VOLCANOES AND SEISMIC CENTERS OF THE PHILIPPINE ARCHIPELAGO.

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SITUATION AND BOUNDARIES OF THE ARCHIPELAGO.

The number of islands which compose the Philippine archipelago is not less than 3,141, although up to the present time no one can state the exact number. All these islands are comprised within the north Torrid zone, between 4° 40' and 21° 10' north latitude and longitude 116° 40' and 126° 34' east of Greenwich. They are surrounded on the north and west by the China sea, on the east by the Pacific ocean, and on the south by the sea of Celebes. From the extreme point of land on the northwest to the China coast is a distance of 230 kilometers. The nearest land on the north is the island of Formosa, on the east the Palos Islands, on the southeast the Molucca archipelago, on the south the island of Celebes, on the southwest the island of Borneo, and on the west Cochin China.

The waters which surround the archipelago are very deep, not far from the east coast the Pacific being from 4,000 to 6,000 meters in depth. The Joló sea between Mindanao and Joló reaches a depth of 4,069 meters, off the Celebes 3,750 to 4,755, and not far from the south coast of Mindanao the depth reaches 5,000 meters; nevertheless, the Philippines are united to the Asiatic archipelago at three points where the straits filled with islands reach but little depth, namely, north of Borneo by the islands of Balábac and Paragua, on the northeast of Borneo by the Joló group, and on the northeast of Celebes by the islands of Sanguir and Tulur. Without doubt, therefore, the whole of the Philippine archipelago belongs to the same geographic region as Borneo, Sumatra, Java, and the rest of the islands of the great Asiatic archipelago, and in consequence to Asia rather than to Oceania. Considering, therefore, only geographic reasons, it is sufficient to note the analogy which the situation of the Sunda Islands, the Celebes, the Moluccas, and the Philippines, with relation to Asia, bears to the situation of the Antilles with relation to America. The former bound the