

The Manila Observatory

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IT is the prerogative of a child to share in the joy of its parent's anniversary celebration. The Manila Observatory, as the first-born of the Ateneo de Manila, rejoices at this time when a century of uninterrupted educational service to the Philippines is the worthy cause of this centenary celebration. The Ateneo Municipal in Intramuros was but six years old when the Observatory saw the light of day. It has now grown into a ninety-four year old offspring whose history should have a place among the records of its parent.

I ORIGINS

In 1865, the flock of pigeons on the roof of the Ateneo was much disturbed by the intrusion of Francisco Colina, a Jesuit scholastic. After his mathematics classes, he would climb into that pigeon coop with a few simple instruments for determining the weather elements. It soon became evident that the birds had lost a roost and that these instruments had found a permanent home in a makeshift weather observatory. These heartless evictors of squatter pigeons were mere apologies for scientific instruments, claiming dignity more from their function than from their structure, for who would not smile at a household thermometer, a hair hygrometer, an oil barometer and an anemometer of such coarseness as theirs claiming recognition as dependable meteorological equipment. Anyone could see that the anemometer or wind gauge was only "a piece of cloth hung