



**GENERAL REPORT**  
OF THE  
**THIRTY-THIRD**  
**ANNIVERSARY AND CONVENTION**  
OF THE  
**THEOSOPHICAL SOCIETY**  
HELD AT ADYAR, INDIA,  
DECEMBER 27TH TO 30TH, 1908

**REPORT OF THE T.S. IN FINLAND.**

*To the President, T.S.*:—As I pointed out in my first annual report, theosophical activity had been going on in Finland long before the formation of the Finnish Section. During this first year as a Section we have thus naturally been reaping the good karma of the past, showing itself in a strong influx of new members. On November first, last year, the total number of our members was 187 ; on November first, this year, it is 419—a net increase of 232 members. As our Section is young it has only lost two members, who have resigned.

Five new branches have been formed : at Åbo (two), Kotka, Iisalmi, and Vasa. The total number of our branches is now 12. Of these, eleven are actively engaged in theosophical propaganda work, etc. ; one—the Sörnös Branch—has been dormant since last spring, as its members take part in the doings of the Kalevala Lodge in Helsingfors. But there is some hope that it will re-commence its work ere long.

The number of our branch members amounts to 316, that of the members at large to 103 (total 419).

Regular theosophical meetings have been and are being held once a week in all branches, except the one mentioned. Public lectures also have been given at several places by several persons. The General Secretary has visited the Branches of Åbo, Viborg, Nokia, the unofficial centres of Lahti and Kouvola, and given courses of lectures there.

The chief propaganda work has of course been done in Helsingfors. Every Sunday—with the exception of the summer months, June

to August, which is our dead season—two public lectures have been given, one in Finnish, the other in Swedish, the last named for the most part by the General Secretary. These lectures were very well attended and eagerly listened to.

On November 17th last year a splendid Inauguration and Commemoration Meeting was held in Helsingfors. More than 500 people were present, and the meeting, with its addresses and musical performances, made a very good impression.

On December 15th, 1907, following a suggestion made by the President in her presidential address, we invited a Doctor of Theology to speak from our platform. He spoke about Theosophy for an hour, with no great knowledge, but the discussion that followed between him and the General Secretary might have become very instructive and interesting, if it had not ceased somewhat abruptly. We learnt that the experiment was made too early.

The first Annual Convention was held on March 15th and 16th this year in Helsingfors. 112 members and delegates were present. High and low, rich and poor, met in brotherly sympathy. It was a very theosophical meeting, and became an inspiring promise for the future.

At the Convention Mr. Pekka Ervast was re-elected General Secretary, and Mrs. Ida of Hallström, and Messrs. H. Hellner, A. Backman, A. Aalltonen, K. Turja, F. A. Johansson members of the Executive Committee. In the place of Mr. F. A. Johansson, who a month ago resigned from his position as Treasurer of the Section, Miss Signe of Hallström has been chosen by the Committee to fill his place till the next Convention.

A fourth incident of great interest was a Theosophical *Soirée* held in Helsingfors on April 6th. A lecture, a dramatic performance, song and music filled up the programme. The sensational part of the programme consisted of a melodrama, the music of which was specially composed by one of our foremost musicians, Mr. Oskar Merikanto, F.T.S., to the beautiful words of Shri Kṛṣṇa in the second discourse, verses 55-72, of the Lord's Song. Spoken as these wonderful words were, with an intense Indian feeling, by Mrs. Tyyne Vuorenjuuri, and closely followed on the piano by the composer himself, the audience was carried away mentally—far away both in time and place, to some white and holy temple of ancient India.

Our monthly organ *Tietäjä*, edited by the General Secretary, has been continued—its circulation is about twelve hundred. Our publishing firm, formerly ably managed by Mr. F. A. Johansson, will henceforth carry on its work under the guidance of Mr. Pekka Ervast, and it is to be hoped that it will continue to prosper under its new auspices.

Looking backward over the year it seems to me that our theosophical work has been a decided success, and I cannot but ask the

Mighty Powers that guide our Movement to bless us in our efforts,  
so that Their work may not be done in vain.

Permit me to send you our most respectful and loving regards,  
and to wish every success to the great annual Convention, on behalf  
of the whole Finnish Section.

PEKKA ERVAST,  
*General Secretary.*