

Notes : January-June, 1929.

The period January to June 1929 has been one of considerable importance and activity, both in the history of the Society and within the Council. Evidence of the increasing interest in the aims and objects of the Society has been forthcoming in the substantial addition to the active membership during the first half of the year. The resignations during the same period have been principally due to members leaving Siam for good.

The deaths of two old members have to be recorded with regret. One, Mr. G. C. B. Stirling, had been a corresponding member since the inception of the Society, and the other, Mr. A. J. Irwin, who was a member of Council and an office-bearer while in Siam, had been an honorary member since his retirement.

Professor G. Cœdès, the President, proceeded on leave early in the year, and since his departure the meetings of the Council have been presided over by the senior Vice President (Phya Indra Montri), who himself proceeded on leave at the end of June.

The duties of Editor of the Journal have been undertaken by Monsieur J. Burnay during Professor Cœdès' absence. Major Ladell was asked by the Council and agreed to assist the Hon. Librarian, who has found that the growing library requires more and more supervision.

The annual meeting was held at the end of February, and the annual report and balance sheet will be found elsewhere in this number. There was a good attendance. The balance sheet and report were adopted, and the Council unanimously re-elected. A vote of thanks was tendered to Mr. G. R. Brooks for kindly auditing the accounts, which show a satisfactory balance.

In addition to the annual meeting, other opportunities for members to meet have been forthcoming.

In March under the auspices of the Natural History Section of the Society, Dr. Credner, Dozent for Geography at the University of Kiel, read a paper entitled "The Scenery of Siam in its relation to Geology." The lecture was illustrated by a unique series of photographs taken by the author, and a large attendance spent a pleasant and instructive evening. Dr. A. F. G. Kerr, the Leader of

the Section, presided, and mentioned that the paper was the first geological paper to be read under the auspices of the Siam Society. Professor Credner had travelled all over Siam, and, what was more important, he had seen the country with a comprehending eye.

On the occasion of the visit of the Danish exploring vessel *Dana* to Siamese waters in April, Dr. Johannes Schmidt, the leader of the expedition, kindly consented to lecture on the Migration of the Eel. This lecture was also arranged by the Natural History Section and attracted a full attendance. Dr. Schmidt's services in the realm of zoology were appropriately emphasised by Dr. Hugh McCormick Smith, and the lecturer told the fascinating story of the researches which had led to a clear understanding of the eel's career from the egg to the adult. The lecture was admirably illustrated, and a film depicting life and work on board the research vessel was shown.

Following the total eclipse of the sun in Pattani on May 9th, the members of the British Eclipse Expedition visited Bangkok, and the Leader, Professor Col. J. F. M. Stratton, lectured on the Sun to a general meeting of the Society, which was largely attended. The occasion was honoured by the presence of Their Majesties the King and Queen, and many members of the Royal Family. Phya Indra Montri presided, and, in welcoming Col. Stratton, said the Society was also glad to know that Colonel Waley Cohen, the Secretary General of the British Expedition, and Professor Hans Rosenberg, Leader of the German Eclipse Expedition, were able to be present. His Majesty, prior to leaving, conversed with Prof. Stratton and expressed his interest in the subject of the lecture.

In May the President (Prof. G. Coëdès) represented the Society at the Centenary of the Ecole Centrale des Arts et Manufactures held in Paris, and in this month also Sir Josiah Crosby was the delegate of the Society to the Fourth Pacific Congress held in Batavia. One of the life members of the Society in the person of Dr. Eldon James was asked to represent the Society at the twenty-fifth anniversary of the founding of the American Academy of Arts and Letters in New York in April, but, owing to the

time elapsing between the receipt of the invitation and the Council's nomination of its representative, it was not possible for Dr. James to be present at the celebrations, to the Council's and Dr. James' expressed regret.

The Building Fund continues to grow, and if it does not increase at the rate that its most ardent supporters wish, it can at least be said that the amount already raised and promised ensures at no very distant date that the Society may, with confidence, take in hand the construction of their greatly needed permanent home. At the end of the half year the amount at the credit of the Building Fund stood at Tcs. 21,300. Of this sum Tcs. 10,000 has been placed on fixed deposit with the Banque de l'Indo-Chine for twelve months at the generous rate of five per cent. Particularly encouraging to the Council have been the gifts of members now no longer resident in Siam, and the appreciation of the work that the Society is doing which accompanied several of these gifts.

A newly created Trust Fund "for investment in the interest of the Society" has been established since the beginning of the year, and was formed by placing an initial sum of Tcs. 2,000 on fixed deposit with the same Bank, also at five per cent. per annum. It is hoped in succeeding years to be able to budget for a surplus to swell this fund.

The Council has decided that, whenever funds are available, the reprinting of journals, which are either out of stock or of which only very few parts remain available, shall be undertaken, and a commencement has been made with Vol. I, parts I and II. The possession of stocks of this volume, which has for years being difficult to obtain, will doubtless be taken advantage of by present day members wishing to advance the completion of their sets of the Journal.

The Council has considered ways and means of celebrating the twenty-fifth anniversary of the foundation of the Society, and has decided to observe it in November next by the publication of a commemorative volume, and by a banquet. Further details will be announced later.

Six meetings of the Council have been held, at which the average attendance has been nine.

