

Ionosphere Research at the Manila Observatory

JAMES J. HENNESSEY

The history of the Manila Observatory—its modest beginnings in 1865 in a garret of the Ateneo de Manila in Intramuros, its transfer to commodious and well-equipped quarters on Padre Faura Street, its total demolition during the Battle of Manila in 1945, and its recent resurrection on Mirador Hill in Baguio—has been outlined by Father Charles Deppermann, S.J. in a recent article.¹ Those who read that article will remember that the Jesuit Fathers assigned to the Manila Observatory in Baguio are at present engaged in two types of research: seismological and ionospheric. They will soon embark on a third: researches in the spectrum of the sun. In this paper I wish to explain the type of work we are doing in ionosphere research.

From its inception in 1865 to its total demolition in 1945, the Observatory was engaged in seismic and astronomical, but chiefly in meteorological work—the study of the earth's *troposphere* (i.e. the lowest part of the atmosphere, nearest the earth's surface). This meteorological work was particularly necessary since the Manila Observatory was also serving the Philippines (under the Spanish, the American, and the Commonwealth regimes) as the Government Weather Bureau. Since the war, with the Manila Observatory no longer serving as a Government Weather Bureau, the Jesuit scientists have