

Notes of the Quarter : July—September.

The third quarter of the year has been one of unusual activity on the part of the Council, which met on four occasions. There were three ordinary Meetings and a special meeting held to consider the proposed Building Scheme.

MEMBERSHIP.

The following have been elected to membership during the period :—

July 11th—Mr. E. O'Neil Shaw.

August 15th—Nai Louis Girivat, Professor E. Gordon Alexander.

September 5th—Mr. Otto Praeger.

The following have resigned their membership :—

Messrs. L. J. Robbins, R. D. Atkinson, K. V. Nielsen, C. T. Bauman, all from the end of 1928.

Furthermore the election of Luang Thurakieh Phitan, announced in the Notes for April—June, was withdrawn as same had been put forward owing to a misunderstanding.

THE COUNCIL,

There has been no alteration in the composition of the Council during the period under review.

THE HONORARY SECRETARY.

The Honorary Secretary having proceeded on leave during the month of May, Major E. Seidenfaden consented to act for him during his absence.

TWENTY-FIFTH ANNIVERSARY.

The question of observing the twenty-fifth anniversary of the founding of the Society has continued to occupy the minds and the deliberations of the members of the Council. As a part of the celebration a Building Scheme, brought forward by Mr. le May, has been under discussion at several meetings. At the meeting held on September 26th, specially to consider this scheme, it was decided to call a Special General Meeting on the 17th October in order to lay the proposals for the planned future permanent home before the

members of the Society. The terms of the notice for calling this meeting, drawn up by Mr. le May, and to be sent out to all members of the Society, were also agreed on.

TEMPORARY QUARTERS.

Messrs. The Bombay Burmah Trading Corporation, the owners of the Pali Yone House, where the Society has been housed since 1924, having given final notice of the termination of the lease of the rooms on November 13th 1928, the question of finding new suitable quarters has been the subject of much discussion and anxious deliberations, which had not yet led to any final result when the quarter ended.

EXCHANGES.

By reason of the press of many other important matters the Finance Committee has not yet been able to make the list of exchanges ready for presentation.

FINANCE COMMITTEE.

Due to the absence on leave of both the Hon. Secretary and the Hon. Treasurer the Finance Committee has during the period under review consisted of only three members: namely the three Vice-Presidents with Phya Indra Motri as Chairman, Major Seidenfaden as Act. Secretary and Mr. le May, who besides being one of the permanent members, has acted for the Treasurer.

Three meetings were held on which various matters of financial importance were discussed before being laid before the Council. One of the results of these discussions took form of a proposed budget for 1929 in which, in order to balance the income and expenses of the Society, the latter have been cut rigidly down without, it is hoped, in any way impairing the activities of the Society. According to this budget the total income for the year 1929 would amount to roughly Tes. 5550.00 while the expenses would come to about Tes. 4870.00 leaving a credit balance of about Tes. 680.00 at the end of the year. This proposed budget was passed by the Council at its sitting on the 11th July, it being furthermore decided that in future a budget should be prepared for every year.

NATURAL HISTORY MUSEUM,

A report of the Natural History Section Committee was laid before the Council but, in view of other more pressing business, it was decided to postpone the consideration of same to a future meeting of the Council.

STUDY SECTIONS.

A meeting of the Natural History Section was held on the 31st August where Dr. Kerr, leader of the Section, presided. Dr. H. McCormick Smith exhibited several interesting specimens of flying squirrels and fishes; Dr. Kerr showed a number of plants; and Mr. Aagaard, a collection of butterflies; while Mr. Mareau read a very instructive paper on the Mangroves of Siam, illustrated by lantern slides. In spite of the inclement weather there was quite a good attendance.

DISTINGUISHED VISITORS.

Originally it was expected that Professor Sylvain Lévi, the noted Sanscrit and Buddhist scholar, would pay a visit to Bangkok between the 7th and 14th July and, in that eventuality, he had kindly promised to read a paper on "Buddhism in Nepal." Unhappily Prof. Lévi had to ~~cancel~~ intended visit to Bangkok.

However, the members of the Society had the pleasure of meeting Prof. Louis Finot, the learned Director of the Ecole Française d'Extrême Orient, who arrived in Bangkok at the end of July.

On the occasion of Prof. Finot's visit the President and members of the Council gave in his honour an At Home to which all the members of the Society were cordially invited. For this purpose H. H. Prince Dhani Nivat kindly placed two rooms in the Chulalongkorn University at the Council's disposal. In spite of the rather inclement weather about 40 members of the Society responded to the Council's invitation. After tea had been served Prof. Cédès rose and in introducing Prof. Finot reminded his hearers that Prof. Finot was in fact one of the oldest members of the Siam Society, having become a corresponding member as far back as in 1904, i. e., at the very beginning of the Society's existence—later on, in 1923,

to be promoted to the exalted position of an Honorary member. The President next, after having paid a warm personal tribute to his old teacher and friend, mentioned the work done by Prof. Finot and that of the now world-famed French School of the Extrême-Orient, whereafter he shortly sketched the labours of the Siam Society which, thanks to the unabated interest of H. M. the King and other members of the Royal family, not to forget the Society's respected Vice Patron, H. R. H. Prince Damrong, were steadily progressing until the Society now, in view of its 25th anniversary next year, was considering means by which it might come into possession of its own home.

The President concluded his speech by thanking the distinguished visitor for having accepted the invitation of the Council whereafter those present drank the health of Prof. Finot.

Prof. Finot, after having thanked the Council for the invitation extended to him, said that the cordial relations which had for so long existed between himself and the Siam Society were such that he really felt being an active more than an honorary member. He gave an interesting summary of the activities of the Ecole Française and mentioned the work done at Sambor, probably ancient Cambodia's capital before Angkor, the recent discoveries made at the latter place and at the famous temple, Phya Khan, as well as the discovery of what was probably an old capital of the Cham situated near Tourane in Annam. He concluded by wishing all success to the Siam Society.

The enjoyable meeting finished by the screening of a series of excellent films of local historical interest, kindly placed at the disposal of the Society by Messrs. The Phatanakorn Company, to whose director Nai Louis Girivat the cordial thanks of the Society are due. Other films kindly sent by the Royal State Railways could unhappily not be screened for want of time.