about 2,000 paid subscribers, while this year we have nearly doubled that number, or about 4,000.

Some of the lodges have done remarkably good work, such as the Philadelphia Lodge, which sends us, through its president, a list of all enquirers and visitors and pays for a sample copy of the magazine to be sent to each. This lodge also puts the magazine in the public library and branches; and has a cover made for it stamped *The American Theosophist*. Oakland Lodge, and one or two others also, sends the magazine to the library and all its branches and many lodges receive from six to twelve copies a month for propaganda work.

On July 1 *The American Theosophist* was made separate and distinct from the American Section, as had previously been done with the Theosophical Book Concern, and the magazine now has its own account books, bank account and staff of workers. This was done in order to facilitate as much as possible prompt attention to orders and correspondence, and the change has already very much improved conditions.

The American Theosophist should be in every public library in the United States and Canada. Were this the case it would

mean much for Theosophy, for thousands visit a public library in the course of a year and many would come in touch with our philosophy through the magazine being displayed on the reading-table. We have been able to add a number of new libraries to our list during the past year, but nothing like the number we should have. I sincerely hope we can do much more in the coming year for, to me, it is the best way of doing propaganda work that I know of. The biggest work we could do would be to put *The American Theosophist* in every public library that has one thousand volumes or over—I mean in every library that would place it on the reading-table.

The Section has been generous in its support of the magazine in the past and I feel the time has come when the magazine should pay off some of its karma to the Section. With this end in view, and also with the view of putting the magazine on a strong financial basis, I am planning, with the consent of the Board of Trustees, to put a lecturer into the field and to pay his expenses. This can be done if every member in the Section will agree to get us one new subscriber during the year. We do not expect or desire members to pay for these subscriptions out of their own pockets, but rather that they should interest outsiders in the magazine and get them to subscribe. Think what this would mean to the Section to have another lecturer in the field, devoting all his time to forming new centres and helping those already established, organizing study classes, etc., and all this without cost to the Section. This can be done if every member will do his or her part by getting one new and fully paid-up subscription. It is not very much for each to do, and yet the results will be inestimable. More and more people are being attracted to Theosophy and there must be thousands who are just ready for what we have to give them. What better way of interesting outsiders than through our propaganda magazine?

Every lodge should have an up-to-date list of names of intelligent and broad-minded people in its adjoining territory; these persons should receive notices

about the lodge meetings and public lectures and a leaflet about the latest Theosophical books, as well as a subscription blank for *The American Theosophist*. This would also be work which the lecturer could organize while visiting the different lodges.

When the September issue goes out we shall have given the members over 900 pages of reading matter for \$1.00, for that is the number of pages in Vol. XV., which ends with the September number. I feel sure they will all agree with me that they have had a good dollar's worth, especially when one considers that, through the kindness of Mr. Lindon, we have been able to give them two original poems by Sir Edwin Arnold, one of which was a facsimile of his own handwriting. Many magazines would have been willing to pay large sums for the right to publish those poems, but Mr. Lindon decided that *The American Theosophist* should have this privilege and without cost.

The year which lies ahead of us, it seems to me, is full of promise and I ask the full co-operation of all members in making *The American Theosophist* more widely known. They have done splendid work during the year and I feel sure they will do even better in the next. My best thanks go to them, to Mr. Holbrook and Miss Holbrook, as well as to the staff at headquarters which has made all this possible. They have been the real doers and I have been a very small cog in a big wheel.

Robert W. Ensor,
Business Manager.

The last business of the Convention was the report of the Nominations Committee which was as follows:

"The Committee on Nominations recommend the following:

For General Secretary, Mr. A. P. Warrington.

For Treasurer, Mr. C. F. Holland.

For Recording Secretary, Miss Julia K. Sommer.

For Judiciary Committee, Mr. Max Wardall.

For Board of Trustees: Messrs. Elliot Holbrook, E. Grant Garnsey, H. C. Stowe, F. J. Primavesi.

The same were duly elected and the Secretary instructed to cast the ballot of the Convention.

By motion, Mr. L. W. Rogers was warmly thanked by the Convention for his able work as chairman.

At this point Mr. Warrington resumed the chair and after a few earnest words by him, the Convention rose at 5 p. m.

This report should not be closed without expressing the gratitude of the Section to the members of the Washington lodges for their hospitality, constant thoughtfulness of the welfare of the visiting members and for the splendid way in which the details of the Convention were carried out. Mention must also be made of the delightful souvenir presented by the Washington members to the Convention. It gave a charming description of *The Jaquess Guild*, its history and program, and contained a likeness of the founder of the Guild, Mrs. Annie M. Jaquess.

Max Wardall,
Recording Secretary.

The following reports were received but not read before the Convention, for lack of time. They are printed in *The Messenger* for the information of the Section.

REPORT OF THE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE

During the year there have been submitted By-Laws, or "Constitution and By-Laws," from twelve lodges. They were approved, some of them with slight changes, one was rejected, and one returned to the lodge with suggestions for changing them so as to carry out the probable wishes of the lodge.

It is the policy of the Judiciary Committee to approve By-Laws submitted, if they contain nothing in conflict with the By-Laws of the American Section, or with the Rules and Regulations of the parent body, or objectionable to the spirit and purpose of the Theosophical Society; but sometimes it has been impossible to determine just what the lodge intended, because of conflict between different sections, or from indefiniteness in phrasing. For harmony and clearness it has been

necessary at times to add or eliminate a word or phrase, which has been done by the Committee rather than return them to the lodges for re-phrasing.

Some of the By-Laws submitted have been clear and simple, others have been ambiguous, and others quite elaborate, including a "Constitution" as well as By-Laws.

The Constitution of every lodge is its Charter and the laws of the parent body and the American Section applicable to lodges. All that a lodge needs is a simple set of By-Laws as a guide for the conduct of its business. With a view to being of service the Committee has drafted, and submits herewith, a set of By-Laws as a guide to lodges in making up their own. Or, if these are thought sufficient and comprehensive, they could be printed, leaving blank spaces that could be filled in to meet any special condition or local requirement, and sent out to lodges for their adoption, if they choose to do so. This would lighten the work of the General Secretary, the Judicial Committee and the lodges, and help our brother, the printer.

REPORT OF PRESS ASSOCIATION

The Theosophic Press Association, of Kansas City, Mo., took its place among Theosophic activities January 21, 1912, and accomplished some important help for our field lecturers as their press agents.

In the past year it has followed Mr. Unger's itinerary, and has given accumulated force to the good work he has been able to do.

Its work is not fully a press association work, but it has opened the way for lecturers through the press to the public, promoting a better understanding of Theosophy, by securing large audiences and placing a true estimate of our teaching through reports of lectures.

The present workers will be in full accord with any of the writing craft connected with the Society who will lend the dignity of their profession in opportunities for greater service and influence for the good of Theosophy. *E. B. Catlin.*

REPORT OF PRISON WORK BUREAU

It gives me a great deal of pleasure to report that during the past year the work of the Prison Work Bureau has been conducted with greater activity than ever, and we have received more requests for Theosophical correspondents from prisoners than during any previous year. Gradually we are winning the confidence of our prisoner brothers and our capacity for reaching their hearts is increasing as we grow in experience and knowledge of prison conditions. To no class of people do we find that Theosophy appeals more than to prisoners. It gives them fresh hope, fresh chances of repairing what before has seemed irreparable, and through the teachings of our beautiful philosophy of life many a man has come forth from behind prison walls determined to change his mode of life, and is doing a noble work in the world, for it has given him a better basis upon which to work.

Just a little of the Theosophical philosophy of life gives hope to the most hopeless and discouraged. The thought that one is to be given another chance, and still another, and another, is a splendid substitute for the all too common belief that if one misses his chance there is nothing more to strive or hope for.

Prisoners take to the twin doctrines of reincarnation and karma "like ducks to water." Unlike so many persons on the "outside" who object to reincarnation on the ground of lack of remembrance of past lives, we rarely find this objection raised by our prisoner-correspondents. Is it to be wondered at that the belief that they will be reborn in a fresh body, with the memory of the past obliterated and the future a clean sheet for them to write upon is such a great stimulus to those who know that in this life they will be held down, to some extent, by the world's knowledge of their acts and the constant suggestion to crime which such memory engenders?

The more intelligent prisoners accept with joy the teaching that they will come back and have a fresh start, a new chance, their experiences of the past transmuted

into faculties. We try to teach these brothers that they must reap the fruit of their own sowing, yet, if they learn the lesson and take their evolution into their own hands there is nothing in heaven or earth that can stop them; that law, and not chance, rules their lives. The response to this teaching is splendid. It is wonderful how divine men are—if we can only see it!

As we grow into closer touch with the brethren behind the bars we grow in wonder at the good going to waste in human lives—at the ground lying there so fallow, only waiting for the sower to come sowing seeds of kindness and love, to spring up into beauty and richness and life. Heretofore life has had a rather sorry time of it, pushing and crowding and struggling along its weary old road, without much chance to make the best growth possible. But right now we are beginning to cherish a glimmering hope for better things under the wonderful touch of human interest for the common good which is making itself felt all over this old planet. There is a better and more brotherly feeling towards the man who is resting under the shadow of the common law than ever before. As humanity goes onward in its stupendous evolutionary journey toward its source, it is beginning to learn of its own nature, of its own goodness and beauty; that ever and ever

"In the mud and slime of things,

There always something, something
sings."

The coming of Walt Whitman's "City of Friends" is only delayed by society's foolish, stupid methods of procedure. What is sorely needed is Light—to see and understand. We have been taught to believe the so-called "criminal class" something apart from us—apart from our nature—which is quite different from other natures. It isn't! We are all just folks, in different circumstances and surroundings, that's all. We are all traveling the same evolutionary road and it rests with the more advanced to extend a helping hand to those further down on the mountain climb of life. The co-opera-

tion of every member of the Theosophical Society is invited in this work. There is no finer way to teach the truth and the fact of Brotherhood than by being brotherly. We, who are always ready to extend empty hands to those above us, must remember to extend full hands to those below us, or our prayers and cries will remain forever unfulfilled.

The head of the Bureau will be glad to hear from those who are willing to undertake the work of corresponding with prisoners. Those who are so writing are delighted with the work and the prisoners are grateful. Those who do not care to do this may help in other ways. There is not one who cannot afford to send a Theosophical book, a magazine, stamps to pay postage, or a little money to buy clothing or other necessities for discharged prisoners; for our interest in the prisoner does not cease with his release from prison. We try to obtain positions for these men and keep in touch with them just as long as they care to have us do so. Many of our correspondents are making good in a wonderful way. Several are occupying positions of trust and in their turn are passing the word along.

Up to the 1st of August the Bureau has supplied three hundred and twenty-eight prisoners with Theosophical correspondents, a gain of one hundred and twenty-one since our last report. The importance of this work will be realized when it is understood that each one of these men asked for instruction along Theosophical lines—not one was urged to accept a correspondent. Nearly every man writes that the request for a correspondent is prompted by a sincere desire to turn over a new page. It is not claimed that we are successful in every case, but the measure of our success is sufficiently large to warrant the statement that our correspondence plan appears to be one of the most successful yet tried in this direction and deserves the hearty co-operation of every Theosophist.

The work of the Prison Work Bureau is not confined to any country or state. At the present time we have prisoner-correspondents in twenty-two institutions, as follows: Deer Lodge, Mont.;

Federal prisons at Leavenworth, Kan., and McNeil's Island, Wash.; Stillwater, Minn.; St. Cloud, Minn.; McAlester, Okla.; Tombs, New York City; Lansing, Kan.; Eastern Pen. of Pa., at Philadelphia; Walla Walla, Wash.; Salem, Ore.; San Quentin, Alcatraz and Folsom, Cal.; Gatesville, Texas; Joliet, Ill.; Baton Rouge, La.; Canon City, Colo.; Hutchinson, Kan.; Florence, Ariz.; Carson City, Nev.; Waupun, Wis.; we also have correspondents in a number of county jails. During the past year twenty-three men have been provided with employment, suitable clothing, and otherwise cared for.

During the past year several members assisted in a material way by giving books, magazines and cash. Dr. Stokes of the Oriental Esoteric Library contributed the profits of two months' sales of Mr. Leadbeater's books, and a Honolulu member gave us about \$50 worth of books. In the majority of prisons new books are insisted upon, but the Bureau is in a position to use second-hand books if members have any they are through using.

The head of the Bureau will be pleased to hear from any one who wishes to hold out a helping hand to the man who comes out of prison and shows that he has learned his lesson and wishes to lead a better life. Will you help?

E. B. Catlin.

REPORT OF THE CORRESPONDENCE BUREAU FOR NEW MEMBERS

The Correspondence Bureau for New Members began its work last July, 1913. During the year it reached about 65 correspondents. Different classes through correspondence were organized, mostly for members-at-large. One on *The Text Book of Theosophy* for those who had already a fair idea of the Theosophical teachings. Another class was based on the Manual *The Astral Plane* for those eager to study conditions existing in the invisible worlds, coupled with fundamental details of great importance. Another class on the *Bhagavad Gita* was organized for those not inclined to study

technical details but who nevertheless wished to dwell on the spiritual side of Theosophy, as it is given in this wonderful poem.

While groups of students followed different lines of studies, each received the monthly letter containing our "Ways of Service," telling of the members' endeavors to live the Theosophical life, according to one's opportunities. The steady growth of this department was a happy feature of the year's work, for each month one member after the other would come within the ranks of those who were willing to practice what they had accepted as being true. An important incentive to them was the recognition of how our "Ways of Service" were becoming helpful to the students as a whole.

Many members during the year sent in questions, made inquiries, asked advice concerning their Theosophical problems, and gave this Bureau the opportunities it seeks to help all those that enter the T. S. to feel that true brotherhood means a deep, sincere interest in what concerns their first touch, in this life, with this great movement of world-wide importance.

Eugenie Honold.

REPORT OF MYSTIC DRAMA LEAGUE

It gives me much pleasure to accede to your request for a report of the work of the Mystic Drama League, particularly as during the past year the organization has been blessed with an almost phenomenal success, considering the limitations under which much of its work has of necessity been accomplished.

We believe much of this success may be attributed to the presentation of the *Quest of the Grail*, a poetic drama dealing with the eternal seeking of the soul for the Divine light of Truth, and embodying, in an attractive manner, many of the great Theosophical truths. But what shall be said in regard to the undoubted inspiration of the players? Absolutely without training or stage experience, save in a very few instances, they gave a production far surpassing in excellence the

best that can be expected from amateur work.

As a result of this production, many new and interested members have been added to the roll of the League, whose loyal and hearty co-operation has induced the Director to formulate a quite extensive program of work for the ensuing year, not more, however, than the enthusiasm of the members can easily accomplish. We have in present preparation Shakespeare's *Midsummer Night's Dream*, which will be given September 5th and 12th, and following this, Kennedy's *The Servant in the House*. Of special importance to the League will be the presentation of the class play *Domnia*, the work exclusively of the Drama Building class, as differentiated from the dramatic division.

To Dr. Mary Weeks Burnett, the founder, helper and fast friend of the League, its members wish to express their appreciation of the patience with which she has helped them over the rough places, and also to the Chicago Theosophical Association, to whose co-operation and kindly interest they owe much of their success.

It is not the intention of the present director to have the work of the Mystic Drama League confined to Chicago. We have heard from many members elsewhere showing a decided interest in our work, and it is our hope that this Order of Service may grow and that other cities will organize and endeavor to carry out the object of the League, which is: "To create, and to promote the creation of dramas which represent Theosophical ideals in daily life, and to train its members to properly present the same on the stage."

If there are any who wish further information regarding this Order of Service, a copy of the by-laws may be obtained by addressing the secretary, Miss Gail Wilson, 113 So. Seeley Ave., Chicago. Also to those who have written for information regarding the *Quest of the Grail* will say that just as soon as the copyright is obtained, this play can be sent out for production in other cities. *Viola Marshall.*

REPORT OF THE HEAD OF THE MUSIC CORRESPONDENCE BUREAU

As you know, I have only been acting as a substitute for Mr. Reed this past year in carrying out the work of the Music Correspondence Bureau. With the assistance of Mrs. Kate P. Gurley, who has done all the typewriting and sending out of letters, and also with the help of Mrs. Young in the occult interpretation of music in its relation to Theosophy, I have been able to keep up the interest of the older members and to add a number of new names. Our aim is ever the promotion of Theosophy and the spread of its teachings. We have derived much inspiration from Mr. Reed's letters and we have quoted freely from his published and unpublished articles.

Our monthly letter has gone forth promptly, but I regret to say the replies have not always been as promptly forthcoming. It is to be desired that members write something on the subject under consideration, if only one thought jotted down. Let us all remember that the learning is in the doing and each do his share.

I am happy to be able to report that next year Mr. Reed will resume the active management of the Bureau, and I can assure those who are interested in music and Theosophy, and the relation between the two, that they cannot do better than become members of the Music Correspondence Bureau. There are no fees or dues, but voluntary offerings toward defraying the actual expenses are acceptable. *Jessie W. Wright.*

REPORT OF TRAVELING MEN'S LEAGUE

In reply to your favor of the 1st, will say after my conference with Mr. Unger, of the Great Lakes Confederation, relative to organization of Traveling Men's League, for the T. S., will say I communicated with all lodges in United States requesting names and addresses of the members of the respective lodges who were traveling men. Up to the present writing I have received communications from only twenty of the lodges and notice

only three traveling men are connected with these lodges. Nothing farther has been done towards organization than this. My idea was to get this information and, armed with same, attend Convention in Chicago, in October, of the Great Lakes Confederation and if possible then and there to effect organization.

Individually, I have been working in every town and city, also in out of the way places where I travel to spread Theosophy and will say that I have met with considerable success, finding many who are eager to know something of the philosophy; also, of the idea of the near coming of the Great Teacher. I have given out propaganda literature wherever required and have kept in touch with many of those with whom I have spoken.

At present writing Mrs. N. A. Court-right and myself are here in Paducah and Mrs. Courtright lectured, last night, to an audience in the parlors of the Palmer House, subject of lecture *Life as Seen by the Dead*. This afternoon a question and answer meeting will be held at three o'clock and tonight she will again lecture on the subject *Man: Whence, How and Whither*. People here in Paducah are very much interested in Theosophy and we hope ere long we will be able to start a lodge at this point. *George H. Wilson.*

REPORT OF THE BRAILLE COUNCIL

The Council for providing Braille Theosophical literature for the blind has been chiefly concerned this past year with raising money for a new stereotyper. Thanks to the generosity of the American Section the money came in, the machine has been ordered and will be delivered the last of July.

The Treasurer's report in brief is as follows:

The machine fund brought over.....	\$ 88.23
Received since October, 1913.....	180.04
Total	\$268.27
Paid out for current expenses.....	\$ 22.00
Advance payment on machine.....	50.00
Total	\$ 72.00
Balance on hand.....	\$196.27

There will be about \$130.00 more to pay on the machine, leaving \$66.27 for current expenses. Our expenses in the past have been about \$40.00 or \$50.00 per year.

The Home Memorial Press of South Boston has generously allowed us the use of its stereotyping machine until we could get a new one, and also permits the use of its printing-press and binder on Sundays and holidays. Without their help our work would have had to be discontinued while we collected money. That explains also our low running expenses. As it is we have not only continued the work, but have enlarged our magazine, and are contemplating further improvements in it, and hope to increase its circulation.

The helpers who send in Braille manuscripts have been busy making eighteen accessions to our library.

Mr. Evans, a blind reader, is compiling a dictionary of Theosophical terms, and has also given some poems to the library.

Several readers have dropped and several new ones applied, making about thirty now. Our librarian's scheme of having our readers correspond with one another has not worked, as they wished to write to some one more advanced in study. Several of them have joined the Order of the Star in the East.

We need very much some one in or near Boston to help in binding the books, as the manuscripts come in faster than Mr. Dahl can bind them, the magazine requiring most of his time. We need also a room, cheap of rent, to do the work in. We have the offer now of a part of a room rent free, but which can only be used on Sundays and holidays.

It is a pity that our magazine cannot be united with the new English Braille one, but I understand that English Braille is different from American Braille and is not taught in the schools in this country.

Hazel G. Collins.

PROPAGANDA AFFAIRS

Having been appointed to the position of manager of the Propaganda Department I wish to announce that my address for the season of 1914-15 will be Indian-

apolis, Ind. (no local address on letters necessary) and that I shall be pleased to hear from lodges and members in regard to lecture engagements and propaganda work through the press.

Indianapolis has been selected as headquarters for the season because it is the centre of a section of the country containing a larger number of unorganized cities than any other part of the nation. While organizing these new cities occasional short tours will be made to a few of the existing lodges to increase the membership and strengthen the centre. Those desiring engagements should make early application.

L. W. Rogers.

REPORT OF GERMAN PROPAGANDA BUREAU

In response to your request for a report of the work of the German Propaganda Bureau, I must say that I have had hardly anything to do for the last year. There is no regular correspondence, and no definite plan. There is some inquiry for small literature in German, and it would seem to be necessary to have more available before much can be done for Germans.

Although quite willing to continue in charge of this Bureau, I want you to feel free to give the work to any one else that might be able to push it more than I have been able to do.

C. Shuddemagen.

REPORT OF THE FINNISH PROPAGANDA BUREAU

The chief means of propaganda has been the Finnish Lending Library, which has been much used during the year. All Theosophical books which have been translated into Finnish are added as soon as they come out; the first volume of *The Secret Doctrine* has recently been added. The *Teosofian Valo* is also doing good work. We have two new members joining Sampo Lodge. Several lectures on Theosophy have been delivered before Temperance Societies, and Sampo Lodge holds regular Sunday meetings which many visitors have attended. Mr. Kaarna reports that there are many places in the

States where Finns are interested in Theosophy, but as there are no leaders, no organized work is done. If I had the means I would go and see what can be done, but of course without money that is impossible.

Mr. Matti Kurikka is writing letters from London and reports Mrs. Besant's lectures very beautifully in his newspaper, *New-york'in Uutiset*. This paper is circulated all over the country.

John Forssell.

REPORT OF THE WORK IN THE BUREAU OF RAILROAD ADVERTISING

I have little to report, as the only activities of this Bureau have been the answering of a few letters of inquiry, and the supervising of the racks placed in the Erie Station and the New York Central Station in Rochester.

In the past year four or five thousand pamphlets have been disposed of through those two racks alone.

Our only difficulty is to get sufficient money to finance our racks, which are in charge of our local Karma and Reincarnation Unit.

(Mrs.) Ednah D. Freeland.

REPORT OF LOTUS BUREAU WORK

The activities of the Lotus Bureau have been carried on in the Section with but little assistance from the Head of the Bureau, who is one of the active workers at Krotona and has her days filled with the details of office work, leaving but scant time for Lotus activities and who for this reason feels that the Bureau would be better in the hands of one less burdened and with more time at his disposal.

There is much that could be done along this line as is shown by the fact that, even without encouragement, several new Lotus groups have been organized from time to time and some of the old groups reorganized and improved.

Several teachers in the lower grades are using the Lotus work in their rooms, and a number have their children repeat the Golden Chain verses every morning. Organized activity along this line would be

productive of much good. In one school where one of our enthusiastic members is teaching, the stories in *The American Theosophist* are read by the teacher and illustrated by the children. The influence on the pupils has been so noticeable that the principal has given his whole-hearted co-operation to this member and several of the teachers in the building have adopted the idea and put it into practice with much success.

It is right here among the teachers who are Theosophists that the work should be carried on, for they reach far more than the organized Lotus groups are able to do, and the principles of Theosophy, such as karma, reincarnation, kindness to animals, etc., can be taught by using examples furnished by Nature without in any way antagonizing other religious beliefs.

Lilla Kunz.

MRS. WARDALL'S REPORT OF THE ROUND TABLE

During the year our work has been progressing slowly and we feel that a great deal of good has been done.

Five Tables have disbanded during the year, and three Tables organized in new places, so America now has seventeen Round Tables.

Our crying need is for Knights; there are plenty of young people ready to work and "Follow the King," but our older people do not respond to the opportunity as they should.

The Tables have been doing splendid work, and all reports show that the Companions are learning the meaning of Service.

I have tendered my resignation as Senior Knight of America, and, upon recommendation, Mr. Norris Rakestraw has been appointed by the Central Council in London, to fill my place.

The Senior Council in America now consists of the Senior Knight, Mr. Norris Rakestraw, Miss Edith Walter and myself. We hope to do good work this coming year, under the able direction of our Senior Knight.

REPORT OF ROUND TABLE

Norris W. Rakestraw, Senior Knight

Inasmuch as I have held the office of Senior Knight for such a short time, and as the recent Senior Knight has not yet forwarded to me all the records and paraphernalia of office, I have been able to do very little. However, I have my plan of activities practically formulated though I have scarcely had time to inaugurate it.

Though I do not know accurately how many Tables are in operation at the present date, I should place the number at about twenty. I should also estimate that there are about twenty Knights and one hundred and thirty Companions and Associates in the Order in this country. In order to ascertain the condition of the Order I have written to fifteen Tables, asking a report of their condition and activities. Five answers have been received to date, showing a very fair degree of activity. Also I have written letters to about thirty of the T. S. lodges asking their attention to the Round Table work and for the names of all young people connected with the lodge and the members who are interested in work among young people. Only one answer has been received as yet.

I regret that there is so little interest among T. S. members in this extremely important work among young people. It is true that the young people with whom the Round Table has most to deal are just of the age when it is most difficult to impress them with noble ideals, but that is the more reason why this effort should be pushed.

I am planning several changes in the organization of the work in this country which I think should make the Order more efficient and, at the same time, more attractive to the young people themselves. I wish to make the Order broad enough in its ideals and discipline so as to include all types of young people, but to adapt it particularly to those of a Theosophical bent—not necessarily connected with the T. S., but at least those old souls in young bodies who are already recognizing the Real. There are so many young people's organizations for

those who are thus inclined that it will not in the least pay us to add another to that number. As it appears to me, the purpose of the Round Table should be to serve as a training-school for young people, from which they may gain something of real value in future life. Its ideal is essentially character building, coupled as it must be with service. It is a Theosophical organization and I wish it to mean to young people what the T. S. means to older ones—an organization to whom all are welcome, irrespective of individual belief, but still one which has a message to teach to all who will listen. We are dealing with young people who are of the age when they begin to think for themselves. To this end I am providing means by which the earnest and sincere member—heretofore a mere Companion—may become a Knight—the acme of chivalry. For Knights there is a discipline more severe than that of Companions, embodying more of Theosophical principles, and enabling him to develop the three qualities of wisdom, power and love. This provides plenty to do for any young person, and I want none to drop from the Order because they feel its work too simple. Even after he is old enough to take an interest in T. S. work there will still be plenty of opportunity for work within the Round Table. We must

remember we are dealing not only with the child of 13, but also the young man or woman of 20 or 21.

Inasmuch as the legends and ceremonies of chivalry lie at the foundation of the Round Table it is my idea to bring these out more and to make use of them in Round Table meetings. In the Table I am forming we each have a name from the stories of chivalry and go by that name exclusively in the meetings. Also each has his coat of arms and his sword, and there is a ceremony for the opening and closing of the meetings.

By doing such things as this, by giving the Order an element of secrecy and mystery and by making its organization more complex, so that each member feels that he has something to do—in this way the interest of the young people is better held than if they are merely gathered together to listen to the words of a leader.

I wish the Tables to remember the social side of their work and not to overlook such things as outdoor meetings, picnics, etc.

This report includes more of what I *intend* to do than what I have *done*, but the deficiency of the one must be filled by an excess of the other. I hope to be able to render you a more tangible report later; just now I am only settling into my seat as Senior Knight. *Merlin.*

CONVENTION NOTES

This twenty-eighth Convention of the Theosophical Society has been remarkable in many ways, not least among which was the holiday atmosphere so apparent to all who gathered in our capital city the last of August. All day Wednesday and Thursday, the 26th and 27th, T. S. members were pouring into the city and were seen passing to and fro in the lobby of the Hotel Raleigh, where the Convention proper was held. Many of the members took advantage of the comforts offered by this hotel to make their personal headquarters there, and some seemed to have arranged to make this a vacation time and to combine the opportunity of attending Convention with a real holiday from work

and worry, and no more beautiful city in our country could have been chosen for such a plan.

On Thursday afternoon, at three o'clock, nearly all the members then in the city gathered for a sightseeing tour, which was given at the expense of the members of the local lodges. This excursion made us familiar with the residence district particularly, where we passed by the houses of millionaires, well-known Congressmen and foreign embassies, all beautiful and imposing. Of course the cars took us by the White House, the Mint, the théâtre where Lincoln was assassinated, the little house to which he was carried immediately afterward, the

Navy and Army and various other public buildings, bringing us up at the Capitol, on the steps of which the Convention picture was taken.

The reunion and reception to all visitors, given under the auspices of the Washington Theosophists in the Banquet Hall on the tenth floor of the Raleigh Hotel, was held at eight o'clock this same evening. There was a general atmosphere of sociability and holiday feeling, and joy at meeting once again the members with whom we had made our links at previous Conventions, as well as pleasure in forming new ties with those whose faces were not so familiar to the older Convention attendants. The one disappointment was that of not having our General Secretary present with us on this occasion, but he was obliged to be in conference with the trustees during the entire evening.

At half-past nine on Friday the regular Convention opened. That evening at eight there was a public lecture by L. W. Rogers, the National Lecturer of the Theosophical Society, entitled *The Spirit of Theosophy*. Mr. Rogers gave his usual spirited and convincing talk and struck the note so peculiar to him in setting forth the great truths with a clearness of outline that always appeals to the layman.

On Saturday morning Convention again assembled and, on account of some delays, was continued after the luncheon hour, thus taking up so much of the afternoon time that the public lecture by Irving S. Cooper could not be given as planned that afternoon; but, by special request of the members, he graciously consented to give his lecture that evening, in place of a question meeting as scheduled on the program. From five to six that afternoon Mrs. Russak spoke on *The Occultism of Ceremonial*. This lecture was open not only to Templars of the Rosy Cross but to members of the T. S. as well. At eight o'clock Mr. Cooper's lecture on *The Welding of Eastern Mysticism and Western Energy* was given in his usual scholarly manner to a most attentive audience. He brought out the necessity for the co-operation of the East and West, and emphasized the need that we as Westerners have to learn of our brothers the value of combining

more of the meditative with our natural aggressive activities.

On Sunday morning the members of the Order of the Star in the East met for a talk from the National Representative of the Order in America; Miss Marjorie Tuttle. It was a joy to all members to find their leader was able to be with them at this time, as some were not sure of seeing her. For those not attending the Esoteric or the Templar meetings, sight-seeing tours were provided throughout the day. At eight o'clock Sunday evening there were addresses by Mrs. Marie Russak and Mr. Henry Hotchner entitled *Reincarnation and the Life After Death*. Mrs. Grace Shaw Duff presided as Chairman. It is unnecessary to explain to the members the nature of this symposium, for all who have been fortunate enough to take advantage of the opportunity of hearing Mrs. Russak when she has visited in their centres are well aware of their value.

At other Conventions it has been the custom for the members to hurry back to their homes the moment the official activities were over, but for several days after the program had been completed one would see familiar faces in the lobby of the hotel, where groups would meet to set out on various excursions. The favorite trips were those to the Smithsonian Institute, Congressional Library, Corcoran Art Galleries, Zoological and Botanical Gardens, to the Washington Monument which stands as a symbol of uprightness and a watch-tower of strength, and a trolley trip to a monastery where visitors were taken into the catacombs and given thrills and experiences that come only from visiting buildings imbued with the magnetism of long ago. The trip which I believe every visitor took was that to Mount Vernon, the home of George and Martha Washington. This can be taken by trolley or by boat. As one wanders about these grounds, kept as nearly as possible as they were left by the Washington family, one goes back into touch with the life as it must have been in those times. It is a delight to realize that this property has been kept so intact. Even the lawns appear to have the same undulations and dips that must have existed at

the time our first President called this "home." To sit upon the knoll in front of the house and gaze out on that beautiful Potomac River sets one to speculating as to how that great man who fought and lived for principle in his day would look upon our idea of truth for which we stand at this time. One cannot help feeling the kinship, and realizing the dedication of spirit as identical—the times calling forth a different expression, but ever the same impulse behind—in that earlier century and now.

A charming feature of the Convention was its souvenirs. To the surprise of all, on the first morning Miss Julia K. Sommer, acting for the Chicago Theosophical Association, presented fans to each member there, a souvenir that was put to service at once. Upon one side of the fan was to be seen the National Headquarters of our Society at Adyar, Madras, India, and upon the other the Headquarters of the American Section at Krotana. This was a most happy compliment from the centre where the Conventions have heretofore been held. The regular Convention souvenir of the twenty-eighth Annual Convention was prepared by the Washington members at the request of the General Secretary. It took the form of a charming pamphlet, setting forth the object of the Jaquess Guild of Washington, D. C. This guild was established by

Mrs. Annie M. Jaquess, and is composed of Theosophists. Its object is to promote sociability among Theosophists and to raise funds for propaganda work and for other activities, including a T. S. Home. It will be unnecessary to go into the subject-matter of the leaflet, for we were assured that a copy is being transmitted to each Theosophical Lodge throughout the world. On the first page is the likeness of Mrs. Annie M. Jaquess, a pupil of Madame Blavatsky, a charter member of Washington Lodge, T. S., founder of the Jaquess Guild, and Honorary President of the International Federation of Jaquess Guilds. She stands as an example and an inspiration to each and all of us who are attempting to follow in the footsteps of our great leaders. It was a happy thought that inspired the committee to illustrate the covers of this folder on one side with a print of the capital of the United States and on the other with the seal of the Theosophical Society.

The entire Convention was characterized by a strong feeling of devotion and brotherhood. This was largely due to the charming hospitality on the part of the lodges acting as hosts to the Annual Meeting, and to them is due the gratitude and love of the members for one of the most successful and inspiring Conventions held in the history of the American Section.

E. R. Broemiman.

CONVENTION: AN INTERPRETATION

Convention this year was to some of the older students a very interesting experience. Some had come oftener than I, but few had come as far. It took me fourteen days to get to Convention, and when I arrived there Brother Dawkins of Texas was the only other one on the ground, though next morning they came in in groups and the whole hotel corridor was full of Theosophists—whom we could identify and introduce ourselves to because of the dainty little yellow badge gotten up by the officials—and we spoke to one another on the strength of that without waiting for further introduction.

It was so different from an ordinary stockholders' meeting, yet we were there

as stockholders in a corporation. Among the older members were Mr. and Mrs. Ross Read, of Akron, Ohio. Mr. Read said he had been a member twenty-three years and had been present at nearly every Convention. Everywhere the members of the Washington lodges helped us mix, and entertained us one and all with a ride through the city and a tour of the capital. Washington is certainly a capital to be proud of, comparing well with Europe, and yet still in the making. It was interesting to note that our first meeting in the National Capital was at this time when Europe is at war, and this nation has the possibility before her of being the arbiter and peacemaker when the material resources of Europe are

exhausted and the war halts. For we stand avowed to the policy of the Prince of Peace, and in that aspect everyone is a believer in His coming.

But we were there to study the dividends of our year's work. Our finances are simply spent on propaganda, the dividends are brotherhood, and the peace and good-will of the Convention was the Treasurer's report thereon. The number of new members was the next item on the Treasurer's report and the number of new lodges was the last and perhaps the special dividend of this year's work. Exactly how the money was spent stirred the curiosity and the business judgment of some of the members, but the *real* dividends satisfied the mass.

Last, but not least, the existence of Krotona was recognized as a big part of the propaganda because it had put the Theosophical Society on the map—a thing that had never yet been done. But Krotona, as such, found no place on the program. It was on the program in the same sense that the American Section was on the program; head or heart or member, it was thoroughly sectionalized. It was not perhaps noticed by some of the members, it was not perhaps planned by the program committee, but Krotona did not have to have a place as an affiliated work. The Order of the Star in the East had its place on the program and so had the T. R. C., and there were special E. S. meetings, but Krotona in spirit pervaded them all.

Many have asked why Krotona is held by a corporation, with Annie Besant at its head. It is because it links the democracy of the physical plane, where the leader has to be elected, with the true democracy, the one real democracy, the democracy of Nirvana, where the Head is acknowledged and the least follower only has to be elected. So we acknowledge in our ownership of Krotona the supreme rule of Annie Besant as our greatest physical Head. In Nirvana you choose to fill your station; thus we choose to work in Krotona and in the T. S.,

and Convention showed the perfect success of our endeavors in this direction. For the Convention brought up many points of leadership, of management, of By-Laws and Constitution, for which there was much argument and play of intellect in the game of parliamentary procedure, and many a doughty warrior tilted *pro* and *con* and the sword of discrimination was drawn and brandished, but under it all, when Convention was over, the great fundamental brotherhood remained unmarred, unbroken, the great current of the Society's brotherhood undisturbed. It seemed as if the Society had at last attained unto its goal of being a channel for the buddhic consciousness, and enough of it flowed through to hold the true Society.

It would seem, as the years have rolled on, that one class of egos after another has been drawn into the Society. Away back in the 70's the first and second Rays were drawn in, then came another Ray, and in the 80's the T. S. changed a little bit; then came a fourth Ray in the 90's. Now, perhaps, even a fifth Ray or category of souls is drawn in—there seemed to be at least that many at Convention, and perhaps for them we have to have these different activities of the ritualistic orders, and so forth. Ritualism is absolutely necessary for the younger egos of every Ray in whom kama-manas is stronger than buddhi-manas, and so we may expect other grades and varieties brought in in the future for us to amalgamate with, as we have done in the past, until the Society has learned to hold itself intact with all seven sorts and conditions of egos in it.

That was the great message of Convention—that we had attained the point where a very complicated mixture of determined minds were able to hold the strong spiritual unity; and when thinking of Convention, if there is any aftermath of criticism and fault-finding, remember that it must be carried on in the spirit in which Convention met it, the spirit of universal brotherhood.

A. F. Knudsen.



SUGGESTION TO LODGES

You have read the editorial notice of the substitution of the *Adyar Theosophist* for *The American Theosophist* after the October-November issue of the latter magazine, and we take this opportunity of putting before you the action one lodge has already taken in this matter, namely: *Whereas*, the lodge has sent four subscriptions to *The American Theosophist* to be forwarded for propaganda purposes, it is now deemed wise to request the American Section hereafter to substitute for these four subscriptions one subscription for the *Adyar Theosophist*, to be sent to the lodge for the benefit of the members. Any balance due on the previous subscriptions shall be credited to the General Fund for Propaganda.

N. B.

It was necessary to omit the Lodge Directory and organization pages in this month's issue on account of lack of space. Hereafter, however, the corrected list will appear in every number, and secretaries are requested to send in changes of addresses by the first of every month; otherwise it will be too late to have them printed in the next month's copy. The same request is made to officers whose name and work appears on the organization page.

AMERICAN SECTION OF THE THEOSOPHICAL SOCIETY—KROTONA

Financial Statement, August, 1914

T. S.	Receipts.	
Fees and Dues	\$1945.97	
Charter Fees	10.00	
Donations	54.21	
Propaganda Literature	16.09	
Exchange on Checks.....	.27	
Subscription to Messenger.....	.25	
	<u>\$2026.79</u>	
Cash on Hand August 1st, 1914	1731.70	\$3758.49

T. S.	Disbursements	
Salaries	\$ 206.00	
Convention Expense	279.25	
American Theosophist—Adjustment	500.00	
Stationery and Supplies.....	16.90	
Postage	25.00	
Auditor	89.10	
Telegrams	7.69	
Furniture and Fixtures.....	15.10	
Propaganda Expense	5.00	
Incidentals	7.70	
	<u>\$1151.74</u>	

Messenger—

Paper	\$25.72	
Printing	65.04	
Salary	34.00	
Mailing Deposit	11.22	
Postage	16.00	
Freight	2.00	153.98
	<u>126.10</u>	
Returned Checks		\$1431.82

Cash Balance, September 1st,

1914	\$2326.67	\$3758.49
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C. F. Holland, Treasurer.

BULBS WANTED—BULBS

To members who are interested in Krotona and in the beautifying of its grounds:

Krotona's landscape gardener, Mr. J. Philip Arscott, will be grateful if any members having gardens and growing bulbs therein will kindly send their surplus supply to Krotona this fall, as he has plenty of room for such and can use them to advantage. This will save the expense of buying much needed plants and will at the same time make another close link between the donor and Headquarters.

The American Section of The Theosophical Society

To all Members:

Because of the importance of the work for the coming year, and the pressing need of financial assistance, the Board of Trustees voted to appeal to the Section for contributions to two funds, viz.:

1. The Theosophical Book Concern;
2. The General Fund for Propaganda.

1. The *Theosophical Book Concern* is at present hampered by too large a stock of books on hand and too many bills that demand immediate payment. It has a varied and comprehensive list of books, which steadily sell but not rapidly enough. Every order for books you send in *now* will be of great assistance in this emergency. Do not forget that a good book presented to a friend often opens up a long career of usefulness for that book, in spreading Theosophic thought. Incidentally the giver starts something that may have more effect than much personal effort.

It is also hoped that many will seize this opportunity for service, and subscribe to a fund to help the Book Concern in the present crisis. It is your Book Concern, since it belongs to the American Section. It is doing a great work for Theosophy and needs only to be put upon its feet to increase its usefulness ten-fold.

We invite five hundred members to subscribe \$5.00 each (or more, if they feel so inclined), to be paid at once, in order to relieve its present necessities. Will *you* not be one of the "*Immortal Five Hundred*" to cast this bread upon the waters?

2. The *General Fund for Propaganda* also needs to be augmented. We would like to give Mr. Rogers what he asked for in the Convention for his lecture work, and have something left over for other propaganda work. The funds we have at present require the strictest economy, and do not permit any enlargement of the scope of the work. If five hundred members could subscribe \$3.00 each for the General Fund, this could be done. Will *you* not be one of the *Illustrious Five Hundred* to contribute to this cause?



By order of the Board of Trustees.

Julia K. Sommer,

Secretary to the Board.

Mr. A. P. Warrington, General Secretary,
Krotona, Hollywood, California.

I herewith enclose subscriptions as follows:

To the Theosophical Book Concern Fund..... \$.....

To the General Fund for Propaganda..... \$.....

With my best wishes for the success of the coming year's work.

Yours fraternally,

Name (write plainly)

Address

Lodge.....

Date.....

THE AMERICAN SECTION OF
THE THEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

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