

## SPANISH AND FOREIGN ELEMENT

PROMINENT SPANIARDS—LA CASA DE ESPAÑA—AUXILIO MUTUO—  
FOREIGN RESIDENTS.

## Prominent Spaniards

By S. Dalmau Canet,

Journalist. Reporter on "La Democracia."

The relations between the native Porto Ricans and the Spanish colony residing on the island had their early beginnings so long ago and are consequently so firm and strong that to try to make a sketch of such relations is an effort almost beyond possibility of accomplishment within the short space of an article.

It can be well said that the Cross and Sword brought upon American soil by Christopher Columbus were the first emblems of the light of civilization in the new continent, said civilization having spread and grown up to these times when Porto Ricans and Spaniards live united in a brotherly embrace.

The first venerable figure rising up before the eyes of history far back in the fifteenth century is that of Fray Bartolomé de Las Casas, an earnest defender of the Indians against the mistreatment of the conquerors, his preachings being the first educational source in America. He wrote a General History of the Indians in three volumes, which is yet consulted by historians.

Venerable Las Casas was followed in Porto Rico by Fray Iñigo Abadd Lasierra, a benedictine monk, who distinguished himself in the study of history and antiques and who in 1782 published his "Historia Civil y Política de la Isla de San Juan Bautista de Puerto Rico" (Civil and Political History of the Island of Saint John the Baptist of Porto Rico).

Another noble figure of the priesthood also was the benedictine monk Fray Manuel Jiménez Pérez, who was Bishop of Porto Rico from 1770 to the time of his death in 1781. To him is owed the construction of the building situated at the western point of the San Sebas-

tián street, San Juan, which was expressly constructed for a charity hospital and which today is a military hospital. Fray Manuel Jiménez was a very charitable man who stimulated religion in the diocese entrusted to him.

Not so far back is the illustrious Dr. Pedro Gutiérrez de Cos, a hearty supporter of Porto Rico's education and who founded the Seminario Conciliar the only institution of the kind which Porto Rico had until the change of sovereignty. True it is that Bishop Gutiérrez's native country was Peru but he felt himself a Spaniard and certainly proved it with the activities of his life which ended on April 9, 1833.

Fray Pablo Benigno Carrión was a fervent apostle of charity and childhood whose life was devoted with a kind and persistent endeavor to the retired practice of his monastic duties.

**The First Printing Shop.** Under the government of General Don Toribio de Monte, the French citizen Delarne brought to the Island the first printing press, it being then that "La Gaceta" (The Gazette) started publication, its first issue appearing on December 31, 1807.

**The Great Intendent.** Another prepossessing personality appeared as the time rolled by—Don Alejandro Ramírez, born in Valladolid, Spain, who was Porto Rico's first sub-treasurer. He it was who organized the Island's public finance which had been up to that time entrusted to the metropolitan government and subject to the ordinance of Buenos Aires through a Royal Decree of May 4th, 1784.

Furthermore he adopted a customs tariff, founded "La Sociedad Económica de Amigos del País" (The Economic Society of Friends of the Country); published 'El Diario Eco-

nómico de Puerto Rico" (Economical Journal of Porto Rico) and was always a furtherer of Porto Rican improvement and education. For his valuable services he was named in 1816 Superintendent of Havana, Cuba, where he died in 1821.

**Writers and Artists.** The Reverend Bernardo de Balbuena wrote the most vigorous poetical songs.

Don Félix Astol Artés, born in Cataluña was a notable musician, author of the celebrated "danza" "La Borinqueña," whose music has delighted many generations and which is at present Porto Rico's best loved song.

Don Ignacio Guasp, a native of Mallorca, founder of "El Boletín Mercantil de Puerto Rico" (Porto Rico's Commercial Bulletin), was an earnest journalist who despite his writing in an environment which was against his ideas, left many fruitful enterprises expressed in his articles.

Don Juan González Chaves, a native of Granada, Spain, was one of the first publishers in Porto Rico; he having established a press and a book store, publishing the first books of Porto Rican writers.

Don Enrique Alvarez Pérez as a professor and the secretary of the Provincial Institute, taught physiology, a science about which he wrote many articles, published in the papers of his time.

Don Carlos Peñaranda was a writer and poet who came to the public eye about 1780. Among his books there is one entitled "Impresiones de Puerto Rico" (Impressions of Porto Rico), a series of letters about the literary movement of that time. He was also the author of a book about the island's customs.

Don Guillermo Belmonte Muller was another noteworthy poet who left interesting compositions in the pages of "La Revista Contemporánea" (Contemporary Review).

Don Darío Ormaechea a little later than the period that we are referring to, published a treatise about the agriculture, commerce and revenues of Porto Rico, thus treating many topics which are being discussed today.

Don José Pérez Moris was a historian and journalist and a hearty advocate to the colo-

nical regime, who edited in 1872 the "Historia de la Insurrección de Lares" (History of the Lares Uprising).

Don Andrés García Gamboa, among the Spaniards should be remembered, due to his



DR. ALEJANDRO RAMÍREZ.

publication in 1856 of a work about "El Levantamiento de los Artilleros de Puerto Rico" (The Uprising of the Artillery of the Island of Porto Rico).

An illustrious writer of political topics was Don Francisco Cepeda, who also distinguished himself notably as a public lecturer and who published his "Conferencias de Abuli" (Abuli Interviews), which he had with Don Rafael María de Labra.

A prepossessing figure in the literary atmosphere of 1880 was Professor Don Alberto Regúlez y Sanz del Río of the "Instituto Provincial de Segunda Enseñanza" (Provincial Institute of Secondary Education) where he taught literature; he being the author of a treatise on agriculture, industry and commerce among the many books which he wrote and which are not mentioned because it is the aim of this article to point out the specialty in which each of these prominent men excelled.

Don Jacinto Aquenza, who used the pseudonym of "A. Pineda," was a vigorous con-

trovertist, a writer and poet who wrote for "El Boletín Mercantil de Puerto Rico."

Don Casiano Balbás was another figure of the Island's letters, his ideas were conservative, heartily catholic and within his political creed he certainly served Porto Rico well.

**Review of Governors.** It was Governor Don Juan de la Pezuela who wrote poetry at the same time that he worked for the good of the island, translating in Porto Rico almost the entire poetical works of Tasso.

It was the general Don José María Marchessi who worked decidedly toward the sending to Spain of a commission that might solicitate the abolition of slavery with or without indemnification, that commission which formed the famous board of information which inspired Don Emilio Castelar in one of his eloquent speeches.

Mention too must be made of the government of Don Gabriel Baldrich y Palau, because he was an advocate of civic institutions in the island, was the first supporter of general suffrage, and who set free all slaves over sixty years of age. He also abolished all bodily punishment, inaugurated the works of the Provincial Deputation which was appointed by the delegates of the people; substituted the former corregidors by delegates and always worked in his governmental activities in accordance with the best of purposes.

Public instruction was remarkably improved under Governor Don Eulogio Despujols, his program being contained in these three words: "to spread education."

Governor Don Miguel López Baños proved his interest in intellectual progress, he having established the Provincial Commission of Instruction.

Another, Don Fernando de Norzagaray, created in 1854 the School of Commerce, Agriculture and Navigation and another governor, Don Félix María de Messina, who published the first organic decree about public instruction.

The Governor Don Santiago Méndez Vigo was one of the generals who stimulated most the Arts in Porto Rico. To him she is indebted for furthering all branches of the public administration. He was also the founder of a

school of education and beneficence which exists today as a school of theoretical and practical training of various trades.

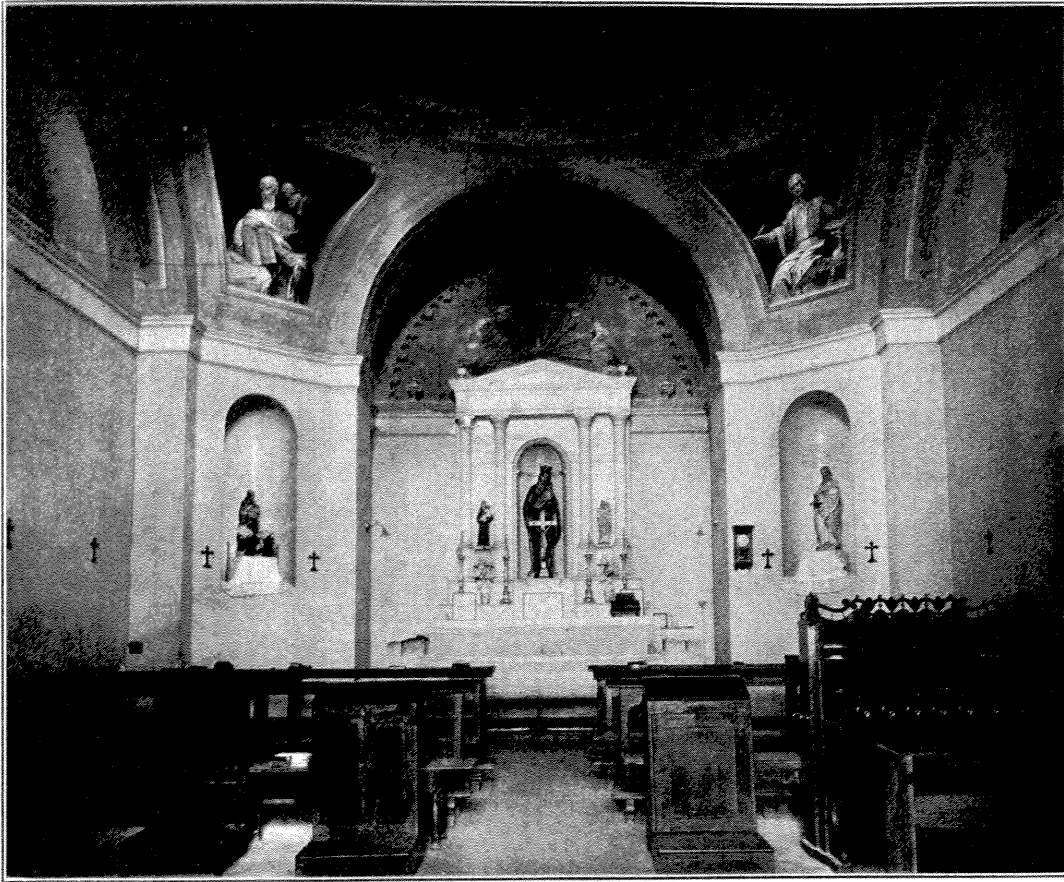
**Educators.** Among the furtherers of education were Don Alejandro Infiesta about the year 1888. His articles regarding the education of the Porto Rican rural women greatly aided the establishment of the measures which were bent toward her moral and social uplifting. In his articles he urged that rural schools should be established exclusively for working women because they being the future Porto Rican mothers, he wanted to secure for them the means to form their character, by showing them new ways of perfection in every activity.

Don Miguel Rosich of Ponce was a noteworthy teacher and mathematician and also served as mayor of that city.

**Father Rufo.** In a list of honor must be placed the most noble of all figures, that of the priest Rufo Manuel Fernández, who came to Porto Rico in 1852 at the age of forty. Father Rufo who was a native of Galice, Spain, was an energetic promoter of the island's education, his greatest work having been to impulse the activities of the "Sociedad Económica de Amigos del País," in connection with which he established the teaching of physics and chemistry. Furthermore, he advised that society on the convenience of the establishment of a central institute as a preparatory school for university studies. He also advised that society to send to Europe at its expense bright young men to follow pedagogical and scientific studies, that they might be the future professors of the central institute, both advices having met with favor by the "Sociedad Económica de Amigos del País" and the governor Count de Mirasol.

Father Rufo, who died in 1855, was the teacher of many Porto Ricans who later were the most noteworthy representatives of the island's education.

**Spanish Abolitionists.** Many were the Spaniards who earnestly worked in the Spanish Abolitionist Society for the liberty of Cuban and Porto Rican slaves, but the following deserve special mention: Don Emilio Castelar, Don Segismundo Morell, Don Eduardo Benot, Don Félix Bona, Don Laureano Figuérola, Don



CAPILLA DEL SEMINARIO CONCILIAR.—THE CHAPEL OF THE SEMINARIO CONCILIAR.

Fernando Carreras González, Don Mariano Araus, Don Gabriel Rodríguez, Don Rafael María de Labra and Don Joaquin Maria Sanromá; the last three represented Porto Rico in several congresses. For them, on account of their great and unselfish work all Porto Rico will always have the most hearty and strong feeling of gratitude.

**Pedro J. Arsuaga, Alvarez Nava.** Mr. Arsuaga was an enterprising man and was in charge of important public offices. One of his last philanthropic acts was to donate the site where today is located the Insular Sanatorium for Tubercular Patients, a property valued at over \$30,000.

An illustrious son of Asturias, Spain must be named in the history of Porto Rico for his activities of the last twenty-five years, Don Antonio Alvarez Nava, orator and lawyer, who on several occasions has been president of the San Juan Spanish Casino. During his presi-

dency, this social body organized literary contests which led to the study of our most important problems.

**Other Names.** Don José Espaillat, a skillful physician, was the founder in 1816 of the teaching of medicine here.

Manuel Sicardó y Osuna, that architect and professor of mathematics who in San Juan in 1835 drew the plans for the "Castillo del Morro" (Morro Castle) and in 1839 for San Cristóbal.

Don Eduardo Jiménez Moreno, a man of great mental capacity who held official positions and was a member of scientific institutions.

Don Pablo Ubarri, he who conceived and carried out the project of building the first electric railway of the Island, the one between San Juan and Río Piedras, this being constructed by a prominent Porto Rican, Don

Tulio Larrinaga and inaugurated February 28th, 1880.

Don José Jiménez Villeña, a physician in the army, who was the author of a noteworthy work on medicine and general surgery.

Don Fernando López Tuero, another prominent personality, chief engineer of the Agricultural Experiment Station at Río Piedras and the author of many valuable works on agricultural, economy and other scientific matters.

Don Fermín Martínez Villamil, a great factor in the development of San Juan during terms in diverse public offices and who was

the last mayor of San Juan under the Spanish regime.

Don José Ordóñez Gómez, a noted specialist in surgery.

Don Félix Saurí, a popular citizen of Ponce, who organized the House of Spain.

The above shows that the Church, the State, Politics, the Sciences, Literature, the Arts and all the organizations of Porto Rico's social life were properly represented by meritorious men who though born in Spain, contributed with their achievements to the Insular Development not mentioning those who today stand high in the various fields of activities of Porto Rico.

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## La Casa de España

By José Enrique Zorrilla de San Martín y Caballero, B.Sc.,

Littérateur. Business man. Vice-Secretary of "La Casa de España."

The Spanish colony being located in isolated groups, their casinos having no relations between them, and the Spaniards having no authorized voice aside from official representation before the authorities of the country, it was thought wise to create a directing body, an institution comprising within itself the autonomous energies under development, the embryonic aspirations, and the synthetic representation of Spaniards in Porto Rico for the public good. The noble speech of Don Antonio Caubet at a banquet given in San Juan, where he demanded and with fervent urgency required the aid and enthusiasm of all in the foundation in Porto Rico of "La Casa de España," undoubtedly referred to the creation of such body, to be organized in a most intimate understanding of all interests and sentiments determining, informing and integrating the life of the country in its different fundamental manifestations.

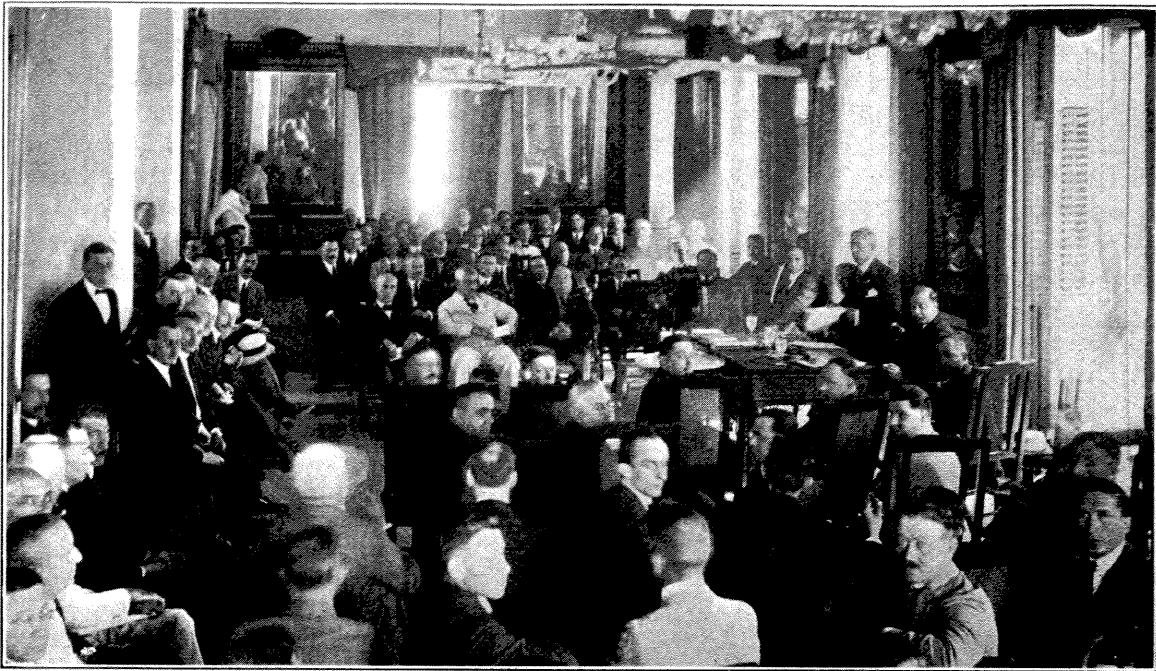
**A North American Makes the First Contribution.** Señor Caubet's words were received enthusiastically by the guests, and one of them requested the honor of making the first donation to "La Casa de España." Thus the first sum contributed towards the construction of

the edifice to shelter this most important institution whose foundation was sought, was chivalrously donated by a generous North American, Mr. Thomas D. Mott.

**General Assembly Called.** A committee of active men in the Spanish colony of San Juan was formed to carry out the necessary work of propaganda in the island. This committee obtained over three thousand members, and assembled them through delegations in a general constituent assembly.

**Definite Policy Decided On.** That assembly resolved to organize "La Casa de España" in Porto Rico. After a luminous debate the by-laws and regulations were adopted on most liberal bases, and a definite policy was laid out for those who because of their wealth, love of work, respect for the laws, love of order, culture, origin, blood, race, their deep-rooted history and the sacredness of their homes as formerly and at present constituted, were factors that should be counted on to more happily solve the problems of the island.

To strengthen more each day the bonds that join Spaniards and Porto Ricans; to maintain the cordial relations existing with the govern-



ASAMBLEA GENERAL DE LA CASA DE ESPAÑA, PRESIDIDA POR DON ABELARDO DE LA HABA.  
THE HOUSE OF SPAIN IN SESSION.

ment of the island; to contribute efficiently towards the financial and social development of the island; to bring to Porto Rico in a crusade of ideals the Spaniards who are high and true exponents of letters, art and the sciences; to organize permanent exhibitions of masterpieces in Spanish sculpture and paintings; to make known in Porto Rico, also by means of exhibitions, the industry and commerce of Spain; to endeavor through all such efforts as may be necessary to purify and perfect the mental and physical culture of the members, to the highest degree possible.

Also to promote public education by means of financial aid to the centers of learning of the island and by the creation of schools supported by the Institution; to establish scholarships in Porto Rico, the United States and Spain to be granted to youths of no means but of proven ability; and to constitute courts of arbitration to decide whenever possible such differences as might arise between Spaniards in financial matters; to practice charity in favor of needy Spaniards and families of Spaniards; to lend aid whenever a misfortune to the island makes such aid necessary; to open informa-

tion bureaus where the members may find facilities in ascertaining their rights and duties as regards their relations with the government of their own country and with that of Porto Rico.

To construct a building to serve as a suitable home for the institution; to provide in said building proper quarters for the Spanish Consulate and for the Consulates of the Spanish-American nations, and to have before the continental authorities as well as before the insular government a synthetic organization comprising and representing the extensive culture, the unquestionable morals, and the enormous financial power of the Spanish colony, such were the finalities assigned to "La Casa de España" in Porto Rico, by the assembly above mentioned.

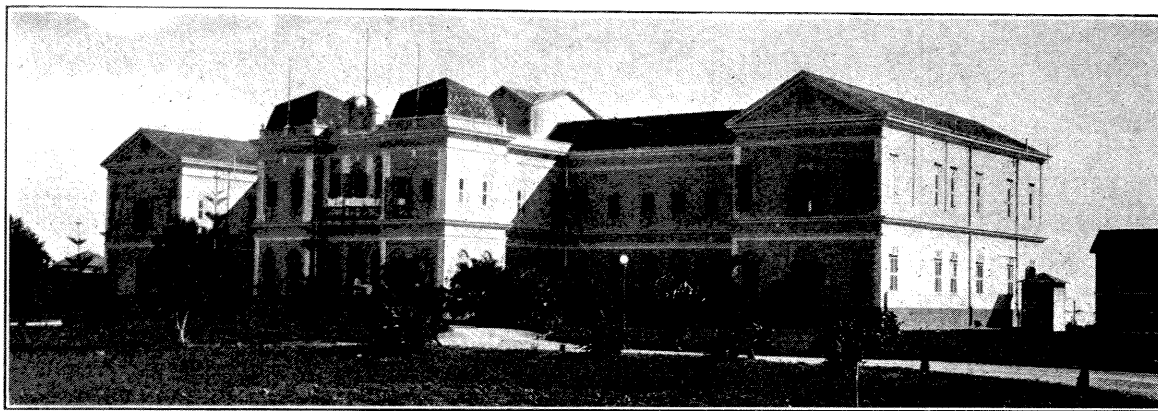
**Period of Organization.** The period of organization then ensued. Over fifty local boards were created in as many different towns, while the Central Board of Directors was established in San Juan under the presidency of Don Abelardo de la Haba. This man of exceptional qualifications was ably seconded during the embryonic period of pro-

paganda by Messrs. Antonio Caubet, Carlos Conde, Miguel Targa, Manuel Camblor, Benito Zaldondo and Rafael Colorado, and during the period of organization by all his fellow-members of the Board of Directors.

**High Prestige Attained.** During his presidency, in times of peril as well as during the hours of joy, the importance of the Institution to the life of the Spanish colony was clearly

shown, and the Institution attained the prestige which it now enjoys in Porto Rico.

**Present Work.** Upon the expiration of the period of organization, Mr. de la Haba left the presidency, while with great hopes for the future, "La Casa de España" entered the era assigned for the complete development of all its activities which are being pushed forward, which is the epoch in which we are at present.



SANATORIO DE LA SOCIEDAD ESPAÑOLA DE AUXILIO MUTUO Y BENEFICENCIA.  
A SPLENDID MONUMENT TO BENEFICENCE, FRATERNITY AND MEDICAL SCIENCE.

## Spanish Society "Auxilio Mutuo y Beneficencia" of Porto Rico

By Amalio Roldán Anchoriz, M.D.,

Director of the Spanish Society "Auxilio Mutuo y Beneficencia" of Porto Rico.  
Member of various professional and scientific associations.

The "Sociedad Española de Auxilio Mutuo y Beneficencia" today represents the practical fructification of a noble and generous idea conceived by Dr. Manuel Thous. His plan was to establish an institution that would give protection and care to those who suffered from illness, to afford those far away from their mother country and relatives, that loving care they required, and to strengthen the ties which adventurous spirit and distance should have weakened.

Dr. Thous idea being well received by such few of his comrades as he outlined it to, steps were taken to crystallize it into a society whose aim would be to improve economic conditions and carry out his noble and generous conceptions, and in November, 1882, the constitution of the Society was framed.

Mr. Enrique Vijande was its first president, and thanks to his wisdom and perseverance, and that of his associates, all difficulties were overcome and the useful work of the society was inaugurated.

As the Society gained strength, its Board of Directors naturally thought of a building of its own, a building which would enable the Society to better fulfil the mission for which it was created.

Preliminary difficulties being overcome, they carried their plan through and in 1900 started the erection of the magnificent Sanatorium which stands in Hato Rey.

In 1912 its useful work was inaugurated, under the presidency of Mr. Avelino Vicente, and with Dr. Jacobo Caldelas as the head of its technical work. A month later the Society

opened its "Consultorio" at San Juan with Dr. García Cabrera at the head, assisted by Dr. Quevedo Baez, and two other physicians.

At the time of the first epidemic of bubonic plague in Porto Rico another society, known as "Benéfica Familiar" joined with it, the merged societies being called "Auxilio Mutuo."

**Constitution and Objects of the Society.** An examination of the constitution and history of this society reveals the enthusiasm, perseverance and self-sacrifice of its founders, and shows how they deserve the greatest praise for their work and skill. Among one hundred and eighty-seven charter members, who all showed their devotion to the success of this society, it would not be right to mention any one name. Sufficient it is to say that to all of them belongs the credit and glory of creating an institution looked to by all—natives and strangers alike—with both affection and respect.

As time passed, and they decided that still greater good could be done by the Society, a beneficiary department was added to its other activities. A department that should give relief to the helpless in their suffering, financial aid to those in poverty, and consolation to the souls of those, who were not alone victims to disease, but who lacked both means and the care of relatives. In short to try and fill to the greatest possible extent, the place of the family in sickness, and should their efforts to save life, prove unavailing, then to still further take the place of the family, by having the President and a delegation from the Board of Directors accompany the deceased to his last resting place.

Preeminently Spanish though it is, this society welcomes both natives and strangers to its membership, and at present has 832 proprietary members and 2,358 active members, all of whom in case of sickness, it cares for, and at whose disposal are placed all the benefits it affords. The society also has honorary and subscribing members, special designations given by it as a token of gratitude to those who have earned them by their work.

**Building and Equipment.** The Society's building, known as the "Sanatorium of Hato Rey" or the "Auxilio Mutuo," is located on the extensive plain of Hato Rey, about twenty

minutes automobile ride from San Juan, and is also easy to reach by electric car. It is a handsome, solid, two-story structure divided in three sections and provided and equipped with all necessities for medical and surgical work. Spacious lawns and gardens extend from the San Juan—Río Piedras road, on which it is located, and a driveway leading past a beautiful fountain, curves in to its spacious entrance.

These "Auxilio" grounds with their gardens affording patients a delightful place in which to exercise, as well as beautiful sights that help dispel the monotony of hospital life. Here too is found a granite bust of the active president, Mr. Avelino Vicente, the work of the well known sculptor Miguel Blay, and placed there as a token of the love of the Society for that man who devotes all his energy, effort and enthusiasm to the improvement of the Society and its work—"don Avelino" as he is generally known. He being an "Excelentísimo Señor" through virtue of a recent decoration, the "Beneficencia Croix," bestowed upon him by His Majesty, the King of Spain, Don Alfonso XIII, as a reward for his devotion to the mother land, and the protection and love so willingly given by him to so many Spaniards.

In the background, and somewhat to the left of the main building, are located eleven pavilions, with capacity for four or five beds each, and a smaller pavilion used as a service station. One of these pavilions was given the Society by don Pedro Arsuaga, recently deceased, and the smaller one by Mr. Manuel González and his wife. Due to their ideal topographical situation these pavilions secure the advantage of the fresh, pure health giving ocean breeze, and hence, due to their ideal condition are of advantage in the treatment of the sick. They also serve to isolate contagious transmissible cases, when so needed.

Not far from the main building and these pavilions is a smaller building which houses the laundry and also gives space for storage needs, and rooms for the hospital helpers. A furnace used for burning hospital wastes is also provided.

In this vicinity also there is a poultry yard,



and a place for laboratory animals, while still further to the rear of the pavilions, with an independent road leading to it, a morgue is located.

The Sanatorium has its own hygienic dairy which enables it to furnish patients with pure, fresh milk in abundance. It is a modern plant with newly constructed barns. A model of its kind, it is praised by all visitors.

In the main building are located the operating rooms, X-Ray department, electro, mecano and hydro-therapy departments, specialty rooms, clinical laboratory, the woman's department, assembly rooms, library and rooms for the internes, and also those for the sisters. Here, too, is located the chapel, where masses are held daily, and also the receiving office of the hospital. The beneficiary department occupies a large ward in this main building, as well as making use of two pavilions, one of which being devoted to women.

**Hospital Staff.** The medical staff of the hospital comprises a head doctor, a general surgeon, an eye, ear, nose and throat specialist, a radiologist, a pathologist, who is also in charge of all laboratory work, two internes, a minor surgeon, seventeen sisters, all graduate nurses, and four male nurses.

Since its work commenced, the Sanatorium has had three technical directors; the first Dr. Jacobo Caldelas, who served from the time of its erection until he died. Dr. Julio Barreiro succeeded him, and after many years of hard faithful service he retired, being in turn succeeded by the present director to whom has been given the honor of writing these lines.

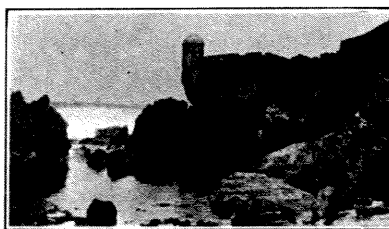
The Sanatorium as now organized and op-

erated, cares for all cases except maternity and mental.

**Dispensary.** At 122 Rafael Cordero Street the Society maintains its dispensary, the object of which is to counsel and guide those members who need advice, and to also serve as an open clinic for cases which do not require hospital treatment. It occupies a main office, a consulting room and two rooms for treatment. The medical staff of this dispensary consists of a head doctor, the general surgeon of the institution and two assistant physicians. It is open to members during the morning and afternoon.

In addition to its own specific work, work based upon love and help to all, this Society contributes to the island's development by donations to any altruistic enterprises, an example being the pavilion donated to the Insular Sanatorium for tuberculosis during the campaign of that institution to secure additional departments. As Spanish, the society never forgets the mother country, subscribing liberally to any of her needs.

Such is the "Sanatorium of Hato Rey" as it is generally called, and as the writer thinks of the objects of the society which owns it and which he serves, there comes to mind an inscription placed above the main entrance of a hospital in the city of Zaragoza, an inscription which he used to read back in those years between childhood and manhood when he hardly knew Latin, and which is still fresh in his memory today—"Domus Infirmorum Urbis et Orbis," certainly a most appropriate inscription to place upon the outer walls of the "Auxilio Mutuo" in view of the great work which it has accomplished.



## Foreign Residents

By Lope Bello,

Littérateur. Journalist. Former General Consul of Venezuela.

There exist in Porto Rico several foreign colonies composed of many members, who have lived for a long time side by side with the people of the beautiful and hospitable land of Porto Rico, making it their second and adopted country.

After the Treaty of Paris, and as a consequence of one of its clauses, Porto Rico ceased to be a possession of Spain. Since that memorable date many of the Spaniards born in the province and also many of the children of those, whose fathers then resided there, retained their Spanish nationality and continued as Spaniards, and due to their number and position they form one of the strongest foreign colonies of the island. Nevertheless, the Spanish colony has not been considered as a foreign one in the social and economic life of Porto Rico, this being due to the strong links of union between the ancient colonizers of the island and their descendants, the natives of the country who now constitute the political entity called "El Pueblo de Puerto Rico" (The People of Porto Rico) and possess American citizenship.

**The Spanish Colony.** The Spanish Colony, as it is called, is the richest and most powerful on the island and is strongly represented from a financial point of view, in its banks and in the most important commercial and agricultural institutions, while in society on account of religion and sentiment, it holds a commanding position.

**Links of Affection.** Besides, the Spanish Colony is linked to the island by historic, political, social and religious bonds, as there is hardly a family in Porto Rico who, when they think of Spain cannot help but recall some affectionate ties of the older days.

In Porto Rico, Spaniards and Porto Ricans have always lived side by side in the most perfect harmony and mutual consideration; just as it should be between members of the same family.

**The French Colony.** After the Spanish, the

most numerous colony in Porto Rico is the French, there being towns like Yauco, Adjuntas and Guayanilla, for instance, where people of French extraction predominate, they being largely of Corsican extraction.

There are comparatively few Englishmen and also very few Germans, Belgians, Russians, Italians, etc., residing in Porto Rico.

**Venezuelan Colony.** Of the Spanish American nations Venezuela is the only one having a numerous colony on the island, this colony having existed for a long time, perhaps since the year 1810, when due to the horrors of the War of Independence many Venezuelan families were compelled to flee to Porto Rico.

It is an important fact, that a great many of the Porto Rican families, particularly those living in the towns of Mayaguez, Aguadilla and Arecibo, whose surnames are purely Venezuelan, still remember the historic deeds of the War of Independence in Venezuela, whose epics and brilliant deeds were first related to them by the lips of their grand-parents.

Furthermore, the continuous political convulsions of Venezuela have compelled many of the most distinguished sons of that country to come to Porto Rico to live, on whose hospitable shores they have been able to plant their tents of exile.

Cuba has also a representative colony in Porto Rico, particularly in the southern part of the island, where the industrious fellow countrymen of Martí, have found ample opportunity for endeavors.

San Domingo has also sent its sons and daughters to Porto Rican soil, where brotherly arms and cordial hearts have offered them hospitality just as if they were at home. All the existing colonies in the island, as it can be expected from the high culture of the people comprising them, have contributed and are today contributing to the progress and happiness of the island in which they dwell, and where because of fate they came to establish their homes

and those of their children. Which is why very valuable men of these colonies excel in the island's fields of Sciences, Arts and Letters, rendering to them the brilliancy of their own ideas, while others in agriculture, commerce and industry have won for themselves enviable positions. All these people love Porto Rico with sincere devotion because this island has given them not only the bread and butter they needed to satisfy material wants, but also because they have been given the hearty welcome which is always extended by those who know how to put into practice the teachings of Christian laws.

**Foreign Consuls.** It is proper in concluding this short article to mention the consular representation of the different nations, all friends of Porto Rico.

Argentine, Mr. Sergio Ramírez; Colombia, Mr. Fabriciano Vélez Posada; Belgium, Dr. J. E. Saldaña; Cuba, Mr. Jose Caminero Shelton; Spain, Mr. Ernesto Freyre y de María; France, Mr. Dominique Francois Auguste Forcioli; Hayti, Mr. Charles Vere; Italy, Mr. Ciro Mala-trassi; England, Mr. Arthur H. Noble; San Domingo; Mr. Sócrates Nolasco; Panama, Mr. Charles Vere; México, Mr. José Labrador Viñals and Venezuela, Mr. José María Ontiveros.



CASINO ESPAÑOL DE RÍO PIEDRAS.—TYPICAL OF NEARLY EVERY TOWN.