Observations of St. Elmo's Fire in the Philippines.

By Rev. Miguel Selga, S. J.

In the common opinion of meteorologists, there are three distinct types of atmospheric electric displays, namely, aurora polaris, lightning and St. Elmo's Fire.

The magnificent phenomenon of aurora polaris is known in the northern hemisphere as aurora borealis and in the southern hemisphere as aurora australis. The latitude of maximum frequency of aurora borealis for Europe and Asia is +70°. Both the Ensayo de una síntesis de los trabajos realizados por las corporaciones religiosas españolas and the Catálogo bibliográfico de los Religiosos Agustinos mention a paper entitled Descripción de una aurora boreal observada en Filipinas. Strange as it may seem, an aurora borealis was reported as having been observed in Central Luzon by the botanist Rev. Antonio Llanos, O. S. A.(1) No opportunity has been offered to check up the observation.(2) The scientific authority of Fr. Llanos is beyond all criticism. His botanical elucubrations are known to all botanists and his exhibitions of minerals of Angat and Mancayan were awarded a prize in the international exhibitions of Paris (1867) and Philadelphia (1876). (Ensayo de una síntesis de los trabajos realizados por las corporaciones religiosas españolas, p. 30.-Catálogo bibliográfico de los Religiosos Agustinos, p. 435). This is the only report, known to me, of an observation of aurora borealis in the Philippines.

Several observations of lightning in the Philippines were embodied by the writer in the pamphlet Observations of lightning in the Philippines, in which the following points were made the subject of special study: early ideas on lightning prevailing in the Philippines, singular forms of electric discharges observed in the archipelago, association of lightning with height, loss of life and property due to lightning strokes, and connection of