

XVII

PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS

TEACHERS—MEDICAL—LEGAL—ENGINEERING—SUGAR TECHNOLOGISTS—
PHARMACISTS—DENTAL—JOURNALISTS—NURSES—MINOR SURGEONS.

The Porto Rico Teachers' Association

By Gerardo Sellés Solá,

Public School Teacher. General Superintendent of Schools of the Department of
Education. President of the Porto Rico Teachers' Association.

The Great Teachers: Since the days of Christ up to the present time, teaching has been considered as high a mission as that of showing man the path to Heaven. Nevertheless, after twenty centuries, and in spite of the universal acknowledgment of the fact that the teacher's labor is a lofty and redeeming one, many of those who devote their lives to it have to endure more sacrifices, privations and sufferings than any other human factor in the development of society.

Christ was crucified. Long before Christ, Socrates was condemned to drink a cup of hemlock just because he preached the existence of a Supreme Being and of an immortal soul. Pestalozzi died poor, with the discouragement of the apparent failure of his ideas, after having devoted his whole life to the children and to the poor, and after showing to mankind the course for a great reform according to the principles stated in his masterpiece "Leonard and Gertrude."

In Porto Rico, Hostos had to suffer the affliction of not finding a favorable environment for the establishment of his school, and Román Baldorioty de Castro, the father of the island's civic progress, failed in his aims of promoting secondary education, on account of the hostility of the enemies of progress, which everywhere exist.

A Field of Limited Remuneration: All the teacher's hardships are due to that peculiar generosity which develops in the hearts of those who are in constant relation with childhood. This contact, which is more divine than human, causes them to forget themselves, and while in most of the professions abundant material crops are harvested, and while those who are devoted to them live comfortably and enjoy all kinds of privileges,

the teacher sows the fruitful seed without assured provision for old age, but with the eternal peace which is reserved for the blessed of the Lord.

Porto Rico's School Standard: The Porto Rican teacher has always participated in the disadvantages peculiar to his profession. During the epoch of the Spanish regime he made the schools of the country superior in several aspects to those of the mother country. When the present system was initiated he became acquainted promptly with the modern methods and theories of teaching, and in the short period of twenty years he has created a school system equal to the best of the Spanish-American countries, and to some of the best of the Union. Nevertheless, in order to reach an acknowledgment of his rights; to secure the maintenance of his prestige, and to elevate his profession before his people to the rank to which it legitimately belongs, he has founded an association under the name of Teachers' Association of Porto Rico.

The Beginning of the Association: The Teachers' Association of Porto Rico was organized approximately twelve years ago. The initiators struggled with energy to overcome the fear and lack of confidence which sometimes exist on the part of the teachers and the difficulties of their environment. The fact that they were organized commanded greater respect and consideration not only from the school authorities but also from the people in general. In the writer's opinion the Porto Rico Teachers' Association represents the noble idea of dignifying the teacher and protecting the child. The creators of the Association could not be guided by better ideas.

Development: All the difficulties met during the first days of the life of the Association were overcome. Aponte, Peralta, Sarriera, Timothée, Negróni, Beatriz Lassalle, Rosario Bellber, Aguilar, Arana, Isaac del Rosario and other educators were the directing group during that time. They conducted the association successfully and in the year 1914 put its affairs in the hands of Santiago Negróni as President. Negróni displayed such activity and encouraged the teachers so enthusiastically, that the small association changed into a powerful one in the brief period of his administration. He was succeeded by Vicenty, one of the island's most noted educators and citizens. Vicenty's aim was the professional improvement of the teacher. He encouraged the teachers in eloquent and forceable speeches delivered at teachers' conferences and institutes. His two years in the Presidency of the Association have left an impression which time will never erase.

Pensions Inaugurated: Due to Vicenty's efforts, the legislature passed the Pension Law, which was amended liberally in the session of the Legislature of the year 1921. In accordance with this law, teachers, disabled while in the service, receive a pension, and those who work during twenty-one years are entitled to an annual pension equal to two-thirds of their average salary for the last five years of service.

New Plan Adopted: When Vicenty finished his second administrative period, the Association was reorganized under a new plan outlined by González Ginorio, and which was put into effect immediately after he was elected President. The Association having adopted the plan in the year 1920. González Ginorio is one of the first among the many intellectual young men of Porto Rico. His intelligence and forcefulness together with the foresight which his extensive study give him, caused the association to grow in such a way, that when his administration ended, there were few teachers who were not members.

In synthesis, the plan of González Ginorio, which is still in force, is the following:

(a) To promote friendship among the associates.

(b) To adopt plans and ideas for the improvement of Porto Rico's educational system.

(c) To improve by all possible legal means the economic condition of the teacher.

(d) To work for the stability of teachers in their positions; to help them find positions in the various branches of educational work in accordance with the special ability of each candidate. (This presupposes the faithful compliance of the members with their duties.)

(e) To help the families of teachers who die while they are members of the association.

Teachers' Insurance and Economical Condition: González Ginorio struggled hard for the economic improvement of the teachers. After great effort on his part the Legislature increased the teachers' salaries, thus making less difficult the problem of healthy life caused by lack of means to satisfy the most urgent necessities of their homes. He initiated a plan for teachers' life insurance according to which each member of the association pays the amount of fifty cents, whenever the death of one of the associates occurs, the total amount collected being devoted to help the legal heirs of the deceased. This plan continued in effect until August 31st, 1922, from which date on the Association is to pay the sum of \$1000.00 to the heirs of the associates who at the time of the occurrence of their deaths have retained active membership in the Association. In addition a fund has been established to help the members in case of illness, each member being entitled to such aid during the period of fifty days. These economic advantages will undoubtedly cause an increase in the membership of the association. From 1920 up to the date this article is written, the association has paid the sum of \$8224.37 out of the insurance fund; has sent the School Review free to all its members; has conducted literary contests in which prizes have been awarded, and at present has a cash balance in the American Colonial Bank of San Juan of approximately \$15,000 of which more than \$5000.00 belongs to the insurance fund.

Influence and Activities of the Association: The moral influence of the teacher in all directions cannot be overestimated. In the campaign for the prohibition of alcoholic liquors, cooperation of teachers aided the success of the great cause. During the Great War they contributed greatly in promoting patriotism among the people, and exerted a powerful influence in

the collection of funds for the Red Cross, and in the sale of Liberty Bonds. They encouraged the production of crops and the spirit of economy which were necessary to face the serious conflict in which our Nation and the great part of the world were involved.

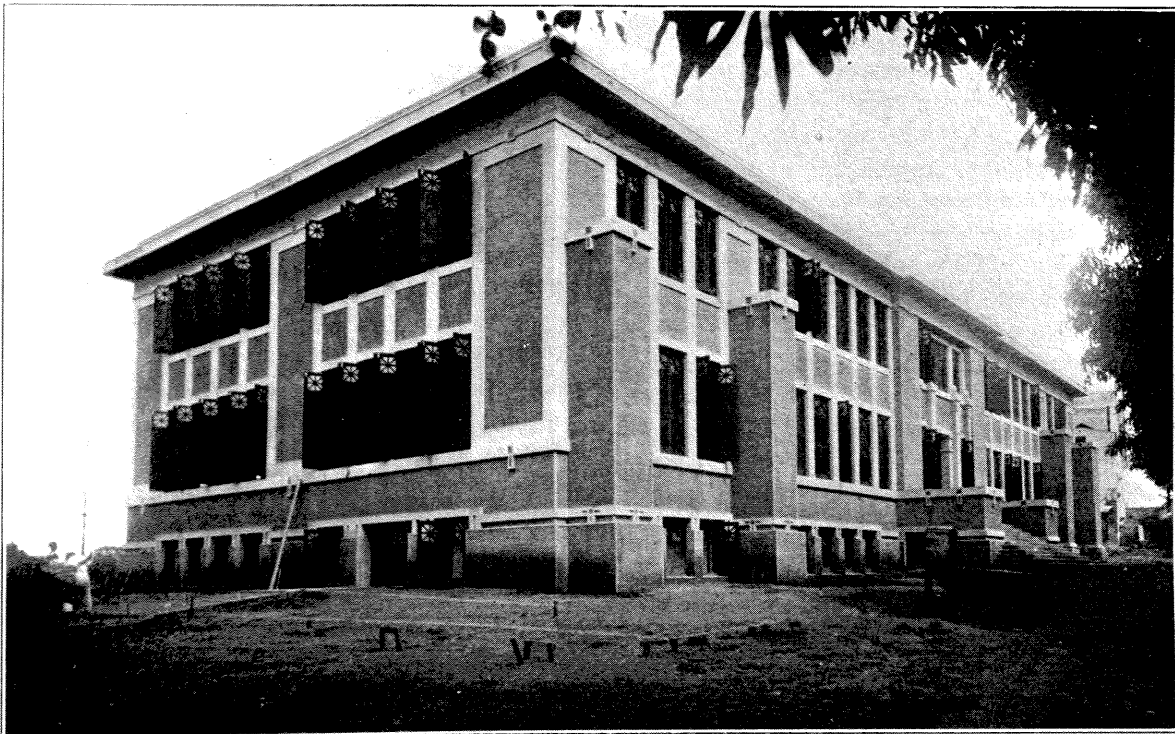
A Large Appropriation for Education: The Insular Legislature passed at the session of 1919, the largest appropriation ever devoted to educational purposes in Porto Rico. While it was being discussed on the floor of the Insular Parliament, the Teachers' Association carried out an intense propaganda everywhere in the island to back the demand for more schools.

Teachers' Compensation: In accordance with Section Two of the Budget Law, the teachers' salaries were decreased for the year 1922-23. The Teaching force protested taking their demand to the people, the most righteous of all judges. For a year it was discussed by all social classes all over the island, by all institutions, and by the press. A general meeting of the Association was held in San Juan on June 24th, 1922, at which protest was once more made at the small remuneration offered for the long and

hard task of the teachers. The protest was unanimous and the resolution was passed without discussion in less than five minutes, by more than one thousand teachers representing the local associations all over the island. The Board of Directors of the Association carried this resolution before the Governor and the legislators of the island who have acknowledged the justice of the claims and have promised to satisfy them in the near future.

The National Education Association and the Teachers' Salaries: To those who have been unable to understand the aims of the Teachers' Association in its recent efforts we recommend the reading of the following paragraphs from a report of the National Education Association:

"At the heart of the whole scheme of education stands the teacher. If he is wise, strong and influential, sound educational practice will exercise a controlling influence upon the youth of the nation and the foundations in good citizenship will be sure. Great buildings and large classes are futile except as they are vitalized by well-trained, conscientious, and capable teachers. To



ESCUELA GRADUADA DE MAYAGÜEZ.—GRADED SCHOOL BUILDING.

obtain such teachers it is necessary to have candidates who are strong and fit—the best is none too good for the nation's children. It is necessary that these candidates be trained to deal with the difficult problems of education. Such training is expensive and strong men and women must have some inducement to spend the years and money that it requires.

“What inducement shall be offered the prospective teacher—the teacher who is to prepare today's children for citizenship in the greater nation of tomorrow? There are two inducements—the privilege of service and reasonable opportunity to enjoy the things that go with economic independence. The privilege of service is a great appeal. It is a dominating influence in the lives of the best teachers. However, in the organization of modern society there are attractive opportunities for service in business and many other fields outside of teaching. Society cannot and should not rely entirely upon the appeal of service to maintain its system of education. Modern society is abundantly able to afford adequate education. It should be willing to pay the price.

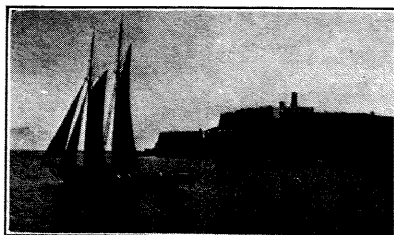
“What, then, should be done with teachers' salaries? Again let us recall the facts. Before the war, teaching had become notorious as a makeshift occupation. The war drew attention to the appalling situation and after a vigorous campaign by the National Education Association and other agencies, salaries were somewhat advanced. In only a few cases were they advanced to levels which would insure a permanent supply of mature, well-trained teachers. The great majority of American communities must face squarely and frankly the problem of still further increasing the salaries of their educational workers. This

will require recognition of the primary importance of education. It may require a new emphasis on values. It will require careful study and reorganization of methods of revenue-raising. It will require State aid and Federal aid, but it must be done. Democracy in its great hour of trial cannot afford to undermine the source of its strength and security—the school. It cannot afford not to pay salaries that will insure to every child in the nation a competent and well-trained teacher.”

In Porto Rico, as everywhere, the teacher participates actively in all movements for advancement. The cooperation of Porto Rico's teachers has been most efficient in all sorts of activities. But unfortunately there has been a tendency among a certain element to consider the teacher as a mere instrument, depriving him of his legitimate rights to be a directing element. In the legislative bodies, both municipal and insular, the teacher is not represented or where he has any representation it is so insignificant that it does not deserve consideration.

This is what the Teachers' Association's aim should be in the future: to put the teaching profession upon the same or higher level as other professions.

What cannot be done by 4000 teachers distributed all over the island, among the humble and the great? With firm decision and good organization, could they not convert into a healthy happy people the great mass of poor, sick and illiterates? It is in the hands of the teachers so widely scattered and with such noble intentions not only to educate the people but to contribute efficaciously to the definite establishment of Porto Rican homes upon a wise economical basis and the most solid principles of morality and religion.



The Practice of Medicine and Medical Societies in Porto Rico

By Eugenio Fernández García, B.Sc., M.D.,

Specialist on Diseases of the Respiratory Tract. Former Member of the Faculties of the University of Indiana (Medical School) and of the University of Porto Rico. Author of original contributions to Medical Science, especially concerning Tuberculosis and Chemical Pathology. Member of several professional and scientific societies.

Porto Rico has always been directly or indirectly influenced by the currents of opinion prevailing in the two countries with which she has been associated, but in no order of ideas has this influence been as direct and decisive as in the practice of medicine, for there has never been a local medical school on the Island, the Porto Rican students naturally had to take their medical training in the National Universities of Spain in former days, and today in the best American universities, only a small number going elsewhere for their education.

As if Porto Rico were an enchanted wand capable of wishing on her associates might and happiness, even if she could not wish it on herself, it is a rare coincidence that just as she was a satellite of Spain in that Nation's Golden Century "when the sun never set in her domains" and when her commercial and political power paved the way for her wonderful literary and scientific renaissance, she is now a star in the bright American constellation when the sun also never sets in its sphere of influence and when her scientific and medical achievements run parallel to her wonderful commercial and industrial development.

The Porto Rican Physician Always a Leader. The physicians of one or the other school thus educated, brought to the Island the best teachings of their time, hence setting a high professional standard there. Because of the kind of training in the seven years of study that it takes in Spain, or the seven years of study that it also takes in the best American universities to get an M.D. degree, and because no other profession exacts so long nor so thorough a preparation, is it any wonder that no scientific, literary or political movement in the Island has ever taken place without being led or favorably influenced by some one of the Island's medical practitioners? The names of Drs. Betances, Corchado, Carbonell, Padilla,

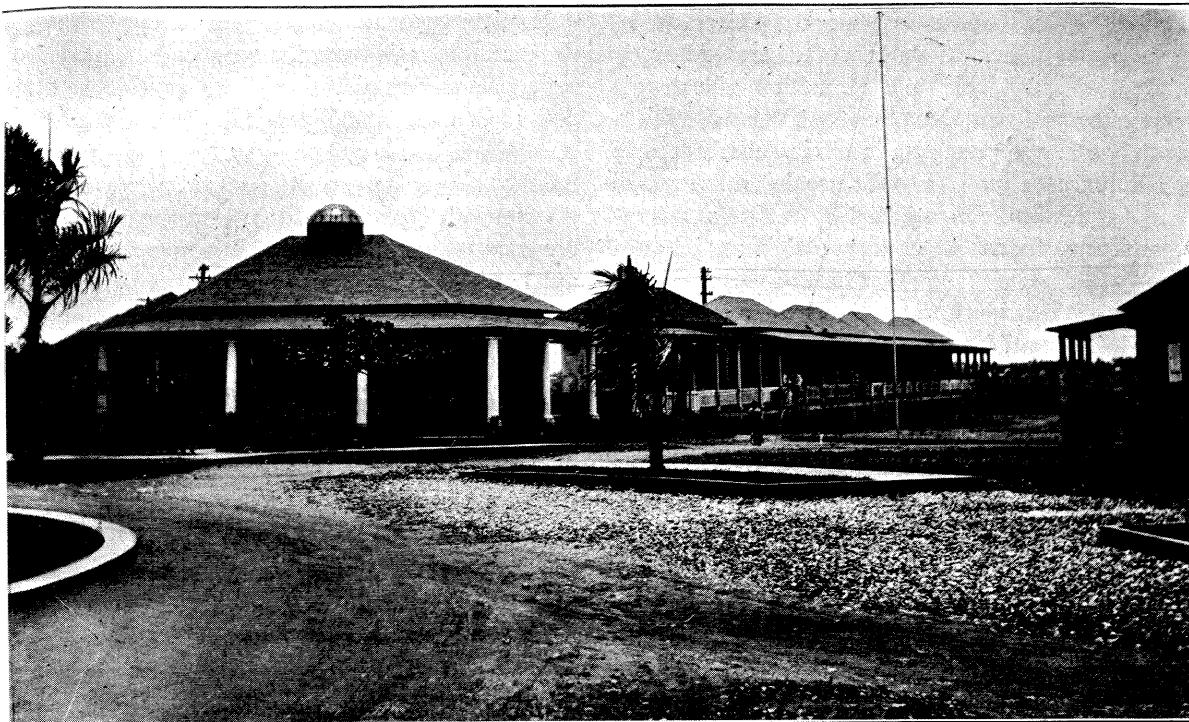
Tapia, Stahl, Romero, Barbosa, Carreras, Font y Guillot and others rank among the leading Porto Ricans whose life has been devoted to worthy service for the community and whose brilliant deeds fill many pages of the Island's history.

The labor of the present medical generation will undoubtedly be fully recognized by the generations to follow because of the present day contributions to medical sciences, especially on hygiene, sanitation and tropical medicine.

As previously stated each of these two medical schools set a high standard but after careful consideration and study of each others' standpoint in medical training at consultations at the bedside and at debates in the Medical Association these levels were considerably raised.

The Spanish School. The Spanish school centers its medical education on clinical teaching at the bedside on the different aspects that a definite symptoms complex may present, for it holds that the function of the medical school is to educate physicians in the proper care and treatment of the sick—so thoroughly if possible, as to be able to recognize typhoid cases, for instance, even by the peculiar odor, the thorough study of clinical pictures thus becoming the center of this system of instruction, relegating laboratory scientific subjects to second place.

The American School. Medical education in the United States, on the contrary, although it values in all its worth routine clinical work, is mainly based on the fact that medicine is less the art of treating and prescribing for the sick than the science that studies the intimate bio-chemical reactions of the healthy or diseased body; it recognizes that modern medical achievements have been possible only from the great strides of other scientific branches—chemistry, physics, botany, zoology, etc.;



SANITARIUM SHOWING TYPE OF BUILDING FOR EVERY TWO PATIENTS.

that each individual morbid condition is unique unto itself, being different from similar conditions in other cases or in the same individual in different environment; in other words, that it is necessary to study the sick and not the disease; that the medical student should primarily be trained to obtain laboratory results by himself in order that he may appreciate in its full relative value the scientific and clinical laboratory work done by somebody else; that modern medicine largely strives to prevent rather than cure disease; in short, that the physician should be a trained scientist capable of routine clinical work, and at the same time be able to contribute to the development of medical science with its own clinical and scientific studies—a researchman devoted to studying how to take care of the most precious of life's treasury—health.

A High Professional Standard. With such divergent viewpoints, the Spanish school basing its diagnosis mainly on clinical histories and clinical pictures, and the American school though giving due credit to the clinic, laying mainly stress on laboratory work and the help of modern apparatus of precision,

the Porto Rican physician educated in Spain thus learns to value properly clinical laboratory work, X-rays, etc., while the young men educated in the American schools are taught to appreciate fully the wealth of valuable information that careful clinical observation really yields—the standard of the profession thus greatly improving.

The Medical Association of Porto Rico. The Medical Association of Porto Rico, founded on September 21, 1902, and today presided over by Dr. A. Martínez Alvarez, became the natural meeting place of these two opposing tendencies, the result being the replenishing of medical private libraries with text books and reviews in Spanish and English, besides a good many in French, German and Italian; the insular medical viewpoint becoming quite a cosmopolitan one. Numerous modern hospitals in the Island bear witness to that former rivalry from which so much good has been derived.

Medical Academy of Porto Rico. A group of physicians educated in the European school or of European tendencies, desiring to perpetuate in Porto Rico their scientific view-

point, founded on February 18, 1915, the Medical Academy of Porto Rico. The first president was Dr. Ramón Ruiz Arnau, the present incumbent being Dr. Manuel Quevedo Báez. This Academy, with a membership of twenty-eight physicians among the most select men on the Island, holds meetings irregularly several times in the year, valuable research papers being often brought before this learned body.

The Association of Beneficence Physicians. There is a large number of physicians employed by each municipality to give medical services free to the needy. These physicians are called titular physicians or beneficence physicians. There are some municipalities with over 8,000 inhabitants which can afford only one titular physician and if we estimate that 50 per cent of the population is not able to pay medical services—a very fair estimate—then the titular physician is supposed to take care of those 4,000 inhabitants scattered all over the community, sometimes over an area of a hundred square miles. One can readily imagine how trying this work must be, especially when in the large majority these positions are generally held by young graduates. Under such circumstances the quality of the service has unavoidably to be subordinated to quantity. In order to help the community solve this difficult problem and at the same time defend themselves, these physicians under

the leadership of Dr. M. Román Benítez two years ago founded the Association of Beneficence Physicians of Porto Rico, which although just in its beginnings, has already borne splendid fruit, softening the lot of many an overburdened member.

One Large Association Advocated. The four hundred and forty-five medical practitioners of the Island are grouped in three different medical associations, although these three societies have practically the same ends in view. As the Porto Rico Medical Association has the largest membership and is affiliated with the strong and resourceful American Medical Association and as it is based essentially on democratic principles, its aims being to safeguard the highest scientific and professional interests of the class, would it not be wiser that all of us should band together under its noble folds in order that the profession may fulfill today the rôle that it should, according to the intellectual standing of its members and the quality of the service they render to the community. In short, would it not be well for the medical profession to remember that old and ever true saying—"In union there is strength"?

Let us set the example of professional solidarity so much needed in the Island, as our forerunners so brilliantly set it in regard to education and fair play with disregard for their own interests.

Bar Association

By Luis Muñoz Morales, LL.B., Ph.B.,

Ex-President of the Bar Association of Porto Rico. President, Board of Directors Carnegie Library. Member of Several Professional and Scientific Associations in Different Countries.

The Legal Profession in Porto Rico. Title XXIV of Book 2 of the recompilation made by order of the Spanish Monarch, Charles II, and called the "Recompilation of the Laws of Indies," treated of the lawyers of the Audiencias (Supreme Courts) and Royal Chanceries of the Indies. Laws 1 and 2, which were a reproduction of the Supreme Court ordinances issued in 1563 by Philip II, provided that no one should practice law in the Supreme Courts of

the Indies unless such practitioner had been previously examined by the Chief Justice and his associates, and that no attorney not examined by the Supreme Court should practice therein or sit on the benches provided for doctors and licentiates.

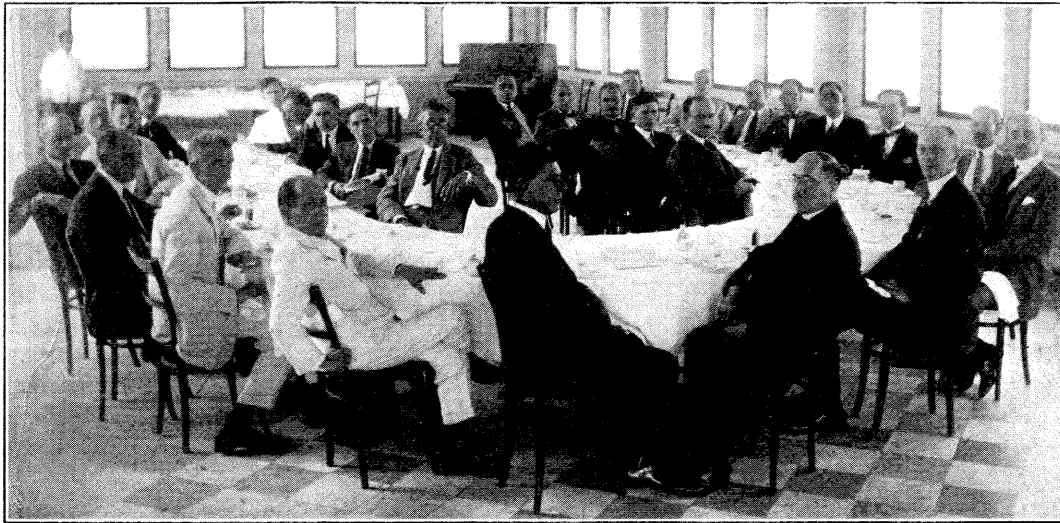
The remaining twenty-six laws under the aforesaid title contained rules for the practice of the profession, so detailed and strict that they may well be considered as a basis for a

true code of professional ethics, since they regulated the conduct of lawyers in court and their relations with their clients.

The Royal Commission of October 19, 1768,

Bar Association — Historical Antecedents.

Law 1 of said Title of the Recompilation of the Laws of the Indies, prescribing the necessary qualifications for admission to the bar,



REUNIÓN Y BANQUETE SEMANAL DEL COLEGIO DE ABOGADOS.
WEEKLY BANQUET OF THE BAR ASSOCIATION.

which was extensive to Porto Rico, provided that for admission to examination as a lawyer, four years' practice in the office of an attorney, counting from the date of graduation as a bachelor, was necessary. Subsequently, several commissions and royal decrees were issued (some of them specially for the islands of Cuba and Porto Rico) regulating the age, studies and practice required for admission to the bar. Finally the law regulating the judiciary in Cuba and Porto Rico was promulgated, said law being still in effect in 1898 at the time of the change of sovereignty of those islands.

According to this law it was necessary to be 21 years of age for admission to the bar; to be a graduate possessing a licentiate's diploma issued by some Spanish law university; to obtain a Royal Auxiliaryship, and to register in the Bar Association of the island. Graduates of the University of Porto Rico or of any other university of good repute in the United States may practice law at the present time in the insular courts, provided they pass an admission examination before a special board appointed by the Supreme Court.

indispensably required registration in the Record of Attorneys of each Royal Academy of the Indies, and this was the origin of the old Bar Associations of Spain, created by subsequent laws and decrees wherein freedom of practice was at times established, without previous registration, while at other times this formality was held to be necessary, thus giving such Bar Associations official character as a judicial institution intimately related to the administration of justice.

Subsequent to the writ of the Council of Castille, issued August 30, 1732, and approving the by-laws of the Bar Association and Congregation of Lawyers of Madrid, the writs of May 21 and June 16, 1737, were issued as reproduced in Law 3, Title 19, Book 4 of the Novísima Recopilación (Latest Recompilation), prohibiting those who were not registered in the Bar Association or Congregation of Lawyers from practicing in the courts. The Royal Commission of September 4, 1819, addressed to the Governor and the Chief Justice of the Island of Cuba, directed the creation of Bar Associations in the cities of Havana and Port-au-Prince; but the Decree of June

8, 1823, established the principle of free admission to the bar and provided that attorneys could practice without registration in any Bar Association.

The old system was again established by Royal Commission of November 27, 1832, providing for the creation of Bar Associations at all capitals where there was a sufficient number of lawyers for the purpose, and organizing Academies of Forensic Practice. Subsequently, the Supreme Court ordinances of December 20, 1835, again restricted admission to the bar to those who registered with the respective Bar Associations. Abolition of such associations was again attempted by decree of July 11, 1837, which re-enacted the one of 1823; but this attempt was defeated by the decree of March 28, 1838, containing the by-laws of the Bar Association of Spain, which expressly provided that said associations in Havana, Port-au-Prince, Porto Rico and Manila should be organized in accordance with said by-laws.

Another attempt to abolish the Bar Associations was made by the decree of November 28, 1841, but such provision was repealed by Royal Order of June 6, 1844, by means of which the by-laws of 1838 were re-established, said decree directing the continuation of existing associations and organizing them in all cities and towns where there were at least twenty lawyers.

This Royal Order was confirmed by the decree of May 27, 1853, establishing rules for compulsory registration with the Bar Associations. Finally, and prescinding from other laws and decrees of lesser importance, the Judiciary Organic Act was promulgated in Spain on September 15, 1870, such act having been later reproduced almost entirely in the compilation decreed for the provinces and overseas possessions on January 5, 1891. Title XVII of said compilation treats of lawyers and solicitors, and requires that in towns where higher courts existed Bar Associations should be formed, those who are not members thereof to be excluded from practice.

The Bar Association of Porto Rico, therefore, dates from time immemorial, such asso-

ciation having been later organized by decrees of 1838 and 1842 and enjoying all the rights and privileges of Bar Associations of Spain, and the official designation of "Illustrious," as given to the others. Thus did the Illustrious Bar Association of Porto Rico exist for some years after the change of sovereignty, when it was dissolved in order to organize the present Bar Association of Porto Rico.

Bar Association of Porto Rico. After the change of sovereignty, and given the ideas of professional liberty dominant in the United States, it was thought that there was no reason for the official and compulsory character of the institution formed by such associated lawyers, and at an assembly held in December, 1911, it was resolved to constitute the Bar Association of Porto Rico, to which all attorneys might belong who registered voluntarily and paid the stipulated dues, such registration not being considered as a requisite for admission to the bar.

This association was incorporated under the Law of Corporations in force and was registered in the office of the Secretary of Porto Rico on January 4, 1912, since which date it has been in operation. From January, 1914, to December, 1919, it published the "Review of Legislation and Jurisprudence."

Bar Association of the Federal Court. Upon the constitution of the United States District Court for the District of Porto Rico as a Federal Court, a number of North American lawyers came here, who practiced chiefly in said court. These attorneys, together with the Porto Rican barristers who practiced in the Federal Court, and following the practice established in the United States insular courts, organized another association under the name of "Federal Bar Association," lawyers not belonging thereto being barred from practice in the Federal Court. The register of this association is kept in the office of the clerk of the court.

Local Council of the American Bar Association. The national association of lawyers of the United States known as the "American Bar Association," organized in 1878, is also of a voluntary nature, without official standing, registration therein in no way bearing on ad-

mission to the bar in Federal or State courts.

This association has committees or local councils in all the States and Territories of the Union, and also in this island. The organ of the "American Bar Association" is the "American Bar Association Journal," publication of which was commenced in Baltimore in 1915.

Tendency Towards Old Organization. Just as the system of professional liberty existing in the United States influenced Porto Rican lawyers in abandoning the old organization which gave the association a compulsory and official character, just so did the system which previously held in Porto Rico influence North American barristers. This was demonstrated at the Convention of Delegates of Bar Associations of the United States, held in Boston, Massachusetts, in December, 1919, where a plan was discussed tending to give Bar Associations an official and compulsory character and to constitute and incorporate them as quasi-public corporations.

The St. Louis convention of August 24, 1920, reported this plan favorably, and adopted standard by-laws for submission to the Legislature of each State, under which by-laws the Bar Association of each State is organized with official and compulsory character, said by-laws also providing that no attorney shall practice in the State unless he is an active member of the association. Said law has already been enacted in several States of the Union, among which are Ohio and Florida, and it was introduced in the Senate of Porto Rico (S. B. 100) on May 24, 1921, though it was not considered at that session.

As will be observed, a reaction tending to establish the old official and compulsory character of Bar Associations now comes from the United States, and such a movement on the mainland seems to have been necessary to make us realize that our old Bar Association of Porto Rico had a more solid basis and greater importance than those of a mere association of a private nature.

Porto Rico Engineering Society

By Miguel Rivera Ferrer, C.E.,

Municipal Commissioner of Public Works of San Juan; former President and at present a member of the Board of Directors of the Porto Rico Engineering Society.

The chief object of the Porto Rico Engineering Society is to associate the greatest number possible of professional engineers to constitute a body to study and solve the various problems of public interest which develop in the practice of the profession.

It can be said that in nearly every civilized country there exists a society, or several societies of engineers; for instance, in the United States, besides the "American Society of Civil Engineers," there are other societies of Engineers, mechanical, electrical, mining, chemical, etc.; in Cuba there is the "Cuban Society of Engineers"; in Caracas, "The College of Engineers of Venezuela"; and there are similar associations in Argentine, Brazil, Chile and other South American republics, while in Europe there are many such societies.

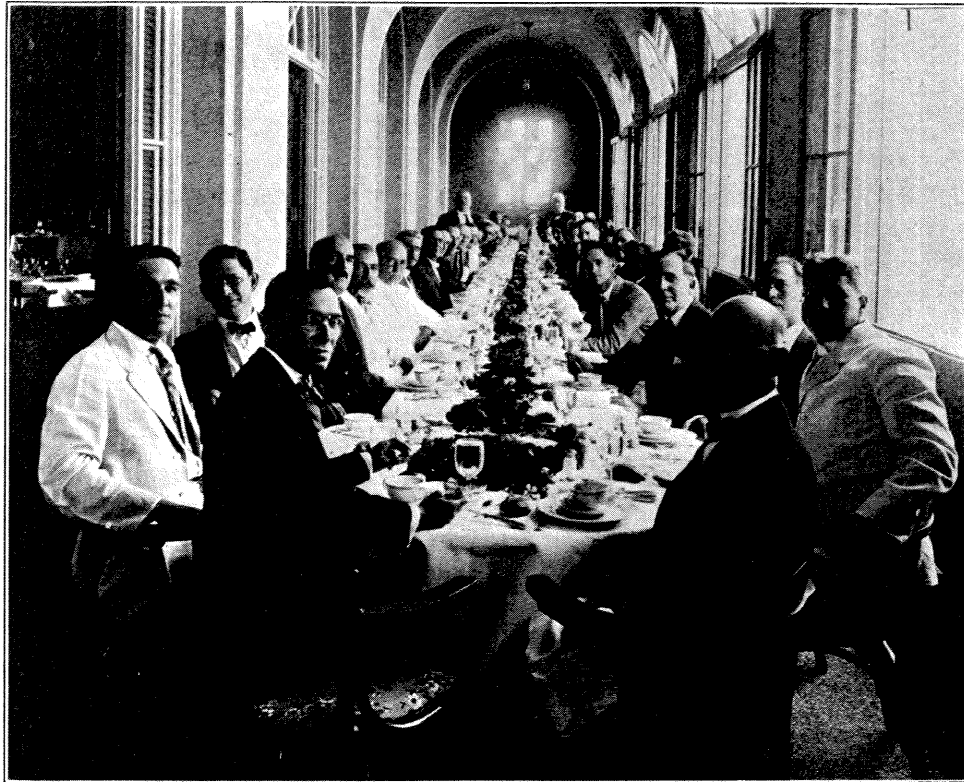
By-laws of the Society. The by-laws of the

Porto Rico Engineering Society have been carefully developed and they embrace the principal aims of the Society, as follows: 1st. To contribute to the furtherance of Engineering in Porto Rico as well as of allied industries. 2nd. To establish correspondence with foreign associations of the same kind, within defined regulations of cooperation and courtesy. 3rd. To cooperate in fair and reasonable legislation, especially in what has to do with the work of the engineering profession. 4th. To further all kinds of construction, either private or public, as they are true evidence of the island's improvement. 5th. To establish measures of mutual protection, thus strengthening the bonds of friendship and companionship among the members.

Such by-laws recommend the following as the most adequate means to reach the above

aims: (a) Periodic assemblies where professional papers by the members will be read and discussed; (b) General annual assemblies where articles on the works of the members will be read, and where a statement will be

güez, has earnestly worked for the progress of engineering in Porto Rico, cooperating to the limit of its power to the construction of works of importance, thus aiding the island's development.



BANQUETE DE LA SOCIEDAD DE INGENIEROS, OFRECIDO EN HONOR DEL SEÑOR ESTEVES,
COMISIONADO DEL INTERIOR.
THE ENGINEERING SOCIETY TENDERS A BANQUET TO COMMISSIONER OF INTERIOR ESTEVES.

presented as to the status of the society, its tasks and the improvements it has accomplished, discussing at the same time the measures to adopt for the betterment and perfecting of the Society; (c) Public conferences to be held conveniently; (d) The editing of a Review to publish the papers and reports of the society; (e) The maintenance of a library, collections of maps, drawings and standards for the use of the members; (f) To bring to the attention of the public authorities all kinds of affairs in relation with the objects of the Society.

Efforts. The Porto Rico Engineering Society from its start in 1904, under the presidency of the engineer Juan Bautista Rodri-

The Society is mainly interested in legislation concerning the practice of the profession and construction.

Works of engineering are of such importance that, notwithstanding their relative size, they are responsible for the lives of many persons, no matter whether they are a humble dwelling or a big theater, bridge, railway, etc.

Legal Precedents. During the Spanish sovereignty in Porto Rico there were royal orders which regulated the practice of the engineering profession, and at the office of Public Works there was a technical body which was the official counsellor of the Government, and which had to do with the study of and report

on, all works of public character. During the Military Government after the occupation of the island by the United States, a General Order was issued which declared free the practice of the profession of engineer in Porto Rico, making ineffective all laws and Royal Orders which might be in opposition to such General Order. Thence any person residing in the Island was authorized to prepare plans and do work of all kinds, either public or private. In various instances the Engineering Society has prepared bills regulating the practice of the profession in Porto Rico, as a measure to public security and without selfish purposes, as among other things it was specified in such bills that any work whose budget surpassed \$2,500 should be planned by an authorized engineer and that such construction work should be directed by a reliable person duly authorized to do such work, though that person could be one without technical training.

None of these bills have as yet become the law, but the Society hopes that soon the practices of this important profession will be regulated.

Professional Cooperation. The assistance which the engineer has always given to the Government of Porto Rico is clearly shown by the great number of roads and bridges of the

Island; some of them built when the late Juan Jiménez, engineer, was Superintendent of Public Works. His work was most persevering, he never tired, and always did his duty fully, and to his industriousness Porto Rico owes the solution of many practical problems which now greatly benefit her.

Private enterprises as a rule have the cooperation of the engineer; examples being the bridges over the San Antonio and Martín Peña channels, of the former Ubarri Railroad Company; such railroad and bridges having been constructed by the late Tulio Larrinaga, engineer. They are now owned by the Porto Rico Railway Light & Power Company. All the sugar centrals in Porto Rico have had, and still have, the cooperation of civil, mechanical and chemical engineers.

The engineer as an administrator, either holding office in the Government or in charge of private industry, on account of his trained mind, has always given satisfactory results, he being one of the professionals best prepared to hold a responsible position.

The science of the engineer is one that renders comparatively the most and best results, and is certain to regulate industry and commerce.

The Association of Sugar Technologists

By Francisco López Domínguez, B.Sc.,

Former Professor of Chemistry, University of Porto Rico. Ex-Chief of Chemistry Division, Agricultural Experiment Station. Superintendent, Vannina Sugar Co. Treasurer, Association of Sugar Technologists.

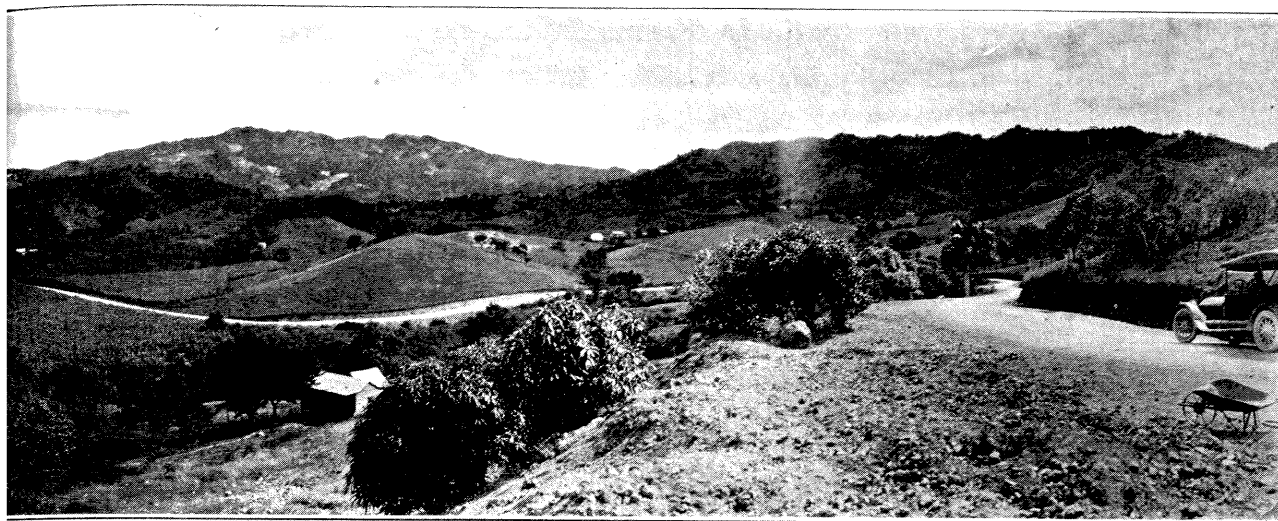
The Association was organized on April 28th, 1922. The chief aim being the systematic study of all the technical problems arising in the practical conduct of the sugar and allied industries, whether of an agriculture or manufacturing nature.

The Members: Among its members are to be found representatives of all branches of scientific agriculture, industrial chemistry and engineering. It is composed of botanists pathologists, entomologists, agronomists, sugar chemists, fertilizer chemists, and mechanical, electrical and civil engineers. All of its members are in

active practice of their professions, occupying positions of responsibility and trust, with very good opportunities for making valuable observations in their respective fields of action.

Committees: The investigations are carried out by committees appointed for the purpose, one for each subject of study. The reports of these committees are brought to the attention of the Association in general assembly and there discussed and acted upon.

Papers: Up to the present time, the following subjects have been discussed, the papers having been prepared and presented by the authors them-



FAR AS THE EYE CAN SEE.

selves: Varieties of cane and especially the Uba cane; Cane Diseases, mosaic and gumming disease; Methods of cultivation; Soils and fertilizers for cane; Effects of fertilizers on the maturity of cane; Methods for the saving of fuel in sugar factories. Other works on different subjects are under study, they being: Paying methods in cane industry; Final cane-juice sirup as a feul; Analyzing processes in sugar factories; Methods for the repression of gumming disease in cane plantations and its effects on the manufacturing of sugar.

The activities outlined above show clearly the way this organization proposes to follow in the conduct of its affairs.

Aims and Methods of Securing Them: It is the Association's desire to help solve in a practical way the agricultural and industrial problems of the moment (especially as regards the sugar cane industry) and besides, to act as a guide that will point out the most convenient paths to follow in the progressive development of the industry. The Association aims to supply ideas that it hopes the manufacturers and planters will be willing to carry out, giving them a fair trial. In this way the Association proposes to be of assistance to the management and direction of the industry.

In order to carry out these investigations, it is necessary to make comparisons between the results obtained at one place and those at another, and these comparisons will lead to logical conclusions only when these results have been obtained and expressed in the same manner. It is

then imperative to establish uniform methods of analysis and uniform reports. In this respect, the Association is doing work to determine the methods of analysis and forms of reports most convenient under the local conditions of the island, with the idea of exerting its influence to have them universally adopted.

Central Office of Information: The Association proposes to establish a central office of information, where all the data obtainable can be received, assorted, assembled, critically examined, and put aside for future reference. This office should be in charge of a competent technical man, with an assistant for doing clerical work. It should be equipped with the necessary apparatus, and material to test polariscopes, balances, and volumetric flasks, so that true calibration of the apparatus used at the sugar factories may be made. The standardization of the apparatus is absolutely necessary if the results obtained are to be of any value for comparative purposes. This is all the more necessary, since at present the apparatuses in use in the sugar factories here and elsewhere are very far from being accurately calibrated. This results in unaccountable differences in the results obtained on the same product at different places. In this same establishment the keeping qualities of the export sugars might be tested.

Officers: The officers of the Association are: President, F. S. Earle, expert in cane, Aguirre Sugar Co.; Vice-President, E. D. Colón, agron-

omist, Plazuela Sugar Co.; Secretary, Manuel I. Gorbea, Chief, Division of Chemistry, Insular Experiment Station; Treasurer, F. López Domínguez, Superintendent, Vannina Sugar Co.

Besides these officers three other men, as follows, were elected to form together with them the Executive Board: Isidoro A. Colón, Superintendent, "Porto Rico Fertilizer Co."; Eduardo E. Saladaña, Consulting Engineer; W. C. Dreir, Manager, Hatillo Fruit Co.

Membership by Invitation: In order to be a member the person must be asked to join. At

present the Association is composed of sixty members, but a number of persons will soon be invited to join.

As may be seen, the instrumentality has been created whereby fundamental scientific principles may be applied to the solution of agricultural and industrial problems, chiefly in connection with the sugar cane industry, an intelligent power capable of pushing ahead industrial development.

The Association will act as a guide to the energetic action, which should some day place Porto Ricans among the most advanced people of the earth in modern industrial enterprise.

Development of Pharmacy in Porto Rico

By Lucas Luis Vélez Díaz, Ph.D.,

Dean of the College of Pharmacy of the University of Porto Rico. Member of the Board of Directors of the Porto Rican Association of Pharmacists.

The practice of the profession of pharmacy in Porto Rico, before its official organization January 19th, 1842, was in charge of a few pharmacists, graduates of European Universities, who opened establishments in the principal cities. Apprentices with only practical experience, later came out of these pharmacies and established drug stores in the small towns, they being permitted to deal in simple medicaments and, in very urgent cases, to compound prescriptions under the immediate inspection of the prescribing physician.

The Royal Sub-delegation of Pharmacy. The Royal Principal Sub-delegation Governing Pharmacy in the island of Porto Rico was constituted January 19th, 1842 thru the Royal Orders of the 14th of March and the 31st of May, 1839, with the approval of the Regent of the Kingdom, issued August 13th and proclaimed the 15th of October 1841, at the time Don Santiago Méndez Vigo was Governor and Captain General of the island.

By virtue of such royal orders, ruling statutes were dictated for the direction and management of said sub-delegation comprising six titles and sixty-four articles, relating to the following subjects: Its powers; compensation of members and financial methods; powers and

duties of the Secretary; the visiting of Pharmacies and the general plan for work.

This body was composed of three members submitted to His Majesty by the Governor, Captain General, as the superior political chief of said body, they being selected among the practitioners of Pharmacy residing in the island and known to be the most skilled. This sub-delegation being authorized by the Kingdom, it was entitled to use a seal bearing the words—"Real Sub-delegación Principal Gubernativa de Farmacia," for all its documents.

The Title of Graduate in Pharmacy (Ph.G.). The Sub-delegation had the power to grant titles of Graduate in Pharmacy under rigid examinations prescribed in articles 16, 17, 18 and 19 of the by-laws.

The pharmacists thus graduated could practise their profession in the island, due report being sent to the proper official of the Kingdom, giving educational qualifications, full name and nationality of the examined. This title also gave those who obtained it, the right to practice their profession in Spain on fulfilling certain simple requirements.

The above briefly gives the old law on Pharmacy which ruled since its promulgation and

for a short time after the establishment of the sovereignty of the United States.

Highly Efficient Professionals. Space prevents detailed comment, but it should be said that out of that body came professionals of high scientific ability, among whom conspicuously figured among others, Celestino Dominguez, José Monclova Cagigal, Juan Monclova, Felix Moncola, Santiago Monclova, Manuel Perez Freites, Federico Legrand, and Narciso Rabell Cabrero, who were awarded grand prizes and medals in various industrial expositions held in Porto Rico and elsewhere.

The Board of Pharmacy. On March 8th, 1906, the Porto Rico Legislative Assembly enacted a law which abolished the existing law on Pharmacy and authorized the organization of a Board of Pharmacy for the regulation of the profession in accordance with the political and economical situation, said Board to be formed by four capable pharmacists residing on the island. This law detailed in its articles the circumstances and limitations under which each member was to act and bestowed on the Governor the power to withdraw any member. The Board being composed of a President, Secretary and members.

Course of Studies. The study of pharmacy according with this new law, comprised three years, during which the students in their first year studied the following subjects: General Inorganic Chemistry, Natural History (Zoology, Botany and Mineralogy), Qualitative Analytic Inorganic Chemistry, and in their second year: Quantitative Analytic Inorganic Chemistry, Theoretical Pharmacy, Pharmacology, Therapeutics and Medical Materia. The third year embracing: Organic Chemistry, Practical Pharmacy, including the U. S. A. Pharmacopoeia, Toxicology and incompatibilities of drugs.

Those who desired to take the course of studies had to be High School graduates. After passing written examinations, the students obtained their licenses on payment of a fee of

\$25.00, which went to the Treasury of Porto Rico.

Amendments to the Course. The law on pharmacy was amended March 12th, 1908 and March 10th, 1910 so as to provide the addition to the course of the studies of Physiology and Hygiene.

On May 19th, 1921 a law was enacted eliminating the study of Hygiene, Zoology and Mineralogy and adding Bacteriology. This law also stated that admission to examinations would only be allowed to students who possessed a diploma from the University or College of Pharmacy of the University from which they graduated, in addition to a High School Diploma, thus making more rigid the examinations.

The College of Pharmacy of the University of Porto Rico. On September 22nd, 1913 the College of Pharmacy of the University of Porto Rico was inaugurated, with a course for Chemist-Pharmacists, the first graduating exercises taking place June 13th, 1915.

The plan of studies was amended at the academical term of 1919-1920 in a way to extend the diploma of Graduate in Pharmacy to those who complete the first two years, and that of Chemist-Pharmacist to those who complete the third year, and that amendment exists to the present time.

To date the College of Pharmacy has graduated fifty-three Chemist-Pharmacists and thirty-four Graduates in Pharmacy.

The two-years' course covers all the subjects required by the law on Pharmacy for the examination before the Porto Rico's Board of Pharmacy, and the three years course comprises extended study of the most important subjects and in addition to the studies of the two years' course it covers the study of analysis of foods and drugs, Bacteriology, Physiologic Chemistry, etc., thus giving the student a sound preparation for the responsibility of Pharmacy and of a Manufacturing or Analytic Chemist.

Dental Association of Porto Rico

Por Manuel V. del Valle, D.D.S.,

Ex-President of the Dental Association of Porto Rico. Author and Writer.
Member of various literary and scientific organizations.

Development of the Dental Profession:

The Island of Porto Rico having had two different sovereignties, it becomes necessary to refer to its history in order to better understand any of its activities in life, professionally or otherwise.

The dental profession in Porto Rico had to follow an equal fate to that of the same profession in the mother country, Spain. The profession was not well regulated. The nation awoke to the fact that many lives were imperiled through careless dental operations, in 1875, enacted legislation protecting the dental profession. At that time the realm published a decree prohibiting the practice of dentistry except by those who had received certain instruction in the universities. However, the requirements were slight and the violations of this decree were not looked upon with the importance they deserved.

Examination of Licenses: October 18, 1898, when the sovereignty of the Island was transferred—by reason of the Spanish-American War—to the United States the military department assumed control of the affairs of the Island and detailed one of its medical officers to examine the licenses already granted and order the renewal thereof. A number of practitioners found performing dental work by tolerance were also recognized as legal practitioners.

Board of Dental Examiners: By an act of Congress the Island was given a civil government in 1900, and the Insular Legislature, on March 9, 1905, passed an Act organizing a Board of Dental Examiners. Since that date all candidates seeking permission to practice dentistry in the Island must present a diploma of a recognized school or college and submit to an examination in order to obtain a license. This act has been amended in a recent session of the Insular Legislature in order to make it clear to intruders that they cannot, without being subject to punishment by the law, invade a profession for which they have had no training.

Dental Association Formed: In 1907 a dental association was formed which the majority of the dental practitioners joined and which in 1911 was incorporated to the National Dental Association of the United States.

The life of this Association showed marked enthusiasm during the first few years of its organization. It held yearly meetings in different cities of the Island. San Juan (1908)—Arecibo (1909)—Mayagüez (1910)—Ponce (1911) and again in San Juan (1914), (1915), (1916), (1917), (1919), (1920). At each of these meetings professional subjects were discussed. In recent years, however, the Association has not been as active.

Dental Welfare Work Needed: The people of Porto Rico need an intense campaign to teach them the importance of the care of the teeth for the conservation of the general health. In the United States, a dental organization has been formed, namely: Dental Welfare Foundation—which sends monthly to about 450,662 families a card calling attention to some phase of the care of teeth in children and adults, and urging the periodical examination of the mouth. Such a campaign could be carried out in Porto Rico with certain modifications to meet conditions and would do much good.

The Future of the Association: The future of the Dental Association of Porto Rico depends greatly on the amount of enthusiasm shown by the younger men entering the practice of dental surgery in the Island. They who have received recent training in the colleges and universities from which they graduate, should have always in mind the celebrated phrase of one of the most notable men of the United States, Dr. Mayo, who said, that the future conservation of the general health of the individual begins at the mouth, or words to that effect, and immediately there comes to mind the question: Are dentists prepared to meet this obligation?



ALGUNOS DE LOS ÓRGANOS REPRESENTATIVOS.—SOME OF THE ISLAND'S LEADING PUBLICATIONS.

Association of Porto Rico's Journalists

Por Enrique Colón Baerga,

Journalist. Editor of "La Correspondencia de Puerto Rico."

Porto Rico has not been indifferent to the great movement toward the establishment of associations that are successfully initiated all over the world. Associations of diverse kinds and of various tendencies having been organized in the Island, the founding of same having been a complete success on account of the efficient service they have rendered Porto Rico in its constant progressive endeavor.

Porto Rico's Daily Press During the Old Regime. Porto Rico's journalism lived up to a short time ago a truly precarious life; few newspapers and reviews were published and the suspiciousness of the governmental régime

which Spain maintained in its last American possessions, were the cause of the lack of enthusiasm to devote any marked activity to such harsh and dangerous work.

Nevertheless, there were well written newspapers, and the Island was proud of possessing a group of talented journalists.

Explainable Deficiencies. The material environment of journalism in Porto Rico was therefore poor, there being a small number of readers and the volume of business transactions that is a direct factor of general and frequent advertising and also a vital factor of modern journalism, was much less than it is

at present. Today the issues of the newspapers are considerably larger than formerly, but for some reason their circulation does not keep step with the Island's increasing population.

Porto Rico's daily press, whether literary or political, was formerly exclusively devoted to one fixed purpose, small space being given to current events, a side of journalism which at present occupies a great part of the matter in the newspapers. The same thing has happened everywhere, as the means of culture increase, and that is why reporters in modern journalism occupy nearly as an important a place as the editors.

Journalism in San Juan. Under the Spanish sovereignty there was a certain equilibrium as regards journalism between the three principal cities of Porto Rico: San Juan, Ponce and Mayagüez, there being important publications of different kinds in every one of them. Today San Juan leads all the Island in publishing, and few cities of its size anywhere publish five large newspapers like those edited in San Juan. Publishing of papers, however, has diminished in the other two cities mentioned; and it would be wise of them, in view of their development in commerce and education if the work of journalism should reach the power it once had.

Positive Progress. Historical Review. As the years passed by Porto Rico's daily press successfully developed, and when the Spanish régime gave way to North American sovereignty, the daily press reached an important place in the Island's struggles for liberty and the solution of problems of a general character.

The change of sovereignty brought an immediate progressive change to Porto Rico's press, and the editorial staff of every newspaper had necessarily to be increased. This caused the first idea and the first movement to organize the association of Journalists, wherein all those working in the insular journalism might form a part.

In the board of directors of the Porto Rican Atheneum, journalism has always had representation, thus greatly contributing to the growth of the spirit of association, which to-

day is in the minds of all those dedicated to journalism.

A Languishing Nucleus. The Association of Journalists exists in Porto Rico, but its life is not as brisk as it should be due to the indifference of those who should add their efforts and their intelligences to the growth of the Association.

Individual groups function in several cities, but they have not secured cooperation of as many persons as they might, due to non-approval or misunderstanding.

Great Development of the Daily Press. Porto Rico's daily press has attained a remarkable development in the last few years. Its life is financially assured forever, and formed, as it is, by men of such worth that their influence is felt beyond the boundaries of their small island.

Prominent Men of the Island's Press. Space prevents full mention of all the newspapermen of the island who have furthered progress, but the author feels that mention must be made of José Pérez Losada, José Coll Vidal, Cristóbal y Romualdo Real, Juan Braschi, Pedro Sierra, M. Ríos Ocaña, Jorge Adsuar, Nicolás Rivas, Guillermo V. Cintrón, Félix y Rafael Matos Bernier, Pablo Roig, Manuel A. Martínez Dávila, Nemesio Canales, Luis Llorens Torres, Mariano Abril, Eugenio Astol, José Muñoz Rivera, Antonio Coll Vidal, S. Dalmau Canet, A. Vargas, A. Pietri, Pedro R. de Diego, G. Atilas, J. Coll y Cuchí, E. Ramírez Brau, J. Adorno, Cervoni Gely, Enrique Lefebre, R. Rivera Zayas, E. Fernández Vanga, Aldea Nazario, Sergio Romanace, Joaquin Barreiro, José G. Torres, Modesto Cordero, Miguel Meléndez Muñoz, Luis Villaronga and Carmelo Martínez Acosta.

Among those above mentioned—and the writer apologizes for any involuntary omission—there are young, middle-aged and old journalists, and not only men in active service of the papers, but also contributors who are engaged in other activities, but who with their valuable productions cooperate to the furtherance of Porto Rican journalism.

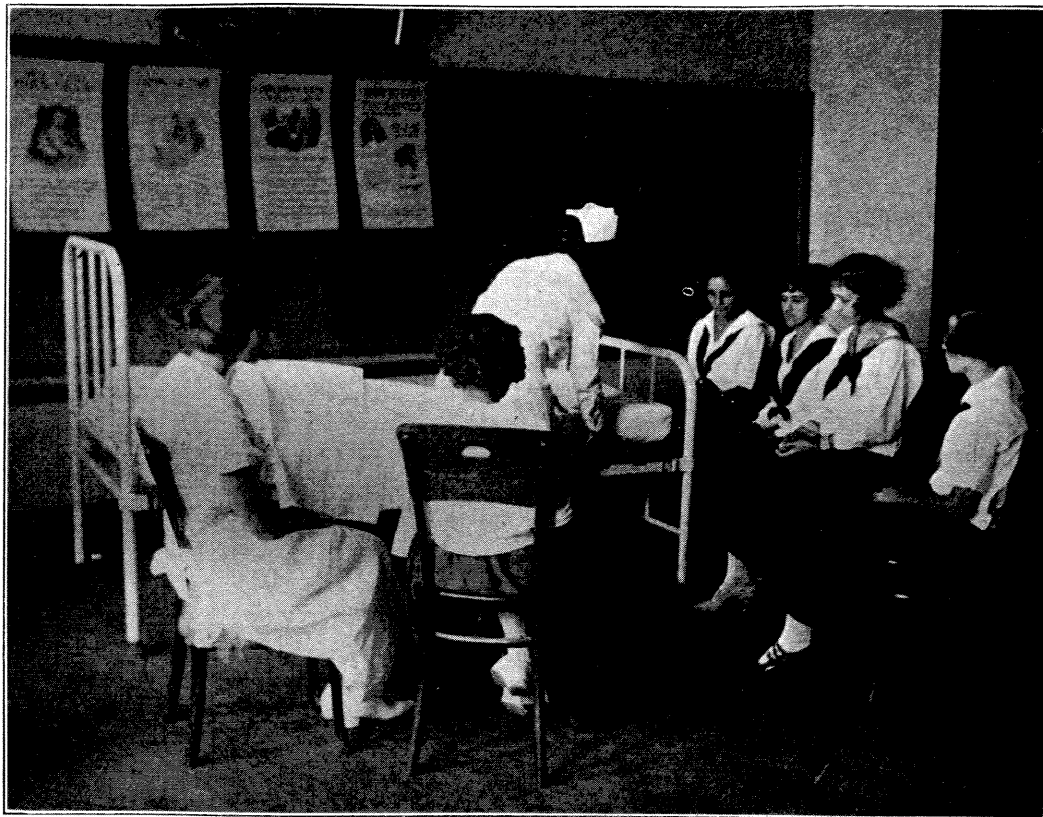
A More Active Association Needed. The

Association of Journalists as it exists today, should be enlarged and developed into a vigorous organization through which those who devote their activities to the newspaper profession may meet.

There are in Porto Rico enough live newspaper men to constitute and maintain an association of the kind, and the field which the

island's enterprises offer to the activities of its intellectual elements is wide.

Therefore, it is hoped and expected that in the near future the Association of Journalists of Porto Rico will become one of the Island's powerful social organizations through the valuable cooperation of its many possible members.



ENFERMERA DEL "SERVICIO SOCIAL," ENSEÑANDO A PREPARAR UNA CAMA PARA ENFERMOS.
A SOCIAL WORKER NURSE TEACHING THE ART OF BED-MAKING.

The Association of Porto Rican Nurses

By Rosa A. González, R.N.,

Superintendent of the Presbyterian Hospital. President of the Association of Porto Rican Nurses.

Medicine and the care of the sick come from the same common stock but have always been impelled by distinct motives, the first developing largely from the medical scientific experimentation at the laboratory, and clinical observation at the bedside, and the latter mostly moved by humanitarian motives.

The nurse is generally the physician's right hand but nevertheless she has also great duties of her own, her most important one being her exclusive right of tending the sick, a tender duty in which she must excel. As the loving mother in the home, the nurse creates that environment of cheer, good will and hope which

tends to create a sense of hopefulness, comfort and confidence, so vital to her patient's welfare.

In her social and educative work as well as in administrative matters in the hospital and other similar institutions, her services are essential for, although she generally cooperates closely with the medical profession; nevertheless she has great responsibilities of her own in the manifold fields of public welfare.

There is an interchanging of duties between these two professions tending every day to

nurses. Influenced by the high example set by the American Nurse Association, the Porto Rican Association hopes to have her rights recognized to be able to appoint a Nurses' Examining Board, to regulate the admission of candidates and especially the regulations of the nurses' schools and study courses, today falling on the already overburdened Board of Medical Examiners.

She hopes (1) to formulate a plan of studies, assigning a proportional credit standard to theoretical and practical students' work; (2)



HOSPITAL SAN LUCAS, PONCE.—ONE OF THE ISLAND'S BEST TRAINING SCHOOLS FOR NURSES.

throw on the latter important duties which heretofore pertained exclusively to the physician. For instance, therapeutics—today more than ever relies for the healing of the sick on hygiene and the study of nutrition utilizing also in large measure a new psychic and physical elements passed on to the nurse to practice, thus opening new horizons for her activities.

Modesty aside, the author believes it her duty to point to the important role that the nursing profession has played and is playing in the development of the practice of the medical profession, by her intelligent and silent cooperation at the bedside, and in surgery to the great part she plays in avoiding those infections which are today almost unknown, but which in years gone by, were so dreaded by the public and the profession alike, even if her work is not fully appreciated by the public, and worse yet, by the medical profession.

The Porto Rican Nurses' Association was established the 26th of February, 1916, with a membership of about 60 registered practising

to establish a three-years course; (3) to set a work day of eight hours; (4) to establish a standard of admittance for candidates as to age, academic education and character; (5) to provide that each pupil who upon due cause, has to change from one school to another, be given a credit certificate of attendance; (6) to forbid student nurses outside work or work as special nurses, before the third year of study, and in no case for over three months; (7) to provide for compensation for the nurses' school faculty, in order that the teaching might be regular; (8) that schools may be obliged to keep a record of the theoretical and practical work of each student, and that a yearly report of it be rendered to the Board; (9) if the hospital does not admit all kinds of cases, then it should be affiliated with other recognized institutions, where the students might pursue the corresponding courses; (10) nurses' schools should always be affiliated to hospitals with a capacity for not less than 40 beds and where practical work on the care of men, women and children in the several

branches of medicine, surgery, obstetrics and orthopedics can be obtained; (11) to advise that living quarters for student nurses should be away from the hospital, that the dormitory should be fireproof, and that not more than two students should room together in one room; that there should be a bath and toilet room for no more than seven girls; that the dining room be made attractive; and that they should have a reception room, and adequate class rooms and equipment for teaching purposes, besides a well conducted reference library; (12) that the faculty should be com-

posed of not less than three registered nurses, a general superintendent of nurses, an assistant and a night superintendent; (13) that the Board may be officially empowered to inspect hospitals and schools for nurses and recommend due improvements with the power of not admitting to examination candidates from schools not recognized by the board. In short, the Nurses' Association hopes to regulate the admission and training of candidates and to set a high standard for the profession, thus helping to serve properly the high duties of the profession to the public.

Association of Practitioners in Minor Surgery

By Ramón Fournier,

Minor Surgeon, Embalmer and Undertaker. President of the Association of Practitioners in Minor Surgery.

Origin and History: The profession of Practitioners in Minor Surgery had its origin before the Christian Era, but it was in Spain where it progressed most, and there it underwent several transformations.

First, those who practiced this profession were known as "practicos"—experts in the art of healing, sometime later in Spain they were called "Ministrantes" and still later on, "qualified physicians of second class." Then in 1860 that class was abolished and the Profession of Practitioners in Minor Surgery established with its powers defined as follows: The degree of Practitioners in Minor Surgery confers only the authority to perform the mechanical and minor operations of Surgery, such as vaccination, dentistry and Chiropractice.

In 1877 the profession of Dentistry was also established and thereafter the Practitioners in Minor Surgery were forbidden by law to engage in dental work.

The Practitioners in Minor Surgery have always been a great help to physicians, not merely at present when modern and related professions share the burden of its labours, but in the past, when professional work was difficult due to lack of means and proper technical material for adaptation to particular cases.

History records the work done by this profession in the past, when ability had to be supplemented by courage and self-sacrifice. The de-

velopment of the profession in Porto Rico has been progressive, and the young men have ever been interested in it. At present the greatest number of Practitioners in Minor Surgery are made up of High School graduates who are all anxious to work for the progress of the profession.

Requirements: In order to get a license the requirements are: a practice of two years under two physicians or surgeons in a hospital or clinic of recognized standing, and then, the passing of examination before the Board of Medical Examiners who decide if the candidate is duly qualified for admission.

Organizations: On January 11, 1920, after several unsuccessful trials, an Association of these Practitioners was organized and registered under the laws of Porto Rico, with the purpose of joining together in a professional body always ready to effectively defend its rights.

Now joined in a professional association with a noble and sacred ideal, far above individual and selfish ambitions, they are proud of their work and are doing their best to relieve their suffering brothers. And if the Medical Association of Porto Rico, thru cooperation with the Legislature, would assume the establishment of a School of Minor Surgery, it would probably be the first step toward the foundation of a School of Medicine, while at the same time it would help a noble and old profession which is still useful to humanity.