

Miguel Selga, 1879-1956: Priest and Scientist

ANGEL HIDALGO, S.J.

FATHER Miguel Selga, S.J., whose name is well known among Philippine scientists, was born in Spain on November 25, 1879 in the little town of Rajadell, close to the river of the same name in the province of Barcelona, not far from Manresa. His parents were Pablo Selga and Francisca Trullas. He entered the Jesuit novitiate at Veruela in Aragon on March 30, 1895 at the age of fifteen, and was admitted to the First Vows of the Society of Jesus two years later.

At Veruela he continued his classical studies and then began the study of Philosophy, which he completed at Roquetas in Tortosa. Roquetas was destined to become a center of scientific research, for it was the future site of the famous Observatory of Ebro, founded by Father Ricardo Cirera, S.J., who had served his scientific apprenticeship in the Philippines at the Manila Observatory.

Having completed his study of Philosophy in 1902, and having taught for a brief period in the Jesuit colleges at Veruela and Sarriá, Selga went to the University of Zaragoza where he obtained the degree of Licentiate in Sciences in 1908.

The next four years were spent in the study of Theology, the first two in Tortosa, and the last two in the United States at Woodstock College in Maryland. The reason for this assign-