

CORRESPONDENCE

While the present magazine was going to print, the following letter was received by the Editors from Captain J. E. Ellam, Secretary of The International Buddhist Union, General Secretary of The Buddhist Society of Great Britain and Ireland, Editor of *The Buddhist Review*, and Representative in Great Britain of the Maha Bodhi Society. It is to be greatly regretted that *The Buddhist Review* is unable to continue any longer due to shortage of funds. This is the only Buddhist magazine among English speaking people and has been in existence for more than ten years now. Should it be suspended, England, America, and Australia would have no magazine to get enlightened in the religion of the Buddha. If we ourselves were not in a struggling stage just at present, we would extend whatever aid we could towards the brother Society in England. We urgently hope that those who think it a pity to see the Buddhist educational propaganda work stopped in England will subscribe to the funds they are so much in need of.

“Dear Sir,

“As a reader of the *Buddhist Review*, you are acquainted with what has been attempted in the direction of Buddhist educational propaganda in Great Britain; and also with the organisation of the International Buddhist Union.

“These activities were undertaken by me mainly in response to requests from the Buddhist World. The whole of the editing of the *Review*, the secretarial and clerical work, lecturing, etc., has been carried on by myself, practically alone.

“I have confidently hoped, in view of the large number of appreciative letters received from all over the world, that sufficient support would be forthcoming to enable me not only to carry on, but to extend these activities. But such has not been the case.

“From January 1921 to the end of February 1922, there has been received in the form of subscriptions and donations only £102 8s. 0d. Had it not been for the support of the Ven. the Anagarika Dharmapala given to me personally

during the last six months, I could not have devoted my whole time, nor have carried on for so long. This support cannot be continued owing to the expense of the Maha-Bodhi Society and the Vihara in Calcutta.

"The *Buddhist Review*, as a propagandist journal, has always been published at a loss. But I had hoped to rectify this during the present year by increased circulation and advertisements. The circulation of the *Review* has increased from 500 to 2000 copies per issue. A certain amount of advertising has been obtained with more in prospect, so that the possibility exists of making this publication self-supporting by the end of this year. But it has become impossible to continue the *Review* long enough to achieve this end. Therefore the Council of the Buddhist Society is reluctantly compelled to suspend publication of the *Review* since the Society cannot be allowed to incur debts which it might not be able to meet.

"If I am assured support from the Buddhist World, even to so small an amount as £ 500 a year, I will continue the publication of the *Review* myself, and establish a permanent and properly equipped mission hall where regular meetings and religious services can be held.

"But, if the great Buddhist Religion, which claims more followers than any other religion, will not support its mission and one solitary missionary in this country, then work must cease.

"If you wish the work to continue, will you extend to me personally such financial help as you are able to do? Then I will myself accept the responsibility, and I will continue and extend the propaganda.

"Fraternally yours,

"J. E. ELLAM."