

VIET-NAM 1954

Congress of Religions.—As was done last year, we organized at our Theosophical building on April 18th and 19th a Congress of most of the country's religious communities. Public lectures were delivered, the various sects each selecting a theme.

Propaganda Work on Theosophical Teachings.—An important gathering is held monthly at our Lodge, every first Sunday. A lecture is given, usually before an audience of 150 to 200 people, despite the inconvenient location of our Theosophical building.

Our vernacular magazine *Dao-Hoc* has completed its first year of existence. Subscribers and casual readers numbered 1,500 at the beginning but are now reduced to 750. This is due to the aridity of the themes approached and to the lack of literary contributions. We are, however, making an attempt to remedy the situation.

Theosophical literature published in the vernacular is being put on sale in every province in South Viet-Nam by a very active group of salesmen, and has proved to be fruitful. It is favorably welcomed by Cao daist circles with the recommendation of their Superior. Nevertheless, Cao daist adherents prefer spirit-

ualistic messages to any other form of spiritual teaching!

Apart from previous publications in 1953, we have this year completed the translation of *Towards the Temple* and *The Path of Discipleship*; also a version of the *Bhagavad Gita* is being prepared.

General Activities.—The work carried on in our provincial Lodges is not very satisfactory on account of the restricted number of members on the one hand, and of various difficulties arising from the present circumstances in our war-torn country on the other. In Saigon our Lodge "Pervading Love" has been carrying on good work, thanks to the efforts of our brother Phan-van-Hien, a very active worker. A weekly lecture is given regularly in this Lodge.

Social Work.—The orphanage under our Section's management has so far adopted 30 children and is still prosperous. It has been the object of general appreciation and has received financial aid from persons far and near. It has also helped to increase public sympathy for the Theosophical Society. We are now contemplating the creation of an organization for the benefit of needy people.

PHAM-NGOC-DA,
General Secretary.

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