

REPORT OF THE PĀLI TEXT SOCIETY,

1897-1901.

SINCE the last Report the Society has received the substantial amount of £315 in donations from those who recognised the good work it is doing for historical research. This brings the total amount received in donations up to £741 17s. 0d., which is shown in the list at the end of this issue. If they add the amount of the printing bills paid by Mr. Sturdy, as shown in the note to that list, subscribers to the Society will see that they have to thank these generous supporters of their work for contributions towards its expenses amounting, on the whole, to more than a thousand pounds.

With this help the Society has been able to pay for the publication of fifty-one volumes, and now finds itself in the position, with no debts owing, of having enough funds in hand to be able to pay for the issues up to the year 1903 inclusive. The Society will not be able to complete its work without further help. But there is a reasonable hope, resting on the experience of the past, that such help will be forthcoming in due time.

Since the last Report M. Léon Feer has completed his edition of the Saṃyutta, and he has kindly promised to give us, in a sixth volume, a complete set of indices to all the five volumes of the text. Professor Hardy has also completed the edition of the Aṅguttara in five volumes, of which the Society owed the first two to the late Dr. Morris. The last volume contains, besides the usual indices, as added to each volume of this edition, a careful and full synopsis, or table of contents, which will be found most useful, to the whole work. And I am now able to announce that the edition of the Majjhima, commenced by Mr. Trenckner and continued by Mr. Chalmers, is also complete, the last sheet of the third part of the third and last volume having been already printed. There were no indices to the previous volumes.

Mr. Chalmers proposes to publish, with the third, complete indices, not only of names, but also of subjects, to the whole work.

It is needless to point out the importance of the completion of these works—each of them a great achievement—which we owe to the scholars named. The Society has now published three out of the four great Nikāyas, and ten out of the fifteen books of the Khuddaka Nikāya. The Dīgha will, it is hoped, soon follow. The second volume is already far advanced in type, and the third volume is in preparation.

We have also brought out Dr. Mabel Haynes Bode's Sāsana Vaṃsa, with the valuable introduction she has prefixed to it, and the indices to facilitate its use. And Professor Hardy has added to the other great services he has rendered us by his editions of the Nettī Pakaraṇa and of Dhammapāla's Commentary on the Vimāna Vatthu.

This is a good record of work done. Of work to be done I am able to announce a new edition, now so long wanted, of the Mahā Vaṃsa, also by Professor Hardy. Dr. Neumann has, I am sorry to say, abandoned, at least for the present, his intention of editing the Paṭisambhidā. But the other works mentioned on page ix of the last Report are still in hand. So the end of our work is now well in sight, and our little Society, in spite of the constant financial and other difficulties it has had all through to contend with, may fairly claim to have done not a little for the history of India by placing this literature in the hands of scholars. We have reached the second stage—the work of translating and classifying the contents of the books thus made accessible, the work of gathering in the harvest. And we can say on this point, too, with Professor Weber, our master and pioneer in so many directions of Indian research, Nil desperandum—auch hier wird es tagen.

T. W. RHYS DAVIDS.