

## SOME NOTES ON PHILIPPINE EARTHQUAKES

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The Philippines, including the Batanes Islands, extend about 400 kilometers to the north of Baguio, and about 1200 kilometers to the south. In other words, Philippine quakes, and they are many, can all be classified as nearby quakes with reference to our Baguio station, and we are, therefore, like Japan and Java, in rather a privileged position to study the characteristics of such quakes. Unfortunately, there are two drawbacks: There is only one other first-class seismic station in our Islands, that operated by the Philippine Weather Bureau in Manila. Consequently for those quakes that are not sensibly felt and reported by Government weather observers, there is often an ambiguity whether the quake is to the east or west of our meridian. Most of the time, too, the onset of P is too small on the different components to obtain azimuths. Hence the writer first started to study the quakes that were sensibly felt, in order to remove the E-W ambiguity, but unfortunately the felt quakes generally give a record too large for proper study. The ideal quake for study is one with moderate amplitudes on the record; but these are usually not felt sensibly, if the distance is small, except in their immediate vicinity, at which locality usually no weather observers are stationed. To overcome this difficulty at least partially, we are sending to the various parish priests in northern and central Luzon, post cards which they are to fill out with the time and intensity of any felt shock and with its intensity.

Even with only our preliminary study, some facts stand out. In the first place, as is well known, for nearby quakes the short