

3. THE FAR EAST.

5, *New Square, Lincoln's Inn.*

May 1st, 1903.

DEAR PROFESSOR RHYS DAVIDS,—I was delighted to see in the April number of the Journal an announcement to the effect that the Society proposes in the future to devote more space to the Far East than it has hitherto been able to do. As one of a minority of members whose interests in matters Asiatic are almost confined to the regions *ultra Ganges*, I am free to confess that I have for some time past felt that our special subjects were not meeting with as much recognition as their relative and growing importance seemed to me to deserve, while the Aryan and Semitic fields of study were, in my humble judgment, getting more than their fair share of attention. In the vast fields of research represented by Indo-China, the Indian Archipelago, the Chinese Empire, Korea, and Japan, amounting as they do in point of population to more than the half of Asia, and including at least a like proportion of subjects of interest, there is far more left to do than in India and South-Western Asia, which have been worked at so long and so thoroughly. Yet even the excellent pioneer work that has been done in the Far East, much of it by foreign scholars, but a good deal by British also, is virtually unknown in this country, except amongst a very limited circle of readers; and that mainly because there has been no sufficient opportunity of making them acquainted with it. The new venture seems to me to be well calculated to further this end, as well as to encourage new lines of research; and even if it only keeps us in touch with current work in these outlying fields, it will be fulfilling a very useful function. I think the Council are to be congratulated on their action in the matter.—I am, yours very truly,

C. OTTO BLAGDEN.