

1953

VIET-NAM

In April we organized a Meeting of all religious sects (except the Catholic) at the Headquarters of the Theosophical Society, to listen to addresses by various people belonging to the different sects, on a single subject: "Ought one to see life through rose-coloured spectacles or black?" The following six sects participated:

1. Northern Buddhism (Mahayana)
2. Southern Buddhism (Hinayana)
3. Association of Women Buddhists
4. Caodaistes
5. Buddhists practising at home (Tonh-do-Cu-si)
6. Buddhism Renewed (Tam Tong Mieu).

We took advantage of this meeting to distribute free copies of seven books on Theosophy:

1. The Path leading to the Masters
2. The Existence of the Masters and the physical bodies of the Masters
3. The 'Shadow' of the Buddha
4. Probation and Acceptance
5. Advice from the Master
6. Theosophy
7. At the Feet of the Master

Extracts from the book *The Masters and the Path*

We have organized a lending Library and a Lecture Hall at the Headquarters of the Society. They are open to the public each day, except on Mondays, from 8 to 12 in the morning.

We first of all instituted a "Weekly Talk", but these meetings were not a success, because the Headquarters is too far away from the centre of the town of Saigon (5 kilometres). We therefore replaced the weekly talk by a monthly one. Now the public which come is much more numerous, thanks partly to the announcements in the daily papers.

We have sent out each month to each of our members a bulletin containing a Theosophical course; this has been replaced now by a Review entitled *Dao Hoc*, which means "The Path which leads to the Truth". This Review was issued on October 15, 1953 with an edition of 3,000 copies.

We have carried out intensive propaganda in the local press, endeavouring to create the maximum sale possible of the Theosophical books in Vietnamese mentioned above, selling them in the bookshops and in the home. As a result we have been able to distribute a large number of copies this year, either by sale, or by free distribution.

Membership.—In this year the number of members has been increased by 57, which brings the total number to 268.

number of themselves not be a beauty of book which value.

In addition mentioned a structured inaugurated month.

Although year one here. A will be future rare owing municipality.

From President some social

The books for have received Society active.

books to ing Theosophy A Cor been cha Hebrew H. P.

Wisdom, The r sociation unde.

Work in the Branches.—Meetings are held regularly, once a week in some Lodges, or twice a week in others. The Lodge *An Giang* at Chaudoc has done good work; three of its members have just finished commentaries on *At the Feet of the Master*. The work they have done can be very useful to a great number of readers less instructed than themselves, who, without this, would not be able to grasp the sense and the beauty of the teachings of this little book which is of such high spiritual value.

In addition to the activities mentioned above, we have already constructed an orphanage, which will be inaugurated during the course of this month. At the outset we shall com-

mence by receiving ten babies who have been abandoned, to bring them up until they attain their majority. Afterwards we shall continue to receive others, each time in groups of ten, according to the measure of our material possibilities.

Since our country is now going through a very difficult time it is not possible to carry out as active propaganda for Theosophy as we would have liked to do. Nevertheless, we work like the bees; we gather material during the light, and make honey in the dark. We progress definitely, though by small steps.

PHAM-NGOC-DA,
General Secretary.

residential hearman, as elected new Fed-loy was

RMAN, Secretary.

Library quarters on to the Mondays,