

THE MANILA OBSERVATORY is privately owned and operated by the Jesuit Fathers of the Philippine Province. Since 1952 it has been located in Baguio City. Its former home was in Manila on Padre Faura Street, Ermita, until its total destruction at the time of the liberation of Manila in February 1945.

Its beginning goes back to 1865 when its founder Padre Federico Faura, S.J., began to publish weather reports and to give typhoon warnings. The great value of his work was recognized by the people who helped it financially and by the King of Spain who raised it to the dignity of the Royal Meteorological Observatory.

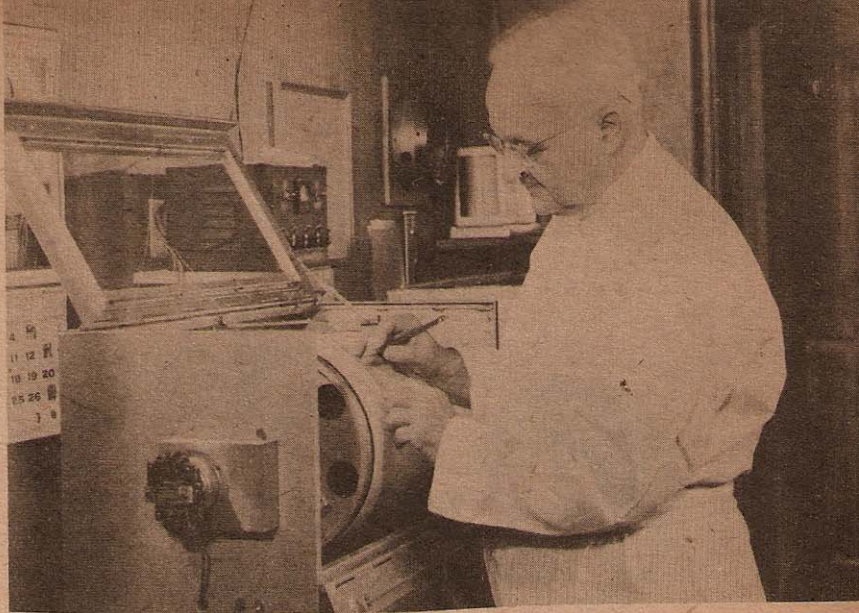
Independently, the Jesuit staff was carrying on investigations in the fields of astronomy, seismology and geomagnetism. This scientific effort was well established by the time that Padre Faura died in January 1897, about a month after his friend, Dr. Jose Rizal, was executed on the Luneta.

The new Director, Padre José Algué, took office on the eve of the political revolution against Spain and America. In spite of the danger and difficulties of those turbulent days, service continued uninterrupted. Organized later to fit into the requirements of the U. S. Weather Bureau, its operation continually improved and expanded under the name of the Philippine Weather Bureau, a very important arm of the American-Philippine Government.

Fr. Miguel Selga succeeded Fr. Algué in 1925. Under his care more than 300 auxiliary weather stations were supplying Manila with the essential data necessary to issue daily weather maps and give warning to the Far East during the typhoon season.

All this organization fell apart and service came to a halt when the Japanese captured Manila in January 1942. The Fathers found themselves under house arrest, unable to carry on any of their former occupations. In 1948 they began their period of life in the concentration camps of Sto. Tomas and Los Baños.

The Manila Observatory came into their life again after the City of Manila was liberated in February 1945. By that time, however, nothing was left of it except twisted iron and ashes. Every building, instrument and records



Fr. Bernard F. Doucette, S.J., checks records of earthquake that shows danger of tidal waves in the Pacific area at seismic department.

# MANILA OBSERVATORY

*Soon Manila Observatory will be at the University of the Ateneo de Manila, Quezon City, where members of the staff will teach Ateneo science students.*

had been destroyed. Only one man did not lose hope of seeing a resurrection of the famous institution and all it stood for. That man was Father Charles E. Deppermann, S.J., its former assistant director.

After a short time for recuperating his health spent in the States, he returned to Manila with many plans in his mind. A start was to be in the field of geophysics this time but in Baguio City. Seismic instruments and ionosphere electronic equipment were set up in 1952. Then telescopic cameras began taking sun pictures. His dream was coming true—the Manila Observatory was again alive and making its own unique contribution to the researches of modern science in the Philippines.

At this time, the staff members of the Observatory are occupied with research work in two fields of the geophysical sciences: Seismology and Sun-Earth Relations.

Theory, detection and analysis of earth tremors keep the seismologist alert day and night. In an under-ground vault sensitive instruments rest tightly against the hard foundation of Mirador Hill. They react quickly to the least vibration coming through the deep core of the earth or disturbing its crust.

Thin beams of light and fine pen trace quivering lines on the record paper for a permanent proof of the duration and intensity of ordinary and extraordinary movements of the earth.