

at that price they cannot be secured. Probably this dearth is due to the fact that few people know much about the Philippines. The climate is not nearly as trying as one is led to expect from reports of tropical countries, there are comparatively no poisonous snakes or insects, and it is possible to get almost everything here that money can buy elsewhere. If it were not for mosquitoes one would have very little fault to find. Everything but fresh milk is easy to obtain, even green vegetables, fresh strawberries—and ice! I trust there will be an awakening of interest in the work of these Islands, and that nurses will be tempted to enter the field not only for the nursing opportunities, but for the opportunity of travel it affords.

I will conclude this report with a brief history of the Civil Hospital and training school for Filipina nurses.

In October, 1902, the Civil Hospital was established in Manila, with Miss Julia Betts, a former Red Cross and ex-army nurse in charge, and with a force of four trained and one untrained nurses, and two attendants for assistants. The capacity was then about forty beds; but rapidly increased to eighty beds with eighteen nurses and ten or eleven male attendants. With the development of the native training school, the force of graduates was decreased to the present number of twelve American nurses and six attendants. This hospital within the coming year will be merged into the new Philippine General, a most modern and beautiful group of buildings of reinforced concrete with tiled roofing, the entire scheme designed to accommodate 1,000 patients. The eleven buildings are almost completed. Each pavilion has a capacity of sixty beds, while the operating pavilion boasts of two large amphitheatres. The required nursing force will probably be forty graduates as supervisors, fifty native pupil nurses, and a corresponding number of American and native male attendants.

One of the most interesting features of the work over here is the Training School for Nurses. This was started two years ago by the Bureau of Education as a specialised branch of the Philippine Normal School under Miss Mary E. Coleman, for six years Dean of Women there. Shortly after its inception, the theoretical work was put in charge of Miss Charlotte Layton, graduate of Orange Memorial Hospital, N.J., who is at present carrying it on in a most able manner. The school started with sixteen scholarships, ten furnished by the Government and six by private individuals. After one year's study in the Normal School six of these nurses were sent to St. Paul's for practical work, three to the University, and seven to the Civil Hospital. After a short time St. Paul's bought over their six scholarships, and used these nurses as a nucleus for their own training school, which now numbers twenty. The University Hospital did likewise, and now has a training school of seven, with five more to enter next year. The seven sent to the Civil Hospital remain intact as the senior class, and will be the first graduating class under the Civil Government. There are twenty-three in the next class, making thirty in all. There are to be twenty in this year's class, and for each year

hereafter. These twenty scholarships are covered by a special appropriation of the Assembly, which defrays all the expenses of the girls appointed to fill them. The course is a four years' one, including the preliminary year in the Normal School. This is necessary on account of the youthfulness of the available material. But they are bright, conscientious girls, doing wonderfully good work. They are making splendid assistants in the operating-room, and while they lack the initiative of the American graduates, yet they do so well under supervision that all interested feel greatly encouraged for their future. I am sending West a picture of the present large force of native nurses.* It is surely a group of which to be proud, and it is a very significant fact that the original sixteen are still among them.

I regret that I have had such a short time in which to prepare this report; but I trust it has given a little idea of what is going on in this small corner of the world. Perhaps some of those who read it will be inspired to cast their lot with ours. If so, we will gladly greet them. It is a country of opportunity for nurses and all women with the right spirit. The work is entirely that of organisation. We want nurses with new ideas, enthusiasm, and enterprise, not the salary-drawing variety, but the world-helping kind.

Royal Commission on Poor Laws.

The Blue Book containing the Minutes of Evidence given before the Royal Commission on the Poor Laws and Relief of Distress from the 49th to 71st days has now been presented to Parliament. It is a bulky volume, and is mainly the evidence of critics of the Poor Law, and of witnesses representing Poor Law and Charitable Associations. Amongst the witnesses were the Hon. Sydney Holland, Chairman of the London Hospital, and Mr. E. W. Morris, Secretary, Miss Nussey, Almoner at Westminster Hospital, and Dr. F. S. Toogood, representative of the Infirmary Medical Superintendents' Society.

Science in Modern Life.

"Science in Modern Life," the third volume of which has just been published, is worthy of the attention of nurses. It is an attempt, and a most successful attempt, to provide a survey of the position of the sciences in relation to human progress and industry. The section on Physics treats in a clear and interesting manner such subjects as Medical Application of High Pressure Electricity and Low Pressure Electricity, Optics of the Eye, Electric Cooking, etc.

General Biology cannot fail to interest all thoughtful readers. It is true that we yet know little of "the beginnings of life," but great advances have been made within recent years. Cell organisation and fertilisation are illustrated by excellent diagrams.

This valuable work is published by the Gresham Publishing Company. E. A. S.

* A charming set of photographs accompanied this article.—Ed.

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