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# MANILA OBSERVATORY

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## SOME THOUGHTS ABOUT SCIENCE IN THE PHILIPPINES

I. GENERAL: The opportunities for anyone with a high degree in science to achieve a position comparable to his training and experience are very few. I think the reasons are:

1) Positions of a science administrator are mainly political and the salaries even for these is low comparable to other political appointments.

For example: The director of the weather bureau for the past twenty eight years boasts that he makes more money raising pigs in one month than he earns in one year in the weather bureau.

Dr. Magnoin, talking with me about the history of physics in the Philippines, mentioned that he earns more money by just pushing paper around.

The young people in the science departments complain that they have no chance to improve themselves. The chief astronomer was receiving Pesos 12000 a year. This is not too bad compared with the salaries in the U.S. fifty years ago. A professor at Harvard in 1945 received about \$5000 a year. The director of the weather bureau had worked his way up from a very low grade and had no doctorate, except an honorary one, during World War II. I drew the weather map in Washington every day and soon learned that I had the highest academic standing of anyone in the weather bureau. Things have changed there now and I hope they will change here.

II. M - ANILA OBSERVATORY: After the War there were some interesting problems. The Provincial, James Sweeney, in New York told me to get the observatory started as soon as possible. That was one reason why I was drawing the weather map for the U.S. everyday.

I first contacted Fr. Miguel Selga, and received a letter in reply that Manila Observatory should not be reopened by the Jesuits. I passed this on to Father Vincent McCormick, the American Assistant, but heard nothing further.

Father Deppermann had been picked up by the U.S. Army on the day after the liberation of Manila and flown to Washington, where I met him at Gonzaga after receiving a call from a Catholic scientist in the Army Weather Service. I was told to bring Father Deppermann to a room in the Pentagon for a conference on weather in the far east which I had been attending.

When Deppermann heard of the purpose of the conference he protested that he would not give out any information he might have that would help prosecute the war. He wanted peace at all costs, except any contribution from him.

Once the discussions got underway again, Deppermann began to make suggestions, such as more effort to learn about air masses crossing the equator. Up to that time all world weather forecasts were limited to the changes in the main wind systems. But here were some of the best meteorologists I have ever met and some are still alive. One still hears of polar waves in the easterlies as origins of typhoons; of foreshadowing from measurements of ice thickness at the Greenland Icecap or of analogue forecasting from