

PREFACE

The work performed by Magnetical Observatories, as a rule, is not a very known subject, and much less in the intertropical latitudes, where such Observatories are very few and far between. Of these few, however, one is the Magnetical Department of the Manila Observatory, which for more than ten years has been doing some important work in the investigation of the conditions of terrestrial magnetism in the Philippine Islands. We feel certain that the result of such investigation will be read with interest by many who are aware of the important place assigned to Terrestrial Magnetism among modern sciences. Others may find also some practical use for the data we publish in the present paper specially naval men, engineers and mining prospectors, who are more or less interested in the peculiar movements of the magnetic needle in this quarter of the globe. These data we have summarized here in the shortest space possible, although they constitute the result of eight years of photographic records, dating from January 1st 1890 to December 31st 1897. Space does not allow for any detailed discussion of these records, of which, however, full information may be obtained from *El Magnetismo Terrestre en Filipinas* by P. Ricardo Cirera, S. J. (Manila, 1893) and from *La Variación Cíclica del Magnetismo Terrestre en Manila (El Archipiélago Filipino, tomo II, tratado XII—Washington, 1900)*. We give also, when convenient, a few historical items about the Magnetical Department of the Manila Observatory.

Manila Central Observatory, August 1901.