

Pali Text Society

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JOURNAL

OF THE

PALI TEXT SOCIETY

1915—1916

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**London**

PUBLISHED FOR THE PALI TEXT SOCIETY

BY

HUMPHREY MILFORD

OXFORD UNIVERSITY PRESS WAREHOUSE, AMEN CORNER, E.C.

1916

**Journal of the Pali Text Society.**

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## REPORT OF THE PALI TEXT SOCIETY FOR 1915.

IN an interim Report for 1914 issued last year to our subscribers, mention was made of a forthcoming first edition of that canonical commentary on a great part of the Sutta-Nipāta, entitled the Niddesa. Of this we publish this year the first half of the main division, or Mahā-Niddesa, edited jointly by Professor L. de la Vallée Poussin and Mr. E. J. Thomas, of the Cambridge University Library. The remainder is ready for press, as is also Dr. W. Stede's edition of the sequel, or Culla-Niddesa, prepared on a special system. The basis of both editions was a transcript made some years ago by Miss G. Noakes from the Siamese printed edition, and collated with Singhalese and Burmese MSS. by the Misses Dibben and Mrs. Powell Brown. The issue of this venerable exegesis coincides, as it happens, with that of the medieval commentary on the Sutta-Nipāta, edited by Mr. Helmer Smith, and forming a continuation of the commentary on the Khuddaka-pāṭha, published by us last year.

Of other works referred to in our last Report, we publish three, two of them in this JOURNAL. The former is a first edition of one of those nine medieval compendia of Abhidhamma, enumerated in the Editor's Preface to "A Compendium of Philosophy," and entitled in Burma, *Let-than*, little finger manuals, the last-named being the most famous of the nine. This makes the fifth that we have published, the other three having appeared, one in the

JOURNAL for 1913-14, and two independently last year. The Editor, a young bhikkhu of Ceylon, has also sent us an edition of a sixth manual—the “*Sacca-sankhepa*,” by Dhammapāla the Less, author of the “*Visuddhi-Magga Tikā*.” For these we offer him our grateful acknowledgment.

We would also testify to our gratitude for three letters on “*Paccaya-naya*,” the Buddhist theory of Relations, or mutually-conditioned *dhammas*, received from Ledi Sadaw, revealing interesting points of connection with modern European thought existing in the early traditions of Abhidhamma. These letters, forming a more or less connected treatise, have been translated by the kindness of Mr. S. Z. Aung, and should usefully prepare the student of Abhidhamma for the forthcoming editions of the Commentary on the Paṭṭhāna, and the first division of that work, the Tika-paṭṭhāna.

This year's publications also include, as the sixth in the Translation Series, Mr. F. L. Woodward's rendering, from Pali and Singhalese, of the curious little work, edited twenty years ago by Rhys Davids, and entitled by him “*A Yogāvacara's Manual*.” A contribution towards the expenses of publication was offered by H.H. the late Rajarshi Raja of Bhingā, and confirmed by the Rani Sahiba, hence the priority of position given to this unique and unclassified palm-leaf MS. over more classical works that need translation.

Many other editions and translations are either ready for press or well advanced in preparation. Dr. Stede is devoting himself entirely to the work of the Dictionary. In Burma, Professor Maung Tin, M.A., successor to Professor C. Duroiselle at the College, Rangoon, now represents the Society in Burma, and is preparing an edition of the Commentary on the Paṭisambhidā-magga.

Among our issues in the near future we announce the first part of an edition of the Commentary on the Anguttara-Nikāya, by the late Edmund Hardy. The MS. of this was returned to us late in July, 1914, by Dr. M. Walliser, to

whose editing we had entrusted a portion of Hardy's unfinished work, and who recommended that this first part, marked by Hardy himself as ready for press, should be published independently as edited by Hardy alone.

The Society has now entered on the testing stage of its power to stay during the present cataclysm, and so far is staying valiantly. Unsolicited donations have arrived, and although there is a falling off under the head of subscriptions for the current and past issues, this is not because there have been fewer subscribers—the reverse being true—but because, during 1915, we had not the good fortune to be asked for a single complete set—an event that usually happens once or twice during a twelvemonth. A subscription for our output of thirty-five years is equal to as many annual subscriptions. With the recent inflation in prices, notably of paper, we are as yet by no means out of the wood, but we have reason to be hopeful.

THE EDITORS.