



GIRA CAMPESTRE DADA POR EL SR. GIORGETTI EN HONOR DEL SECRETARIO DE LA GUERRA, MR. DENBY.
A GROUP FROM THE "SMART SET."

XIV

THE PORTO RICAN WOMEN

WOMEN OF THE PAST — SOCIAL ACTIVITIES — ASPIRATIONS — CIVIC CLUB — CATHOLIC DAUGHTERS — LOURDES COURT OF HONOR — ORDER OF THE EASTERN STAR.

Women of the Past

By **Trinidad Padilla de Sanz**
(La Hija del Caribe),

Literary woman and piano teacher.

The modern currents of human thoughts and the expansion which has resulted from the feminist movement which of late years has been going on throughout the world, has given women such a high prestige as to make herself indispensable in every patriotic activity.

I refer to the educated woman, who feeling conscious that her duties come first before her rights, places her womanly destiny in a higher esteem than her liberal ideas; she who maintains an unchangeable feminism, not that of the "blue stocking" who boasts of knowledge that she does not possess and brings ridicule to the suffragist movement, with her masculine ostentations.

Neither do I refer to the ignorant woman of the masses probably a victim of life-time preju-

dices. I write about the illustrious women of the past, who brought fame to Porto Rico's history in all its aspects, and about the women of today, the young women who, without deceitful blushes or apparent innocence look forward into life knowing what it holds for her and get ready to overcome possible contingencies of the future.

Porto Rico may claim the honor of being the native land of many illustrious women, who in different activities of life have brought glory to their island, now in patriotic activities, now in artistic and literary enterprises.

Notwithstanding that women in those earlier years did not get much of an education, it being accepted as a dogma that an elementary scholastic knowledge was enough for them, they became

patriots, writers, poets and artists and thus they should be considered as forerunners in their respective fields.

There are many of these self-made women in the history of Porto Rico who have greatly honoured their island. Such for example were:

Mrs. Bibiana Benítez who had a very successful literary career as playwright and poet, leaving among other works "The Cross of the Morro", an exposition of patriotic sentiment colored by legend, and written at a time when freedom of speech was a crime.

Alejandrina Benítez y de Arce de Gautier, a poet of wonderful imagination and a niece of Mrs. Bibiana Benítez, her literary master, and like her a woman of great talent, for it seems that nature is especially well disposed toward certain families which are born to rank high in intellectual activity.

Alejandrina wrote several poems of value following of course the classic school the influence of Espronceda and Zorrilla, then so popular on this side of the Atlantic, being noticeable in them. She was the mother of the poet Gautier Benítez, the most prized jewel of her poetic crown.

Ursula Cardona y Quiñonez, a splendid poet, who excelled in patriotic and pastoral poetry and wrote under the pseudonym of "Angélica".

Carmen Hernández de Araujo, notable playwright, who wrote the beautiful drama "The Ideal", and who would have written more extensively but for the poor conditions of her time.

Ana Otero, a pianist of rare ability, who possessed all the qualities expected of a pianist, a rigorous technique, a "velvet like" enunciation, and who was emotional in singing, possessed clear and marvelous technique—"bravura musical" and an extraordinary memory. She was a musical composer and left several productions of indisputable merit. But the teaching of the piano to a host of pupils was her principal work, pupils who today are an exponent of her masterful training. For that work the name of Ana Otero will live forever in the musical history of Porto Rico.

Estela Mangual, a highly cultured woman of a genial inspiration and of unusual refinement. The muses shed over her cradle their favors, and nature formed its material sculpture with almost ideal beauty. A distinguished poet, she won well

deserved prizes in literary contests. She was also a notable actress. Unfortunately she died when still young.

Isaura Arnau de Ruiz Gandía, a great educator, of most unusual knowledge, who founded and conducted for many years a college at Arecibo, in which don Manuel Ruiz Gandía and herself taught pupils of both sexes. Many prominent graduates of that college are now doing credit to their teachers.

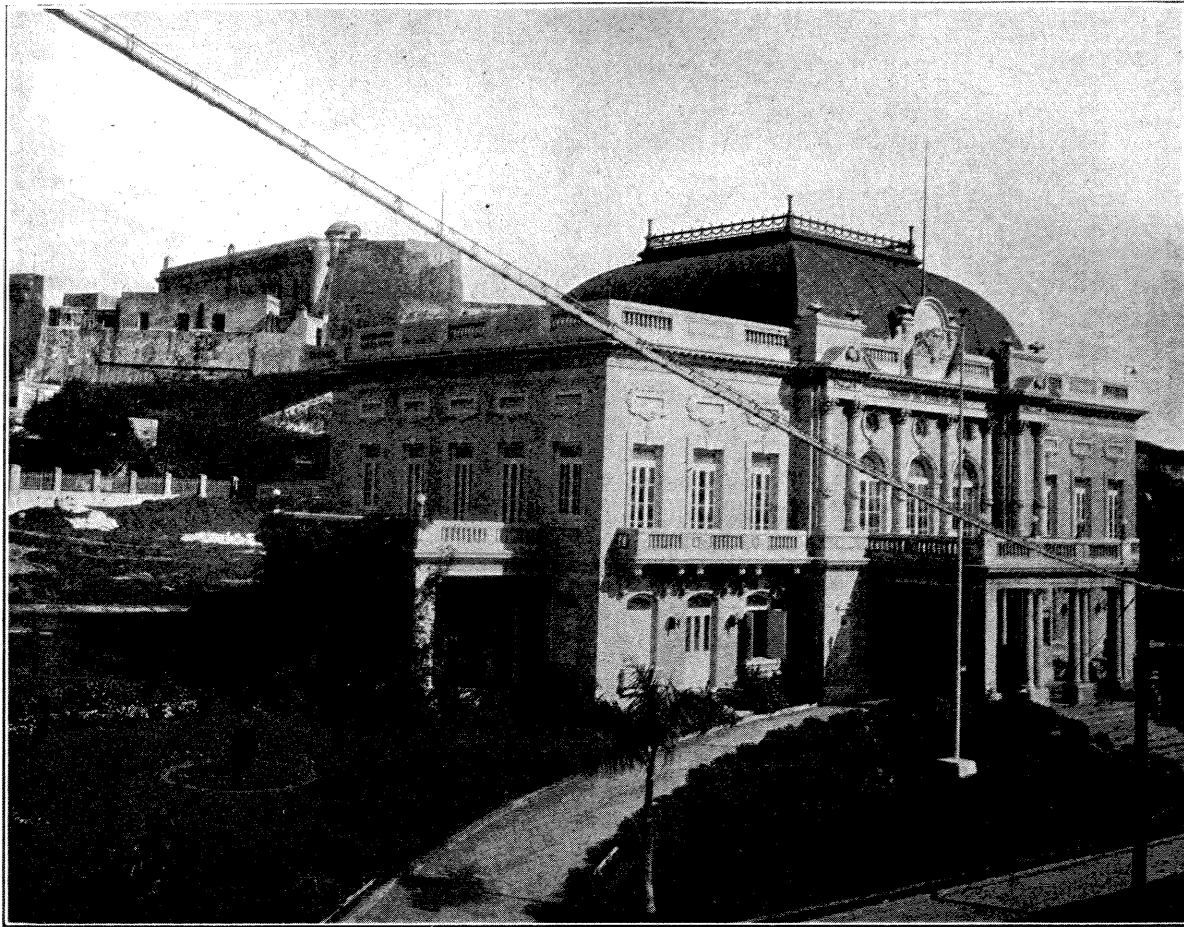
Doña Isaura, as she was affectionately called by her pupils, (the author having the honor of being one of them, as well as a pupil of her husband) was a typical Latin, highly cultured and exceedingly well informed in her profession. She had the ability of making herself beloved by her pupils, and in school she acted the mothers' part. How patiently she endured and excused all our tricks, especially my own, since I was among the worst of the class! God bless you noble lady, who worked for the cultural progress of your island without receiving the reward which you so well deserved!

This article, can well be completed with Pepita Compte, who wrote little, giving all her time to teaching, but who was an excellent poet. But few persons understood her. She was of a retiring nature, scarcely moving her lips to speak. She felt more deeply than she could express. She wrote about high and noble things, under the pseudonym of "Clara Aurora".

Almost all of these illustrious women flourished about the middle of last century, with the exception of Ester Mangual, Ana Otero y Pepita Compte, who died during the beginning of our own century.

Today, looking back, we may say that there is a new revival of the feminine spirit that moves forward under the banner of knowledge.

The young ladies of Porto Rico do homage to their island with their thorough education. Many of them enter resolutely the shrine of Minerva and take professorships and take charge of scientific laboratories and form a large contingent of educators who work in the schools of the United States as Spanish teachers. Said movement means much for the women of Porto Rico, it being a sure way to realize our ideals, civil and political, for a country that struggles in such a way for its future is a country that shall never disappear.



EL CASINO DE PUERTO RICO.—ONE OF THE MOST NOTED CASINOS OF THE ISLAND.

Social Activities of Porto Rican Women

By Isabel Motta de Ramery
(Alma),

Manager of the review "Alma." Writer on "El Día" and "El Aguila" of Ponce.

Porto Rican women, like violets, perfume the surrounding atmosphere from their homes. They are the soul of society and possess simplicity that is enchanting.

Delicate Influence in Art Festivals. In different cities of the Island they have organized associations composed exclusively of women, true centers of culture where festivals are held at which it was impossible to say which was more admirable, the beauty of the flowers so profusely adorning the halls, or the beauty of the human flowers who rendered musical selec-

tions, recited and read and discussed the biographies of celebrities.

Nevertheless, Porto Rican woman prefers to leave to man the management of social circles. Men, therefore, manage the casinos and atheneums, but whenever it is desired to hold a great festival, a committee of women is invited to take part, and they generally create wonders, impressing upon the festival a seal of delicate femininity and inborn good taste. There is no artistic festival or sumptuous ball where woman is not the fairy who

surprises society with the beautiful and ideal things that her mind has forged to give the gathering greater interest.

Charitable Work. In the case of charity things differ. Here the home-loving woman becomes an active bee who flits hither and thither in her task of aiding the unfortunate. The Island's women then organize associations, appoint directors and accept the entire burden of fatigue and hardships entailed by such labor, and feel happy if at the end they get a smile from a poor patient when they present the offering collected after tiresome efforts.

A wreath of roses of charity binds the island, woven by woman at her beneficent associations, which carry happiness and welfare to the homes of the poor.

Whenever the island suffers a public calamity, woman comes forth as the angel of mercy to raise funds or to personally earn them at entertainments, fairs and balls, in order to use them in aid of the needy. When almost all the Catholic Churches were destroyed by the last earthquake, in every town and city of the Island a group of women took upon themselves the raising of the funds necessary to rebuild the house of God, a task they completed in a short time except in Ponce where, notwithstanding much labor and the receipt of large amounts of money, the holy church of Our Lady of Guadalupe is still unfinished, though their efforts are still used to further its completion.

In San Juan a group of ladies worked with great zeal until they raised the sum necessary to build the handsome church of St. George in the district known as San Juan Moderno. Several beneficent associations also exist in that city, directed and supported by women who are engaged in organizing and carrying out festivals for charity's sake.

In Ponce, women, at the cost of many sacrifices, built the Orphan Asylum and the Home for Tubercular Cases. They also support and direct these institutions, Sisters of Mercy being in charge of the former. There is also the Porto Rican Benevolent Society, which has existed for many years and which operates

embroidery shops, the products of which are sold in the States and the profits devoted to the aid of the very women who produce them, whenever they are taken sick, and also to aid equally needy persons. This association founded an industrial school though it unfortunately does not now exist.

During the World War woman worked with all the enthusiasm of her noble Porto Rican soul. She raised great sums of money for the Red Cross; furnished clothing for the sick; made bandages, and proved the tenderness of her heart by taking great interest in unknown beings, and doing away with every superfluous expense in order to devote the money to the relief of the suffering caused by the war.

Loaiza Cordero. In Ponce women have a school for the blind, founded by Miss Loaiza Cordero, who for a time was blind herself, and was educated in a school for the blind in the United States. When she regained her eyesight she determined to do all the good possible to those deprived of that precious sense. Without means she rented a small house next to the Asylum for the Blind, and by means of personal subscriptions and government aid she is doing the immense good of turning those who were formerly absolutely useless, into useful citizens, capable of earning their own living. This school for the blind is now supported by the government and the Red Cross. Great respect and admiration are due to this woman who has interested several generous persons in her work, and who herself has a silent history of privations and self-denials.

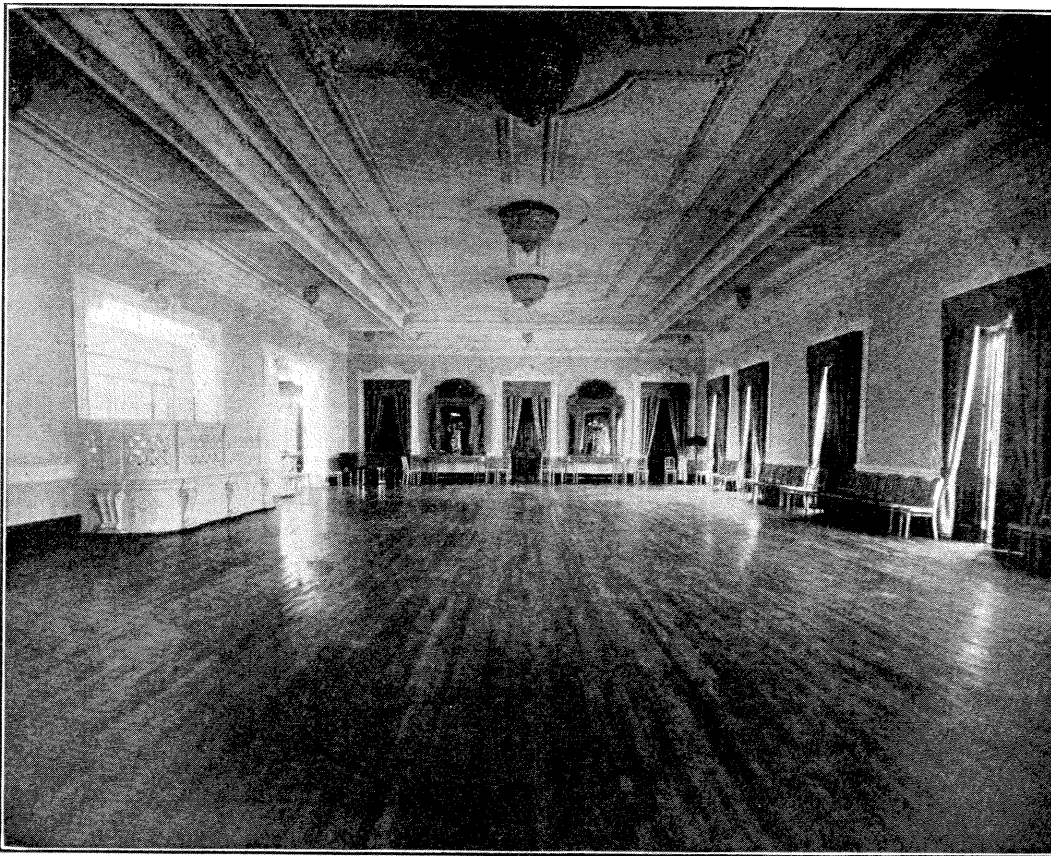
Porto Rican women are cultured, well educated, homeloving and devoted to music and art. Whatever she does outside of the home is so meritorious, that it may be said that the desire to remedy the misfortunes of others is the only thing that can force her to leave her domestic circle.

Porto Rican Mothers. In speaking of Porto Rican mothers as with all mothers the world over, one must first bow with reverent emotion. A mother must be placed on the highest pinnacle, for everything is insufficient

wherewith to do her honor. The age at which most Porto Rico's girls marry is fifteen, eighteen or twenty years and at that age they forsake all sorts of festivities to enter upon the care of wifehood and to undertake the delicate care of the baby, of whom they become a tender nurse and loving slave. Rich women have nurses, but they themselves

nacle, then as a wife, it is no more than fair to give her a most exalted station.

The tenderness and self-denial of the mother being reflected in the girl after the former has molded her child's soul without foreign interference, it is logical to suppose that the child will be a model of a loving, faithful wife, ready for any sacrifice, accepting



GRAN SALÓN DE BAILE DEL CASINO DE PONCE.—GRAND BALL ROOM, "CASINO DE PONCE."

bathe, dress and bring up their babies and when the proper time comes teach their children to pray, study and play. They sew the baby's clothes while they form their hearts and souls. Educated in such an environment boys and girls are naturally sensitive, noble and good when they grow up.

Porto Rican Wives. In Porto Rico no one speaks of dowry in marrying, love reigns supreme. The heart has been king to the present time. If as a mother the Porto Rican woman must be placed on the highest pin-

difficult financial situations, and struggling beside her husband with encouraging calm.

There is no Porto Rican woman who will complain when unexpected poverty comes, nor who does not prefer a beloved man to the richest pretender, although the former may be able to offer but a modest position. In this sense Porto Rican women are admirable, and we offer our congratulations, with a prayer to the younger ones, the future wives—to follow this beautiful example and not to let their minds be poisoned by the teachings

of photodramas where marriage on a money basis is preached, for such matches are the origin of much misfortune and numberless divorces. It is necessary for Porto Rico's women to preserve in their hearts the old perfume of their female ancestors of whom they may be very proud, for they modeled the best in the feminine soul for the domestic environment and social life.

Grandmothers. Homage must also be rendered to the well-beloved grandmother, twice a mother, and therefore entitled to a world of tenderness. She is all love and kindness, the only one who can take the babe from the young mother and have it freely entrusted to her. She concentrates all her love on the dolls offered her by her children, and if as a mother she was full of self-denial, as a grand-

mother she is doubly so. Already old and often bent by the weight of years, we find her playing dolls with the baby, converted into the sweet playmate of her grandchild.

Grandmothers, mothers and wives such as those of Porto Rico reflect noble sentiments on society. They have shone at social functions as queens of beauty and elegance, while in cases of great misfortune they become angels of mercy spreading consolation and happiness where it is most needed.

To grandmothers we offer the most beautiful, the freshest, the handsomest flowers of Porto Rican gardens. Let each reader take an armful of flowers and place it at the feet of the venerated and well-beloved grandmothers! Well do they deserve it, for the love and care they have bestowed.

Women's Aspirations

By Mercedes Solá,

Director of the review "La Mujer del Siglo XX".

The Porto Rican woman, the same as nearly all others everywhere, strives for a fuller enjoyment of her rights. Fully conscious of the high duty she performs in life, she consequently has decided to obtain the recognition of her legitimate civil and political standing.

"The Women of the Twentieth Century": In 1907 the move to that effect was practically started on the island with the publishing of the review "La Mujer del Siglo XX", founded by Mrs. Ana Roqué de Duprey, a very cultured and experienced lady, and the author, with the assistance of the Association "Liga Femenina (Feminine League), later called "Liga Social Sufragista de Puerto Rico" (Porto Rico's Suffrage League) composed of a small earnest group of women.

Time Ripe for the Campaign: In a relatively short time the Porto Rican woman has advanced in the way of gaining her rights. Working in a liberal field of action she has not had to fight man, who in some countries has proved an unyielding obstacle, driving her to fierce riots that have occasionally resulted in serious troubles.

The Porto Rican easily adapts himself to works of progress, and though he is a lover of the classic type of "woman with no authority", he is not possessed of the selfishness that breeds opposition in the man of some countries who opposes, only because he fears to share the rights of command, of management, and of capital, rights which have always been in his hands, and which thus assured him credentials of sovereign.

As soon as the Porto Rican women sent a message to the Legislature asking for recognition of her political rights, the voice of several senators and representatives was heard, supporting said petition with bills, which though they have as yet not met the approval of the Legislature and thus become the law, have found earnest defenders in both Houses; thus giving faith that the vote of the Legislative Assembly will soon make woman a citizen in all particulars.

The movement for electoral franchise for women has had opposers who caused its failure, due in a great part to the difficulties in the qualification of the suffrage, said fran-

chise having been brought to ballot when its strong supporters were absent. Notwithstanding this the Porto Rican Legislature has omitted nothing in favor of the civil rights of women, they having been recognized the same as those of men.

Public instruction, from the primary school to the University, is fully extended to males and females, and the Civil Service Law entitles women the same as men, to hold places in the offices of the Government.

Among her acknowledged civil rights woman has divorce, but its freedom makes it subject to great errors so that it demands careful revision.

She has the same domain over her children as the father; she has the same rights to property acquired during the marriage; she may be her own financial administrator, and if so desiring, to devote herself to business enterprises of all kinds just as men do.

In the ample legislation for the working classes also the woman is included with the man and benefitted by the Law of Minimum Wage, and others assuring her rights to share in industrial works.

With such favorable environment the Porto Rican woman is winning ground in her rightful action, especially on the financial side, and she knows economic independence is the actual gateway to her full equality with man.

This, because in order to attain the true rights of women which an immense majority of the women demanded, to reach an absolute level with man, the woman must be prepared for every struggle in life, and economics is the centre around which all other problems rotate, and hence so long as the man is the leader in capital and labor, the woman will be a secondary factor.

The Porto Rican woman in her demand for equality with man, advances true to her characteristics and educational principles, and she has not shown that she is unappreciative of her domestic possessions in whose well organized domains she is the sovereign. Her home being a sanctuary where life is sweet, the family a pleasure and to whose happiness are bent the thoughts and activities of both of those who have united their destinies in

life, thus cooperating to the social improvement.

Activities: The source of preparation of the Porto Rican woman is in instruction and labor, the system of unrestrictive instruction which prevails in Porto Rico causing her to work—industrially, commercially and scientifically—to the same extent as man; it being but fair to say that she makes good in all her activities.

There is a group of young women M.D.'s of whom interesting biographies could be written regarding their professional efficiency and their womanly personality as well. Before all, she is always the lady and when her professional duty calls her to perform her ministry, she goes heartily and conscientiously.

Nothing else could be said about the Porto Rican woman lawyers, druggists, bachelors in arts and sciences, graduates in Liberal Arts, the Fine Arts, etc., and of the women professors who labor in the public institutions of



PATIO INTERIOR DE LA CASA EN QUE PASÓ DE DIEGO LOS ÚLTIMOS DÍAS DE SU VIDA.
A TYPICAL RESIDENTIAL INTERIOR COURT.

Porto Rico, which are so largely entrusted to women who fill important places in the school direction.

Under the Civil Service Law if she passes an examination that proves her capability, she may secure employment in government offices the same as man, there being at present many women working in various departments of the administration, Supreme Court, Federal Court, etc.

In commercial offices such as banking institutions, industrial institutions, the telephone and the postal services and many others, woman's work is so efficient on account of the amount of devotion which she gives to the performance of her duty, that today she is preferably called to fill many positions.

She also works from sales woman to owner of flourishing stores, specializing in articles which are the work of women, such as rich needlework, linen, embroidery, laces of exquisite varieties and refined artistic taste, of which, due to the skilful hands and imagination of the daughters of the Tropic, she holds an undisputable position.

At the time when the world-wide movement for equality of woman had not been advocated by over a half a dozen of Porto Rican women who had read about the subject, the women of Porto Rico had begun to work in industries.

The Women of the Working Class: The Porto Rican women of the working class has always been ready to earn her living, first in domestic work, then in light agricultural work, and later in the shops of industrial and manufacturing concerns.

At present the labor organizations have admitted women and not only have thereby increased woman's field of action, but also obtained for her proper legislation to protect her economic rights.

Woman's needs and the lack of workers' organizations of their own have caused her to look, naturally, to these associations which earnestly work for their interests, and have given them their hearty support because women knew they could rely on them politically, thus assuring for themselves a favorable factor for securing their own rights.

Women's Work in Social Matters: The Porto Rican woman has long taken a prominent part in social activities, and individually or as member of religious and civic associations taken a prominent part in charitable and philanthropic works by organizing institutions which have had vigorous life; among which are "El Centavo Escolar" (The School Penny), "Liga Antituberculosa" (League Against Tuberculosis), "El Zapato de los Niños Pobres" (The Shoe of Poor Children), "La Gota de Leche" (The Drop of Milk), "El Ropero de los Niños Pobres" (The Wardrobe of Poor Children), "El Almuerzo de los Ancianos" (The Lunch of Old People) and others.

Furthermore, the Porto Rican woman lends a hand in other social activities of a moralizing character. In short, the wide vision of woman, as she awakes to the life of consciousness, studies social problems and with the stimulus of her passionate maternal love, she works toward the solution of all problems, which mean to her the assurance of a good moral environment for her beloved.

The Supreme Ideal: The ideal of equal rights for woman aims to reach such a pure conception of the thought, that its fulfillment may be insured. But in order to triumph in her rightful efforts the woman must study and work; and always have in mind that she has the exclusive duty of maternity to which she must always look with love and pride, reflecting that God endowed her with a privilege which dignifies her.

Unfortunately, there exists an exterminating attack against the biological laws of Nature in the interest of some to avoid procreation, this matter being taken in consideration in the evolution of all countries, as the emancipating ideas of women make their way to success.

But when common interests shall come to be harmonized, the realization of the honor of maternity on the part of that half of man, to which was entrusted the high duty of populating the world, will be made safe.

Home and Politics: The woman does not necessarily have to desert her home in order to take up political action; and right out of

the earnest struggle to which man has devoted himself, she can fairly judge the problems affecting the life of Porto Rico.

Herbert Spencer feared the admittance of woman to politics, because she might make the mistake to bear to the Government the ethics of family.

It is needless to say that if the belief of woman as to this matter is that society should be educated in the way as the family is, there would be no argument, to oppose to her program, provided she did not fall into the foolish pretensions of going contrary to the logical laws of Nature.

The ideal of the family applied to the State

would have its difficulties, but it would be better than the present political practises, because it would mean the moralization of politics.

The admission of a moral right with separate virtue and duties for the man and the woman has resulted in the weakening of the social organization.

If the conscious and honest woman can render aid to properly run social machinery, let her be welcomed to help the man dry the tears of suffering mankind. Let her hasten the arrival of that new day in which all humanity may be able to secure the enjoyment of true happiness. Let her aid be welcomed.

Woman's Civic Club

By **Obdulia C. de Lázaro,**

Literary woman. Prophetess, "Court of Granada" (America's Catholic Daughters).

The World War an Enforcer of the Feminism: During the World War, feminine spirit, always ready for noble and heroic deeds, gave evidence of its efficiency and mental ability to take the place of the stronger sex in the arduous tasks that test strength of body and vigor of mind.

For some time woman had been claiming her natural and legitimate right to be considered on a basis of intellectual and physical equality with man. In other words, she was seeking recognition as an intelligent being when the bloodiest epoch in the history of modern times came and aided her demonstrate the justice of her claim and the right of her demands.

Woman was seen on the battlefields rendering aid to the soldiers. She nursed him and comforted his spirit. In the office, on the street and in the home, she took man's place with courage, in substitution of those who offered their lives in the performance of their duty.

Porto Rican women took an active part on the world's civil feminine movement. They cooperated efficiently with the National Defense Council organized in the United States, and many were the thousands of dollars subscribed by their efforts to meet the demands of war.

When spiritual ease returned after the bloody

strife had come to an end and the light of peace finally shone again, women in general, and Porto Rican women in particular, refused to retreat one inch from the ground gained at such enormous sacrifices in the field of their sublime ideals.

Founding of the Club: There are many things outside of the home which the feminine spirit can and must look after; and this fair appreciation led to the foundation of the Women's Civic Club of Porto Rico. On April 12th, 1921, a group of Porto Rican and North American women, inspired by the best of purposes looking to general progress, met under the presidency of Mrs. Archibald Hopkins, of Washington, a lady of high spirit and clear intelligence, and after discussing a set of rules or regulations, organized the institution known as the "Women's Civic Club of Porto Rico," which is still doing constant and efficient work.

Aims and Organization: The institution is neither of a political nor religious nature. Its purpose is to co-operate in all social and charitable activities, to the end of facilitating and firmly establishing all those that may be directed towards the formation of a more Christian humanity.

The officers were elected at a general assembly, their term of office being one year. The first

officers were Mrs. Maria de Pérez Almirot, President; Mrs. Grace Lugo Viñas, Vice President; Mrs. William Zwigard, Secretary, and Mrs. J. J. Quinn, Treasurer.

There is also a Board of Directors to cooperate with the officers in their work.

Important Work Done: In its short existence the Woman's Civic Club has shown great activity and rendered important services.

One of its most intense activities has been in connection with American teachers who come to Porto Rico to teach. The Civic Club finds them respectable living quarters and directs, counsels and advises them, thus preventing the inexperience of their ignorance of the island where they have come to live, from being a cause of censure against their conduct.

Besides, these young women who leave their homes and the States to spread their knowledge in the island, will thus not feel that terrible home-sickness which is produced by loneliness and the lack of family affections, and will find congenial people upon whom to call for moral support whenever it may become necessary.

The Civic Club also directs its efforts towards the improvement of public spectacles, especially moving-picture shows, which are so influential on popular imagination. The purpose being to secure the most moral pictures possible.

Different committees have been organized to visit prisons, charitable institutions and hospitals, where they offer moral and material comfort and proper food to the stricken.

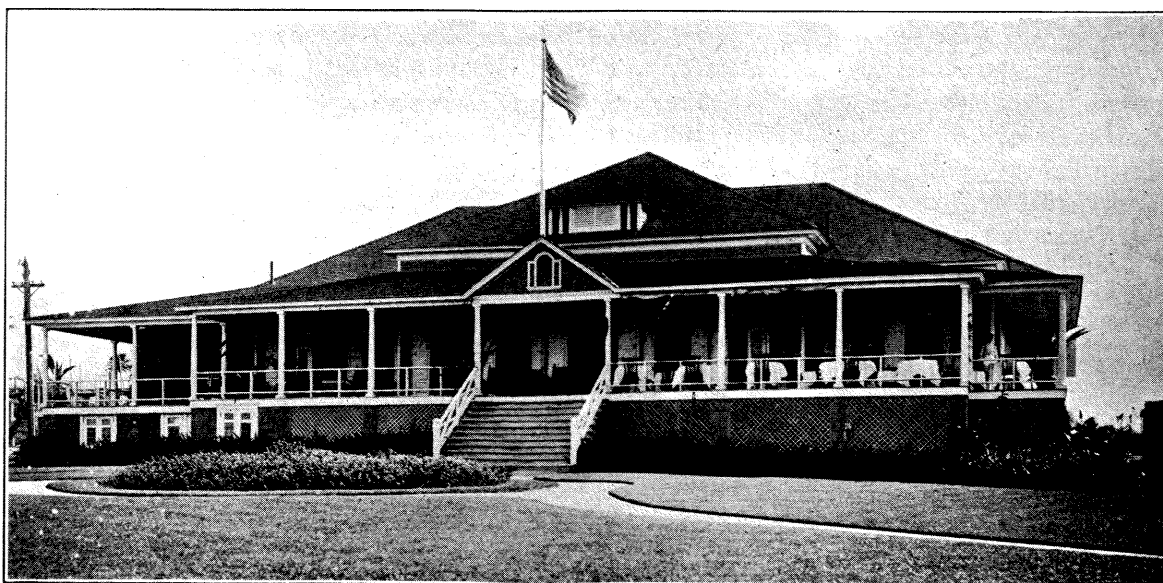
During the traditional Three Kings' Day, when every child dreams of the presents distributed by the three wise men of the East, the Woman's Civic Club recently did a truly extraordinary and meritorious work.

In the seven days known as "Children's Week," a committee composed of Mrs. Clemencia F. de Travieso, Mrs. Mercedes I. de Ribot, Mrs. A. Rodríguez, Mrs. Villar and Mrs. W. L. Zwigard, collected fifteen hundred dollars, forty-five hundred toys, and an equal or greater number of packages of candy for distribution among the children of the poor in San Juan, Santurce and the Laborers' District.

It was a task to try one's energy and ability to stand a little inconveniences; but it was splendidly rewarded by the satisfaction of having afforded great joy to the children of the poor.

The Woman's Civic Club frequently offers to its members instructive lectures in contest form, which give rise to new and fruitful ideas that are later carried out as propounded or as improved upon by careful consideration.

Representative to the Women's Pan-American Conference: At the Pan-American



EL CLUB UNIÓN.—THE UNION CLUB.

Women's Conference held in Baltimore from the 20th to the 29th of April, 1922, the Woman's Civic Club of Porto Rico was represented by Miss Mercedes Solá, a writer who gave prestige to the name of her island and to the institution she represented and which so wisely elected her.

Due to the great activities of the Woman's

Civic Club of Porto Rico, its high ideals and the perseverance of its members in their task of moral improvement, it is to be expected that great future work will be accomplished by this most efficient organization to the advantage of our beloved Porto Rico and for the honor and glory of her civilization and age.

America's Catholic Daughters

Court of Granada No. 579

By **Teresita Mangual de Cestero**

(Migdalia),

Literary woman. Historian of the "Court of Granada" (America's Catholic Daughters). Honorary President of the "Asociación de la Milagrosa". Vice-President of the "Pia Unión Antoniana". Honorary member of the "Corte de Lourdes". Ex-Professor of Declamation of the "Catholic Academy", of San Juan.

Foundation and Guidance: The Court of Granada No. 579 was founded the 19th of April, 1921, under the name of "Damas Isabelinas" (Elizabeth Dames).

The initiation of the first members was performed by the Supreme Regent of the National Court of the United States, Mrs. H. B. Walsch, assisted by Misses Mary Duffi, E. Ahern, and Kate M. Rosney, who came to Porto Rico for that purpose.

The appointment of the executive board was legalized, its members being: the Great Regent, Mrs. Margarita P. Martínez Álvarez; Vice-Regent, Mrs. Mila L. Jiménez; Financial Secretary, Miss Carmen Giusti; Treasurer, Mrs. Rosario P. Miró; Prophetess, Mrs. Obdulia C. Lázaro; Historian, Mrs. Teresita Mangual Cestero; Adviser, Dr. Josefina V. Martínez; Organist, Miss Clementina Giusti; Sentinel, Miss Isabel González Geigel; and Trustees, Mrs. Carmen Palés de Mendia, Mrs. Ana María Vázquez Hernández and Mrs. Elena G. González.

Aims: Porto Rico's social development will be greatly benefited by the important work which the America's Catholic Daughters will carry on.

It is in their plan to watch over the poor, to help the laborers, to carry the conviction of rightfulness to those who are misled, to aid any charitable movement, to have for their exemplars the Virgin Mary and Elizabeth the Catholic, and to display everywhere by actions our slogan:

"Charity, Union and Fraternity Under the Favour of the Catholic Religion."

Various Tasks: The raising of funds for the



DIRECTIVA DE LA "CORTE DE HONOR," 1917.
OFFICERS OF THE LOURDES COURT OF HONOR.

work of endowing the laborers' suburb (El Barrio Obrero) with a church-school, has been the most intense work done by this association, a task fulfilled by the committee presided over by Mrs. María Giusti Giusti.

The Charity Committee of this Association visits monthly by turns all the asylums, taking to them provisions, clothing and the spiritual assistance which comes from kind and sincere advice.

Another Committee is in charge of visits to

the sick to render such help as may be necessary.

This institution has five other courts in the island, besides this one in San Juan, they being: "Isabel la Católica," Ponce; "Santa Rosa de Lima," Bayamón; "Santa Fé de Bogotá," Caguas; "Juana de Arco," Arecibo; "Castilla," Río Piedras.

There is a large and worthy group of Portorican ladies in this organization who work efficiently for the society and its ideals.

The Lourdes Court of Honor in Porto Rico

By Ana María O'Neill de Milán,

Teacher in the Central High School of San Juan.

The tree of Christianity, kissed by the pure, regenerative waters of the miraculous fountain of Lourdes, was invigorated and felt to its innermost the deep thrill of a coming spring. Over Lourdes there descended the dew of the soils, and from it there flowed the waters of baptism of a new regeneration. For human misery and suffering the fountain sang a prayer of life.

A wave of faith made the hearts beat stronger and that prolific beating in a great *increscendo* touched all the places of the world, including Porto Rico.

It was the Reverend Father Nueva Paz, permanent spiritual director of the Association, who was honored by founding a Court of Honor in San Juan on June 27, 1915. A court to worship the virgin of the rocks of Massabielle.

The strong will and wide intelligence of this servant of God made null all obstacles and the Association was constituted with the same organization that rules today: President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer, Prophet, Instructor, Monitor and members.

In its early beginnings the Association was presided over by Miss Magdaleine Luchetti, today Mrs. Steen, and the pure chronicles of the time still hold a delicate perfume of incense and far sounding hymns of fervent love for the Virgin of Lourdes. Miss Luchetti

was succeeded by Miss Ana Marie Valdés, who gave added impulse to the Association. The presidency is now held by Miss Maria Luisa Saldaña, one of the most earnest advocates of the Court, whose fluent speech and sweet dis-



SRA. CARMEN ROMAGUERA DE GARRATÓN.
FOUNDER AND FIRST PRESIDENT OF THE LOURDES
COURT OF HONOR, PONCE.

position enable her to deal successfully even with such a difficult topic as the judging of fashions.

On January 18, 1916, six months after its inauguration, the Court was blessed with praise and congratulation by the Church authorities, and since then it has developed rapidly, reaching a most gratifying splendor during the period of the great world war, which was one of intense social and civic activities.

The association aims to carry out a religious and social apostleship, giving its members a sound moral education, an education that may be their beacon in the turbid life of today.

Under the forces which agitate the entire world today, one can but feel the shaking and trembling of the social structure, and thus it is obvious that we need a stronger moral foundation—a foundation so strong that nothing can shake it. The strength of the modern system of education aims solely at enlarging intelligence, but intelligence does not speak the same language as conscience, as was so clearly proved during the world war. Consequently the Lourdes Court of Honor, as inaugurated in Porto Rico, proposes to complete the work of the school by giving women a strong moral inclination in order to insure the sanctity of the home and the happiness of the family.

The strength of nations depends upon the strength of future generations, and the future generations in order to possess the needed moral and physical strength, demand the highest type of mothers.

And with the view of fulfilling its program of giving to women the strongest moral inclination, the Court has made it a part of its by-laws to conduct a monthly ceremony, when the spiritual director and other learned Franciscan priests preach with true evangelical spirit concerning the duties of Christian maidens in their various conditions, especially pointing out the great responsibilities assumed by all who have accepted the emblem of the Association, and to whom the Queen of Virgins looks as supporters of her faith.

These services also include an interesting and instructive talk by the Prophet of the Association. And here, among others, must be

mentioned the young professor, Miss Carmelita de Goenaga, today Mrs. Piza, who so often delivered deep and thrilling speeches before the court. Speeches inspired by strong spiritual ardor through her power of faith. Many the hearts she gained for her cause, who sought a place in the association of Lourdes.

With the end in view of nourishing the mind and educating the feelings, the Lourdes Court of Honor of Porto Rico has established a circulating library of carefully selected works for recreation and learning, which is at the service of the members for reading and study.

Charity and fraternity are the very foundation of the association of Lourdes, as proved by its works, such for instance as the establishment of a sewing department called "The Lourdes Wardrobe," a department which carries on a crusade in favor of those who lack necessary means. And wherever poverty has grouped a number of little ones—in Párvulos, San Ildefonso, la iglesia de la Monserrate, in Santurce, in the Franciscan chapel, etc., there the Lourdes Wardrobe has been opened for the needy children.

And whenever a misfortune, such as the recent fire of Puerta de Tierra, for example, has caused misery for the needy, the Lourdes Wardrobe changes itself into a magic locker to clothe everyone—child and adult alike.

Formed as it is of the younger element, full of life and energy, the Court of Honor does not forget that it needs expansion and recreation, and consequently a part of its activities consists of social performances which are greatly aided by the chorus of Lourdes, which always deserves the applauding admiration and enthusiasm awarded it.

Here, too, special mention must be made of the feasts of May, which are held annually, and the receipts from which are used for charitable purposes, especially for the founding and support of Catholic schools. The Parochial School of the Holy Heart of Jesus, the Jayuya Catholic College and the Catholic Academy of San Juan have received the help of the Court of Honor.

Not alone San Juan, but Ponce, Guayama, Cayey, Caguas, Humacao, Naguabo, Yabucoa, Arecibo, Utuado, Corozal and other places have

progressive centers, which influences powerfully the young girls by their practical teaching, which leads to a high moral standing.

Recently the Court met with true success in the founding of a new center in New York City, gathering all its members in the Church



DIRECTIVAS DE LA CORTE DE HONOR (1918 Y 1923).
 STAUNCH DEVOTEES OF THE VIRGIN OF THE GROTTO.

of the Hope, thus becoming the first association which, born in Porto Rico, grows from within outward, and goes to the conquest of its aims of redemption to distant shores, and thus establishes another tie between the island and the people of the States.

More than six hundred maidens weekly

kneel before the altar of the Virgin of the Grotto to say before her the prayer "Hail Mary." And the Association grows up steadily, sheltered by the divine mantle of those words of Jesus: "Where there are two or three gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them."



"LA MUJER PUERTORRIQUEÑA PERFUMA EL AMBIENTE DEL HOGAR."—WOMEN MAKE THE HOME.

Order of the Eastern Star

By Coloma Pardo de Casablanca,

English Graded Teacher. Acting-Principal, San Germán Graded Schools.

Its Organization in Porto Rico: In 1885 the distinguished mason, Santiago R. Palmer, then Grand Master of the Sovereign Grand Lodge of Porto Rico, had the happy idea of establishing in this island a most beautiful institution of a fraternal nature governed by women—the Order of the Eastern Star. In this Order woman displays her great disposition for good and for love, and the light of fraternity shines incessantly.

In that year four Chapters were established,

one each in San Juan, Ponce, San Germán and Mayagüez; but they disappeared because the furrow was not yet ready for the seed.

Purposes of the Order: Masons saw in the Eastern Star the white beam that would awaken the hearts of their wives, sisters, widows and daughters to the model life of service and thought, and so they did not hesitate in bringing them to the institution.

Besides working for the freedom of human conscience, this great Order has other purposes:

To spread the light of morals, economy, charity and justice; to support the endeavors of wisdom; to aid in every misfortune; to train beneficent hands mutually extended to aid each other, and to establish intimate ties of protection among the widows, daughters, wives, mothers and sisters of Master Masons who give the Lodge their affection and offerings.

Development in the Island: In 1912, while Brother W. F. Lippitt was Grand Master, Porto Rican Masonry again felt the desire to organize the Order of the Eastern Star, and to this end Brother Lippitt addressed Brother Rev. Willis D. Eagle, then Grand Patron of the "General Grand Chapter" in the United States. His efforts in the matter were fruitless, but his enthusiasm did not waver, and in October of the following year, when Dr. G. W. Pettigrew was elected Grand Patron, the organization of a Grand Chapter in Porto Rico was agreed upon.

That year Chapter "Juanita No. 1" of San Juan was established and it worked under the jurisdiction of one of the Grand Chapters of the United States till 1914, in which year General Grand Patron Pettigrew visited the island.

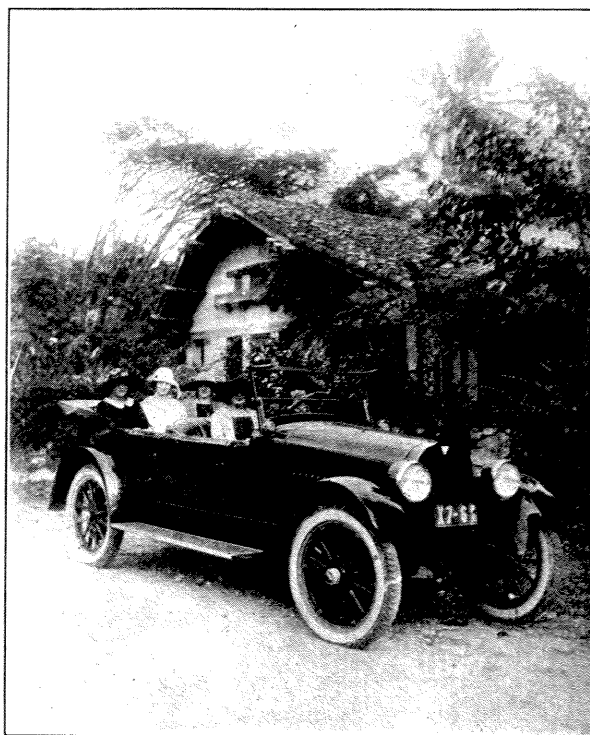
The visit of this brother enlivened the enthusiasm of the most fervent Masons, and with the aid of Brother Lippitt, Chapters "Aurora del Porvenir No. 2," of Mayaguez, "Esperanza No. 3," of San Germán, "Electa No. 4," of Yauco, and "Caridad No. 5," of San Juan, were organized. Each of these duly established Chapters sent representatives to an assembly held in San Juan to elect the officers who were to form the Grand Chapter of Porto Rico. Brothers Lippitt and Pedro del Valle Atilas were elected Grand Patron and Associate Grand Patron, respectively, and Mrs. Ana Degetau, Grand Matron.

The establishment of Chapters "Loaiza No. 6," in Río Piedras, and "Estela de Luz No. 7," in Cabo Rojo, was due to the activities of these directors.

When sister Marcolina de Fernández Náter was elected Grand Matron and Brother del Valle Atilas, Grand Patron, a number of new Chapters were added. These new Chapters were "Fé No. 8," in Cayey; "Amor No. 9," in Guayama; "Hermanas de Muñoz Rivera No. 10," in Barranquitas; "Justicia No. 11," in Cidra; "Aurora No. 12," in Ponce, and under letters of dispensation,

"Estrella de la Montaña No. 13," in Jayuya. At the present time there exist a Grand Chapter and ten subordinate Chapters, the cultured Mrs. Marcolina Fernández Náter still being Grand Matron and Dr. P. del Valle Atilas, Grand Patron.

General Data: These adopted lodges orig-

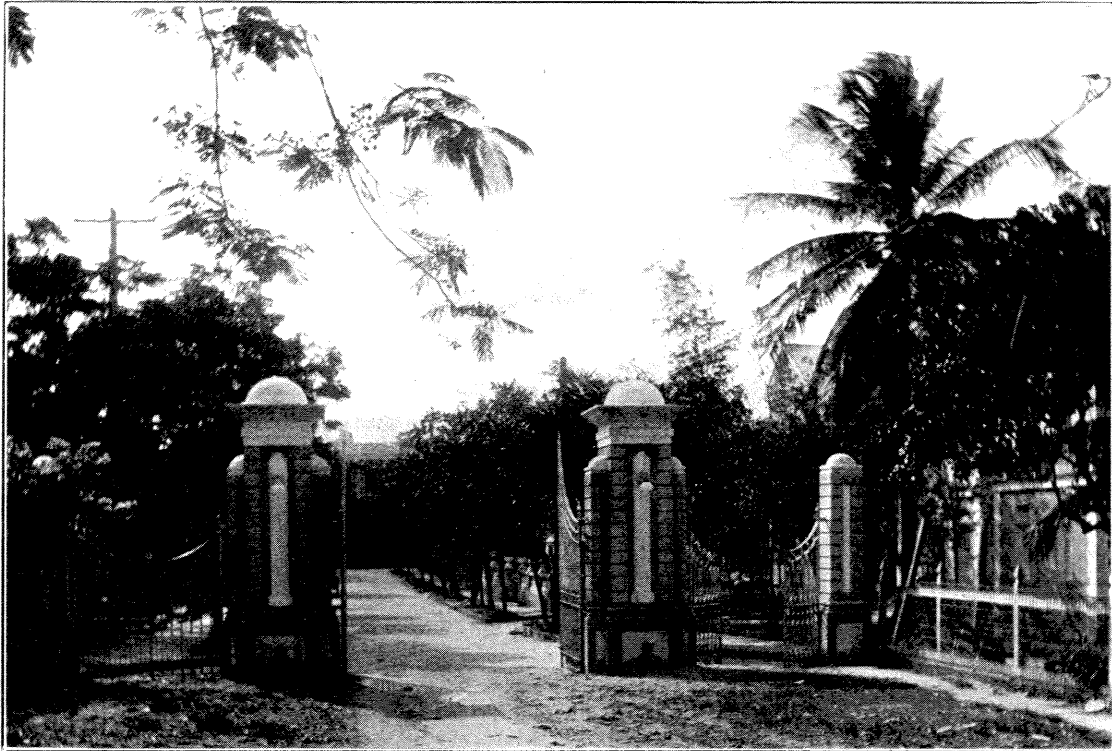


LUCEROS DEL TRÓPICO.

TROPICAL STARS ARE NOTED FOR THEIR BEAUTY.

inated in France in 1774, and later extended from there to other countries. The great American nation has always stood out prominently among the nations of the world, in its appreciation of the work of the Order of the Eastern Star. Each State has its Grand Chapter, and all of these are governed by the General Grand Chapter. The members of the latter meet once every two years at some place previously designated, there to consider matters pertaining to the Order.

As time passes greater impulse is noticeable in the work universally carried on by these women's lodges, for there is nothing to check energy supported by the force of logic, just as the evolution of ideas which blaze the trail for progress and civilization can not be stopped.



ENTRADA A LOS HOSPITALES MUNICIPALES.—ENTRANCE TO THE MUNICIPAL HOSPITAL GROUNDS.

Special Information: The numbers of Chapters meet twice a month in their respective lodges, to consider the business of the Order. No Chapter work is valid unless the Purse for the Poor has circulated. The funds so raised are used to aid the indigent and to maintain beneficial societies such as the "School Shoe" organized by Chapters "Caridad" and "Juanita" of San Juan, and the "School Lunch Room" by "Estela de Luz," of Cabo Rojo. "Aurora" Chapter, of Ponce, also maintains a "School Shoe," to the great joy of needy parents.

The attitude of these women's lodges in cases of misfortune is plausible. At the time of the

great fire which rendered hundreds of people homeless in Puerta de Tierra, the members of the Chapters proceeded to the scene of disaster to aid the victims. The journals of the Chapters show these and many other truly noble and generous deeds.

This sketch would be incomplete were not our readers told that it was Dr. Pedro del Valle Atilas who translated the liturgy of the Order into Spanish, and that the symbolic star from which the fraternity takes its name, not only ornaments the halls where ceremonies are held, but also shines radiantly from the hearts of its fervent devotees.