

## ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE SOCIETY.

( 1906 )

The annual general meeting of the Society was held at the Oriental Hotel on the evening of the 31st January, 1906.

Dr. H. Campbell Highet was voted to the chair, and there were also present :—Dr. C. Beyer, the Rev. John Carrington, Dr. O. Frankfurter, Colonel G. E. Gerini, Commander Ring, Messrs Belhomme, Bock, Brande, Carter, Crosby, Diemer-Hansen, Edwards, Homan van der Heide, and Mundie

The first business was the reception of the report and balance sheet of the previous years (1905). These have already been printed in the Journal, Vol II. Part 1.

Mr. Belhomme proposed the adoption of the report and balance sheet. Mr. Bock seconded, and this was at once agreed to.

The next business was the election of officers and other members of Council for the ensuing year.

The Chairman (Dr. Highet) was asked to accept the post of President, but as he was shortly going home on leave he had to decline that honour.

Mr. Homan van der Heide then proposed that Dr. Frankfurter be elected President of the Society. This was seconded by Mr. Diemer-Hansen, and unanimously agreed to.

Mr. Francis H. Giles, Mr. W. R. D. Beckett, and Dr. T. Masao were next elected the Vice-Presidents. Mr. van der Heide was also proposed, but withdrew to avoid a contest.

Mr. R. Belhomme was appointed Hon. Secretary and Librarian ; Mr. A. Cecil Carter, Hon. Treasurer ; and Mr. W. H. Mundie, hon. assistant Secretary.

The following were appointed members of Council—Phya Prajakich, Rev. J. Carrington, Dr. Hays, Dr. Highet, Dr. Reyttter, Dr. phil. Stönner, Colonel Gerini, Mr. van der Heide.

On the motion of Mr. Belhomme, seconded by Mr. van der Heide, Colonel Gerini was elected an honorary member of the Society. In putting the motion the Chairman added a word of appreciation of the work Colonel Gerini has done for the Society.

A vote of thanks to the Chairman then terminated the proceedings.

## DINNER TO COLONEL GERINI.

On the eve of his leaving Siam Colonel G. E. Gerini was entertained to dinner by the members of the Council. The dinner was held at the Oriental Hotel on Saturday, the 3rd March, 1906. The President of the Society, Dr. O. Frankfurter, was in the chair, with the guest of the evening on his right hand, and there were also present: Dr. Masao, Rev. J. Carrington, Mr. Bellhomme, Mr. Carter, Mr. Homan van der Heide, and Mr. Mundie.

Apologies for inability to be present were intimated from Dr. Highet, Dr. Hays, Dr. Stöner, Dr. Reyttter, Dr. Poix and Mr. Giles.

The only toast proposed was that of the guest, Colonel Gerini. The President said:--Brevity, Shakespeare says, is the soul of wit and this, I take it, also applies to dinner or after dinner speeches. I can well understand that a politician or a member of parliament addressing his constituency to persuade them of a matter in which he himself does not believe or only half believes, may make a long speech. That does not apply to us. You know, gentlemen, that we are assembled here to do honour to our learned and gallant friend Colonel Gerini, who very kindly consented to spend one of his last evenings of his stay in Bangkok with us. I think it would be like carrying coals to Newcastle, or, as Colonel Gerini would most likely prefer to put it, "taking toilet powder for sale to the palace ladies," were I to dilate on what Colonel Gerini has done for Siamology. Twenty-five years in a man's life is a long space, the time from youth to middle age from middle age to old age. Many are the disappointments we have suffered, the ideals of our youth have vanished, and happy is the man who can through all the vicissitudes of life preserve the *aequa mens*, happy the man who has done his duty. Colonel Gerini, I take it, is in this happy condition. Happy in this sense that both in his official and private life he has found distinction and recognition. He has formed numerous friendships, he has advanced everything he took in hand, and happy he is also in this sense that he is enabled to leave a tropical country after twenty-five years residence, still full of life and vigour, so as to be able to continue his life task. I am selfish enough in this connection to express in the name of our Society the hope that he will give us the ripe fruits of his researches to be published in our Journal, which by his colloboration; as we are all aware, has gained additional value. I have nothing more to add. I request you, gentlemen, to raise your glasses and drink to the health of Colonel Gerini. I trust

that you will couple with it all the wishes for a prosperous and happy life "procul negotiis". (applause).—

In returning thanks, Colonel Gerini said the point of what he had to say was that he was exceedingly thankful to the Siam Society for the kindness and honour that had been done him. The work he had done for the Society was small, and he only wished he had been able to accomplish much more. But now that he was leaving the country he was glad to feel assured that the Society was in good hands. So far it had gone on very well, considering the difficulties that were to be expected in the first two years, but for the future he believed there were far better hopes than one was justified in holding in the beginning. He was quite certain the Society would increase in numbers, and the interest in the papers should always be greater as research extended over Siam. Siam was an almost unknown country so far, although many books had been published on it, since there were very few writers who had gone deep into the subject. There had been many visitors who came to the local hotel, and perhaps it was not astonishing that they went away and reported that the banana was the only fruit in Siam. The stories about mosquitoes had a similar origin. That, of course, was merely the humorous aspect of the question, but outside of that everyone agreed there was still a great deal of work to do in this country. This Society, therefore, should prove very, very useful, not only to the world in imparting useful knowledge, but also to Siam itself, because he believed Siam had been one of the most misunderstood countries in the world, and the better the people of other nationalities understood Siam and the Siamese, the more would be the good feeling between other countries and Siam. That, therefore, was one of the ways in which this Society could do very good work. Although the Society did not touch political questions, the imparting of true knowledge about Siam and its people to the world would be one of the benefits that would result from the existence of the Society. As he had already said, he was happy in knowing that he left the Siam Society in good hands, and his sincerest wish was that the Society might have continued prosperity, and that its work might more and more increase in all departments of research in this country. In concluding he wished to thank the Council for their great kindness and the honour they had done him in allowing him to spend a very pleasant evening with them. He wished prosperity to the Society, to its Patrons in this country, and to its honorary members in other countries.

A very pleasant evening was spent.

