

Jesuits' weather observatory in Quezon City inaugurated

The Manila Observatory Heights
of the Jesuits in Loyola to the

opened its door inauguration rites officiated
public Saturday in ed by Rufino Cardinal San-

tos.

Built with funds collected from the War Damage Commission and invested by the Jesuit Order, the observatory is equipped with sensitive instruments for the detection and recording of atmospheric disturbances, solar behavior, and earthquakes, and tsunamis (tidal waves).

Unlike its pre-war predecessor in the old Ateneo compound on Padre Faura, the new Manila Observatory will not be involved in weather forecasting which is now being done by the weather bureau.

Nor will it offer to the casual visitor the pre-war thrill of looking into a huge telescope mounted on a revolving dome which scans the heavens.

Instead, the new Jesuit scientific pursuit will engage in such highly sophisticated and modern research as:

1. Radio physics — detecting and recording the electricity of the earth's upper atmosphere. These electrical disturbances are detected by three instruments; the ionosonde which bounces radio waves off the invisible clouds of electricity, the riometer which detects radio signals coming from the Milky Way, and the magnetometers, which detect changes in the earth's magnetic field as a result of the electric currents in the upper air.

2. Solar physics — study

of the sun's behavior and its relation to atmospheric disturbances which could affect communications, life on earth, and travel in space.

3. Seismic research—detecting and recording earth tremors and tidal waves in the Pacific basin in collaboration with the Seismic Sea Wave Warning System of the Pacific.

Fr. James J. Hennessey, director, expressed gratitude yesterday to various scientific groups here and abroad which donated expensive equipment for the new observatory.

Among the groups he cited were the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, US National Bureau of Standards, US coast and geodetic survey, national science development board, Asia Foundation, US Air Force, and the Philippine Air Lines.

Rev. Francisco Araneta, president of Ateneo de Manila University, "welcomed" the Observatory back to the Ateneo campus. Since 1952, he said, the observatory has been located in Baguio City at the foot of Mt. Mirador (the pre-war observatory was destroyed in World War II).

Fr. Francis X. Clark, Jesuit father provincial, said the Jesuit order will continue training men for higher studies in science that they may better serve

the needs of the Philippines.

Former NSDB Chairman Paulino J. Garcia, acted as master of ceremonies in the rites which also introduced the following staff-members: Fr. Bernard F. Doucette, seismologist; Fr. Francis N. Glover, radio

physics; Fr. Vicente Marasigan, radio physics; Fr. Richard A. Miller, solar physics; Fr. Sergio Su, seismology (still abroad); and Martin Faustino, radio physics.

Item: special instruments in the solar research building can take detailed imag-

es and pictures of the sun, moon, and other celestial bodies clearer than the pre-war telescope.

Item: Some of the observatory's equipment are still in Baguio. One of its ionosphere stations (for radio physics studies) has also been set up in Balara.