THREE DESCRIPTIVE POEMS FROM THE CHINESE OF HAN YIK
TRANSLATED BY ARTHUR E. CHRISTY

I.

The moon does not shine very brightly in the hall;
Without, the solitary lotus droops.
I stand alone on the deserted steps
As the wind blows and the shadows swing.

II.

After the rain, the mossy house-steps are green;
Frost comes and reddens the highest leaves.
A slanting sun-beam shines on the deserted stairway.
Sad am I—and only my parrot to sympathize.

III.

The chill of early spring enters through my silken curtains,
Reclining by my painted window, I cannot sleep.
With night fall has come the rain on the South lake,
Drenching the boatman who is among the water-lilies.