

## EDITORIAL

It is to our great regret that circumstances have prevented us from issuing the present number of *The Eastern Buddhist* in time. As things get better organised, we shall be able to regulate the publication of each number as has been planned in the beginning. We have as yet many difficulties to overcome, but so far we have had nothing but encouragement and sympathy from our readers, and we are firmly convinced that our humble attempt is going to contribute something to the world's knowledge and understanding of Buddhism in its various phases of development as well as in its many-sided significance.

Our ideal is to have two forms of magazine: The one, a monthly, to be devoted to a popular exposition of Buddhism, and the other, a quarterly, in which more scholarly articles will be published. But we are not yet ready to do this, and it is inevitable that the present magazine is a kind of hybrid, not scholarly enough on the one hand and not quite suited to popular taste on the other. Some of our foreign friends write that some of the articles in *The Eastern Buddhist* are too technical and calculate too much knowledge of Buddhism on the part of the reader. This is true to a great extent. There are not very many Japanese Buddhist writers who know just how far they can go in their assumption of the reader's acquaintance with the subjects they treat of. The editors try to make the articles as readable as they are justified to make, but still there is, we admit, much room for improvement. As we grow more experienced in this kind of work, we may know what is best to do and to give satisfaction to our readers.

One thing we wish to emphasise in this connection is

that the present magazine stands for absolute unsectarianism. There are many sects of Buddhism in Japan and in the other parts of the East, but our position is to be quite impartial to all these. And then as Buddhists we are not opposed to any other religious systems of the world. We have no intention to propagate Buddhism by making derogatory remarks on Christianity or Mahommedanism. The Mahāyānists are too broad-minded to have any antagonistic spirit towards other workers in religious fields. When they go out and preach their doctrines, they just wish to be understood, and they know that the Mahāyāna doctrine appeals to some minds more strongly than to others. It is always best to have various views of life fairly and judiciously presented to the public, for the ultimate truth will shine out of the mutual rubbing and striving of all the claimants of truth. This does not mean that the Mahāyānists are indifferent to the truth of their own teaching, they know better, they know that the truth is more glorious when it is manifested in its own light and not in the heat of antagonism.

*The Eastern Buddhist* has had a number of kind reviews in various periodicals in England, France, America, and India. It appreciates these very much and would be very glad to have further reviews from the same and other periodicals, for in this way knowledge of the magazine and its purpose will be given to those who may be interested in it. The editors would be pleased also to have a list of names of individuals, libraries, societies, or magazines likely to be interested in our magazine. Owing to certain difficult circumstances, the magazine has not yet been circulated as widely as it ought to be, nor has it been advertised at all; therefore, the editors and the Society have been gratified that the magazine has received the support and encouragement that it has. We have now subscribers in America, England, France, Norway,

Holland, Germany, Italy, Brazil, Argentine, Burma, India, Strait Settlements, China, and Japan. This shows us that there is an interest in Buddhism and a demand for its teachings. We hope that every person to whom it has been of interest will endeavour to secure some subscribers or at least to send in a list of possible subscribers to whom sample copies will be sent. The editors would also like to arrange for exchange advertisements with other magazines. It will print an advertisement of any periodical likely to be of interest to readers of *The Eastern Buddhist* and in return would wish to have the advertisement of *The Eastern Buddhist* inserted in that periodical. It would also like to receive the advertisements of publishing houses and others, and is always pleased to review books and pamphlets. Hereafter, all books and magazines received will be reviewed in each number.

The Society wishes to issue some small pamphlets and leaflets for general circulation and therefore would greatly appreciate donations for the purpose from persons interested in spreading a knowledge of Buddhism.

Foreign postage in Japan has increased since January and is now double. We would like not to increase the price of the magazine which is very low for a magazine of its kind, and if we wish to circulate Buddhist literature we must have some financial encouragement. The editors of this magazine and the other members of the Society are working for it as a labour of love to spread the Mahayana teachings of Buddhism, and they ask all who reverence the message of the Buddha to help them in their work.

In this number a subscription leaflet is enclosed. We urge all our present subscribers to renew their subscriptions as soon as possible, we sincerely hope that every one who has subscribed to the first volume will continue with the second. In regard to old numbers a limited number is still available, but they will soon be out of print and then un-

procurable. Unless specially requested, we will begin all new subscriptions with the current number.

The editors have received some letters and communications, which owing to illness and other duties it has as yet been impossible to answer. Everything will be attended to in time, and we ask our friends to be patient with us. We thank all who have written to us and all the magazines which have reviewed us for their words of appreciation.

According to our first plans as announced in the first number last year, each volume of *The Eastern Buddhist* was to contain 384 pages, which assigns 64 pages to each number. But owing to congestion of material each issue exceeded its limits, and naturally the present number which is the concluding one to Volume I, has had to grow also beyond its original bounds. The Avatamsaka translation has been omitted here.