TODAY, as we usher in the 100th anniversary of the Manila Observatory, we cannot help but remember that its remarkable growth has been a part of Philippine history.

The first centennial is filled with significant developments in the field of science, interwoven with heartaches, defects, and aspirations of men responsible for what it is today.

This institution had its small beginnings, when in 1865, Francisco Colina, a Jesuit scholar teaching sciences at the Ateneo Municipal, installed some meteorological instruments in an abandoned pigeon house on the roof of this school, and dignified it with the name "Observatory." He had as initial equipment, a thermometer, hygrometer, a barometer of oil, and a piece of cloth as his anemometer, hung by a string from the top of a pole. With these basic instruments, he made and recorded observations on weather conditions in the hope that a way might be found to forecast typhoons. In spite of the primitiveness of some of the equipment, and amidst unforseen difficulties, Fr. Colina, with the help of a scholastic, was able to predict a strong typhoon which passed closely to the north of Manila in September of 1865. This particular event was recorded in the Diario de Manila and, as a result, aroused the interest of the mercantile and shipping community who made a request that daily forecasting be a regular task assigned to Fr. Colina. The latter accepted this request on condition that better equipment be provided. The merchants of Manila responded to this appeal and collected ₱6,000 to purchase an instrument constructed by Fr. Angelo Secchi at the Vatican Observatory.

What followed is now history. On June 20, 1866, a Jesuit scholastic, Fr. Federico Faura, arrived in Manila and was immediately placed in charge of the Observatory, and under his able guidance, a permanent tower was erected in one of the buildings of the Ateneo Municipal in Intramuros to house the instruments of the Observatory. In this building, Fr. Faura, with the help of the other scholastics, engaged in extensive studies and meteorological observations of celestial bodies. The Observatory remained in this location until April of 1886, when its transfer to the new building in the suburbs of Ermita was effected. In this new location, Fr. Faura was given greater responsibilities. Here he was exposed to the challenge of providing accurate forecasts of the weather when, thirteen stations under the government's telegraph service were placed under his supervision with the Manila Observatory as the central office. This event marked the official recognition of the Observatory by the Spanish government, and through Fr. Faura's timely forecasts, many calamities were averted. Thus, the Observatory came to be regarded as one of the pioneer achievements of Philippine science. Largely, through Fr. Faura's untiring efforts, the Manila Observatory held its own among the recognized observatories of the world. Fr. Faura had occasion to represent the Observatory in several important conferences abroad. In one of his trips to Spain, he secured the establishment in the Observatory of the two new sections of Terrestial Magnetism and Seismology. He likewise repre-