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ON THE WATCH-TOWER

I DRAW special attention to my article on "The Wider Outlook" for the Theosophical Society, and ask my readers to consider it carefully and think out the matter for themselves. Specially I would ask them to remember and maintain the freedom and autonomy of National Societies, Lodges and individuals, so that each may pursue its National or local Path of Service, self-directed, neither feeling bound by the decisions of others, nor critical of the use they make of their equal freedom. Liberty and Tolerance, those should be our watchwords.

Perhaps some will not be glad, as I am, of the cordial remark in a leading English provincial newspaper, that "no organisation has a better record of solid War work" than the Theosophical Society. It has paid heavy toll at the Front. One of the early deaths among the Anzacs at Gallipoli

some years ago I had advised Theosophists to devote themselves more to the helping of the outer world in all beneficent ways.

* * *

Lodges of the Theosophical Society are springing up in unexpected places. One has lately been formed in Shanghai, Dr. Wu Tingfang having co-operated with Mr. Spurgeon Medhurst in forming a "Study Circle" on Theosophical lines, which later developed into a Lodge. Dr. Wu is preparing Theosophical literature in Chinese, and his lectures are largely attended. It is the first Theosophical Lodge in the Far East.

* * *

Some time ago, we recorded the formation of a Lodge in Basra, at the head of the Persian Gulf, founded by soldiers. Now we have one founded at Heliopolis in Egypt, by soldiers once more, with Corporal V. Kipping (Australian) as President, and Serjeant W. Bladen (England) as Secretary. New Zealand also helped, as did the Secretary of the Cairo Lodge, Signor Egizio Veronesi. This Cairo Lodge—Lodge El-Hikneet-el-Kadim—was cosmopolitan and French-speaking, with the above devoted Italian as its heart. But the War has scattered its members, who belonged to many lands, the president being a Russian, who has gone back to Russia, and others to their own places, so that the Lodge is really dormant, if one can apply such a word where there is such a very wide-awake and hard-working Secretary as Signor Egizio Veronesi. The English Lodge has chosen a name more easy to pronounce than its Cairo sister, and is the Ra Lodge—clear and appropriate. French and English, yes ;