APPENDIX-I

BIO DATA OF MRS. ANNE BESANT

1847 October 1st, born in London, 5.39 p.m.
1852 Death of father, October 5th.
1855 Met Miss Marryat who undertook her education till 1864.
1861 First travel abroad (in Europe).
1866 Easter, met the Rev. Frank Besant, whom she married in Dec. 1867;
A very devout Christian, she met her first religious doubt and conquered it temporarily.
1867 Met Mr. Roberts, "the poor man's lawyer," who awakened her interest in the outer world of political struggle, and became her first tutor in Radicalism; First experience of an angry crowd, whom she pacified.
1868 Received first payment for writing: thirty shillings for a story in The Family Herald.
1871 Attempted suicide: for the first time heard her Master's voice.
1872 Met Mr. Thomas Scott who became her most helpful friend.
1873 Discovered the gift of oratory; End of marriage: left home and husband, compelled to leave her small son with his father, and permitted to take her baby daughter with her; Left Christianity.
1874 Various attempts to earn a livelihood; May 10th, death of mother to whom she was deeply devoted; August 2nd, joined the National Secular Society, and met Charles Bradlaugh; August 30th, her first article under the name of "Ajax" appeared in The National Reformer. August 25th, her first public lecture: on "The Political Status of Women"; September 27th, her second lecture delivered: on "The True Basis of Morality"; Took part in the election struggle of Mr. Bradlaugh: her first experience of rioting, and of English politics.
1874-86 Atheist.
1875 January, resolved to give herself wholly to propagandist work, as a Freethinker and a Social Reformer; Heard the voice of Truth; Began lectures on the French Revolution,' from the standpoint of the oppressed people.

1875-76 Experienced attacks from angry Christians, and from stone-throwing audiences.

1877 April 6th, arrested for selling the Knowlton pamphlet; subsequently her first appearance in a law court as her own advocate; the trial led to the establishment of the Malthusian League.

1877-90 Sub-edited The National Reformer

1878 Deprived of the custody of her eight-year-old daughter, though ably pleading her own case

1878-79 Championed the cause of Afghanistan

1879 Met Edward B jveling, D.Sc, who became her tutor, "a marvelously able teacher of science subjects, the very ablest in fact, that I have ever met"; Matriculated at London University; Qualified as science teacher in eight different sciences.

1879-88 Helped to conduct a science school.

1880 August 25th, represented English Freethinkers at International Conference in Brussels; With Charles Bradlaugh began the battle for the rights of Atheists.

1881 Championed the cause of the Transvaal.

1882 Championed the cause of Egypt and Ireland; Moved her office to 63 Fleet Street, from where she carried on her public work till 1891.

1884 Met George Bernard Shaw.

1885 Joined the Fabian Society; Helped to form a Society of the Friends of Russia; Championed the cause of the Soudan.

1887 Met W.T. Stead;
Helped to form a Socialist Defence Association;
November 13th, in the course of a struggle to establish the right of people to hold open-air public meetings, led and defended one of the processions to Trafalgar Square which were violently attacked and dispersed by the police.

1887-90 Member of the London School Board.

1888 With Herbert Burrows organized and won the Match-Girls' Strike which made possible the birth of the New Unionism; Organized the Match-Makers' Union; With W.T. Stead started the project of building up a "New Church, dedicated to the service of man"; Studied the hidden sides of consciousness, Spiritualism, etc., for a great despair oppressed her that her philosophy was not sufficient.

1889 Heard a Voice bidding her take courage for the light was near; Read and reviewed The Secret Doctrine; May 10th, met H. P. Blavatsky; May 21st, joined the Theosophical Society, and became the pupil of H.P.B.; August 4th and 11th, lectured at the Hall of Science on "Why I Became a Theosophist"; September 4th, met H. S. Olcott.

1890 Resigned from the National Secular Society; Met C. W. Leadbeater; Founded (with H.P.B.) the Working Women's Club at Bow.

1891 First lecture tour in the U.S.A.; Succeeded H. P. Blavatsky.

1893 September, represented the Theosophical Society at the World Parliament of Religions, Chicago; November 9th, arrived in Colombo, and on Nov. 11th lectured on "Karma"; November 16th, first landed in India, at Tuticorin, 10.24 a.m.; December, her first Convention Lectures delivered: "The Building of the Kosmos".

1893-94 First lecture-tour in India, attracting audiences of thousands.

1894 Engaged in the Judge "case"; First lecture tour in Australia and New Zealand; First address to Indian National Congress.

1895 January, settled in Benares; Translated the Bhagavcid-Gita;
Awarded the Subba Row Medal; Summer, began clairvoyant research.

1896 April, lecture series in London, later published as The Ancient Wisdom.

1897 Reorganized the American Section; Edited and issued The Secret Doctrine, Vol. III.

1898 July 7th, started the Central Hindu College in Benares.

1900 First lectured in India on Social Reform.

1901 Started the Central Hindu College Magazine, which soon attained a circulation of 15,000.

1902 Joined Co-Freemasonry.

1904 Started a Girls' School in Benares; Paid a visit to the Pope at Rome.

1906 Engaged in the Leadbeater "case".

1907 July 6th, elected President of the Theosophical Society; August, pursued researches into occult chemistry.

1907-11 Increased the Adyar Estate from 27 to 253 acres.

1908 Founded the T. S. Order of Service (renamed, in 1921, the Theosophical Order of Service); Formed the Sons of India, and the Daughters of India; Started the Vasanta Press at Adyar. Order of the Rosy Cross started, with her as Protector; Dec. 31st, made the first public announcement of the coming of a World Teacher.

1909 Adopted J. Krishnamurti and his brother; Travelled 45,000 miles during the year. Continued occult chemistry researches.


1911 January 1st, first delivered the Star Invocation; June, started the Order of the Star in the East; Dec. 28, was present at memorable meeting of the Order; June 15, lectured at the Sorbonne, Paris, on the "Message of Giordano Bruno to the Modern World".

1912 Founded the Temple of the Rosy Cross; Founded the Order of
Theosophical Sannyasis; Heard the oration of Pythagoras at Taormina.

1912-14 Engaged in a lawsuit with J. Naraniah.

19.13 January 1st, transformed the Theosophist Office into the Theosophical Publishing House at Adyar. Entered Indian politics with the clearly stated object of claiming Dominion Status for India within the British Commonwealth; Handed over Central Hindu College to become nucleus of the Benares Hindu University; Started the Theosophical Educational Trust; Sept., formed a small band, which later developed into the Order of the Brothers of Service; Reorganized the German Section.

1914 January 2nd, started The Commonweal, a weekly journal of national reform; July 6th, re-elected President of the Theosophical Society; July 14th, started New India (daily newspaper) which lasted fifteen years and revolutionized Indian journalism; Started the Y.M.I.A. and donated Gokhale Hall (Madras) to be a centre of free speech.

1915 Wrote her famous summary of "What Does India Want?"
Formed the Madras Parliament for parliamentary training and political propaganda; Dec. 16th, inaugurated Adyar Arts League.

1916 Started the Home Rule League, which soon reoriented the National Congress to a new vigour; Externed from the Bombay Presidency. Started the Girls' College, Benares.

1917 April 7th, founded the Order of the Brothers of Service; May 8th, Women's Indian Association organized in Adyar under her Presidency, from which grew the All-India Women's Conference at Poona in 1927, and the All-Asian Women's Conference at Lahore in 1931; June - September, interned by the Government of Madras; August, elected President of the Indian National Congress; Dec. 26th, delivered her presidential address to the Congress, later published as The Case for India.
Started S.P.N.E. with a National University at Adyar under the chancellorship of Rabindranath Tagore.

1918 Organized the Indian Boy Scouts, which amalgamated with the Baden-Powell Scouts in 1921.

1920 At the session of the Indian National Congress stood against Mr. Gandhi's plan of non-co-operation—stood alone (with five others supporting her) against shouting thousands, three brief years after being a national hero and acclaimed by vast crowds.

1921 April 6th, appointed Hon. Commissioner for All-India of the Boy Scouts Association; July 6th, re-elected President of the Theosophical Society; July 23-26, President of the first Theosophical World Congress at Paris (1400 delegates representing 39 countries); July 26th, lectured at the Sorbonne in French; Dec. 3rd, welcomed back to India J. Krishnamurti and brother; Dec. 14th, Benares Hindu University conferred on her the hon. degree of the Doctor of Letters;

1921 Dec, instituted Adyar Day, to begin 17 Feb. 1922; Started the 1921 Political Club in Madras, from which came the idea of drafting a constitution for India.

1922 October, inaugurated the Brahmavidya Ashrama at Adyar.

1922-23 Engaged in the Martyn "case".

1923 Inaugurated the Youth Movement in the Theosophical Society;
Inaugurated the Brotherhood Campaign for which wrote the powerful universal prayer, "O Hidden Life".

1924 Attended in Queen's Hall, London, the Golden Jubilee celebration of her public activities; also in Bombay and Madras.

1925 Took the Commonwealth of India Bill to London, to be presented in Parliament; Attended a great Star Camp in Holland; Celebrated the Golden Jubilee of the Theosophical Society at Adyar, to which 3,000 delegates came from all over the world; Established Temples of the
religions in Adyar; Proclaimed three World Movements; Dec. 28th, was present at a memorable meeting of the Order of the Star.

1926 Started the Theosophical Colony at Juhu, Bombay, laying a corner-stone.

1927 Started the Happy Valley in California, appealing for the Happy Valley Foundation Fund; Eighty years "young" this year, she gave fifty lectures in twelve countries of Europe in twenty-one days, travelling by aeroplane.

1928 July 6th, re-elected President of the Theosophical Society; Recorded highest membership of the Society: 45,000 active members; On invitation wrote a statement for the World Peace Union; Was ill in London, and had to cancel Queen's Hall Lectures; March 25th, announced the existence and work of the World Mother.

1929 August 26th, inaugurated the fourth Theosophical World Congress at Chicago, sending therefrom a letter to President Hoover pleading for the abolition of war.

1930 Celebrated the Golden Jubilee of Blavatsky Lodge in Bombay, the foremost Theosophical Lodge in India; Last visit to Benares; Last visit to England: presided over the Convention; Last visit to Europe: attended the Star Camp at Ommen, and presided over the tenth Theosophical European Congress at Geneva; Attended the wedding of her granddaughter, Miss Sybil Besant, to Commander Lewis, in London on Oct. 1st.

1931 Celebrated the Blavatsky Centenary at Adyar in August; Resolved to make Adyar a Flaming Centre; Delivered her last address on Dec. 24th.

1932 Celebrated the Olcott Centenary at Adyar in August; Summed up the life-work of the two Centenarians in 25 words; Awarded "Silver Wolf," the highest Scout honour.

1933 September 20th, expired at Adyar, 4 p.m.