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THE ECLIPSE OF THE SUN OF MAY 9, 1929, IN THE PHILIPPINES

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In the afternoon of May 9, 1929, the light of the sun was shut off by the Moon from a wide belt, which includes the most densely populated islands of Visayas. With a velocity of 30.5 miles a minute, the Moon's shadow travelled from Palawan to Dinagat, covering the island of Panay, northern Negros, northern Cebu, Leyte and southern Samar. The average width of the belt of totality was 110 miles and included the capitals of the provinces of Antique, Iloilo, Occidental Negros, Cebu and Leyte. The duration of the total phase ranged from 3.9 minutes around Dumaran Island to 3.4 minutes in the southern part of Samar. The eclipse was visible everywhere in the Philippines; as total in the main islands of Visayas and as partial in the rest of the Archipelago. From Babuyanes in the norht to Tawi Tawi in the south the sun was at least 70 per cent eclipsed.

Three circumstances appealed specially to astronomers and gave considerable prominence to this eclipse in the Philippines; first, the altitude of the Sun at the time of the eclipse: second, the duration of the totality: and third, the probability of fair weather. Astronomers have undertaken long journeys to observe eclipses, when the sun was only 10 degrees above the horizon. The case of Lapland on ~~January~~ June 1927 is too recent to habe been forgotten. Why should not the astronomers consider coming to view our eclipse in the Philippines, where the sun was to be 35° above the horizon at the time of totality? It is estimated that the total