

The Palm Leaf

"Builders together with God"

The Polytechnic Institute of Porto Rico will seek to express its spirit, aims and work through this news leaf. Copies will be sent upon application.

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Polytechnic -- Past and Present

This remarkable Christian school has had a phenomenal growth. Twelve years ago after three attempts had failed this missionary school, numbering the first day one pupil and one teacher, was housed in a little thatched shanty. In a few days the number of pupils increased to twelve. Six years later there were 140 and today nearly 400 students are enrolled in its classes. With the growth of the student body the faculty has increased, and the curriculum enlarged and varied to include all grammar school, high school and college courses, which are of standard character and are accredited by the Department of Education of Porto Rico. Graduates from the high school department are admitted without examination to colleges in the United States. Two prominent features are cardinal points in the training of every student: Bible study, one hour daily, and manual work three hours.

The schools of Porto Rico are too few in number to meet the requirements of the large and growing population. Of the 440,000 children of legal school age, only 218,000, or less than half of them, are in school. The Polytechnic Institute is attempting with remarkable success to supplement the inadequate school system of Porto Rico.

Sound Finance

230,000 dollars have been received from generous friends devoted to the Polytechnic Institute and its future. Much of this money contributed to the building and endowment fund is given at a sacrifice and will surely be appreciated by the students who are thus given an excellent educational equipment and an institution to be proud of.

The Carnegie Corporation has doubled the amounts of these gifts by liberally adding approximately \$250,000 from its funds.

About one-half of this money is wisely and conservatively invested in securities which pay an average of 5% interest, the balance going to present building operations on new college halls.

The Merit System

A student shall begin each semester with 100 merit credits. He must average 80 for the four years if he is to be recommended to college or to any business position upon graduation. No student shall be given a diploma from this school who has an average of less than 70 merit credits. A merit grade will be given at the end of each semester. These grades will be sent on to other schools or colleges on the same basis as those of scholarship.

Merit credits shall be based on character, conduct and attendance. It will be possible to have more than 100 merits at graduation, as a bonus of 20 credits will be given at the end of each semester to all students who have a merit record of 95 or more. This will enable students who have fallen below the requirement in one semester, to redeem themselves in the following semester.

Demerits for the following delinquencies are given:

2 for tardiness; 3 for rudeness, bad language, disorderliness, loitering and cutting classes; 5 for absence from work, study hall, assemblies; 8 for absence from Sunday school and Sunday service; 10 for cheating, lying, stealing, fighting; 15 for absence from bed, for smoking, defacing or destroying Institute's property, and for trespassing on campus of opposite sex.



A School for Brains and Brawn

On the Island of Palms looking toward America, the land of hope and opportunity, 220,000 boys and girls need education. In their midst is now being built up a great Christian school with all the branches of learning furnished by the best high schools and colleges. In addition special emphasis is placed on systematic Bible study definitely applied to Christian work in the neighboring villages. The dignity of daily toil with hands as well as brains is inculcated and practiced by both boys and girls. The Polytechnic Institute grows and expands in physical equipment and influence by the work of its students. Clarence Harris, brother of the President, directs the boys in the erection of the school buildings which are rising on all parts of the attractive campus. Mrs. Harris, wife of the President and Dean of Girls, supervises the domestic activities of 200 students giving personal attention to their moral and religious training. Living as the students do in daily contact in their mental and manual work makes the whole institution a social laboratory in which practical life problems constantly find solution. They learn to live and work together as they must eventually do in their home communities.

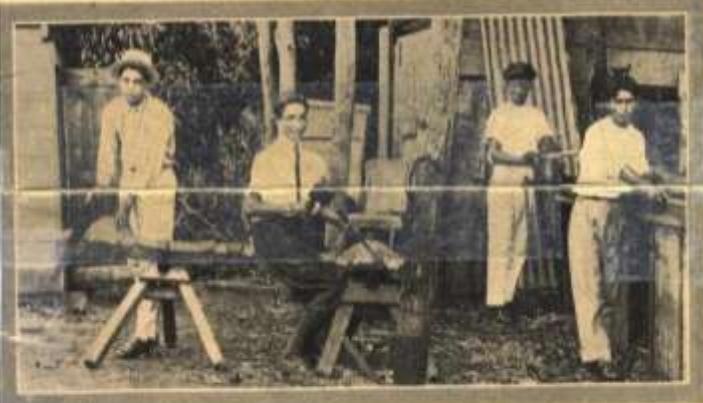
The students are taught to do practical work. They make the doors and windows of buildings and are now beginning to make mahogany furniture with which to provide all the rooms of the school. They build forms for concrete, plaster the walls, work with the plumber, build roads and do all kinds of agricultural work. The purpose is not so much the teaching of a single trade as the inculcating of the habit of industry and a love for work as well as for books. Our graduates have proved the value of such training.

Progress on the Three-Year Building Program

Five of the permanent buildings have been erected: The President's home at the east end of the campus, at a cost of \$3,600; one unit of the hospital building at the west end, \$3,000; the Science hall, \$75,000; a teachers' cottage, \$4,000; and girls' dormitory, \$60,000. Four other buildings are under construction, a teachers'

cottage, \$4,000; a memorial guest hall, \$15,000; a boys' dormitory, \$6,000; and a commons or dining hall, \$70,000. Seven other buildings and two bridges are planned: an academic hall estimated at \$65,000; a chapel, \$50,000; a library, \$50,000; a gymnasium, \$15,000; two workshops at \$10,000 each; a gate lodge, \$5,000; and two bridges, combined for \$4,500. The campus will be divided into a boys' and girls' section with appropriate buildings and athletic field for each. Connecting them will be two bridges spanning a beautiful mountain stream.

Dr. Harris writes "Since the last meeting I was able to buy twenty acres of land just north of my residence for \$4,000. I have today contracted to buy three and a half acres between the Science Hall and the main carretera from San German to Mayaguez."



Faculty Facts

From Cow-Puncher to College President

Young Will Harris, with his fellow cow-punchers had herded for shipping two hundred head of cattle at the station. An engine whistle sounded and each individual cow melted into the herd with the one idea of run—the stampede was on!

They started in the direction of our youthful cowboy. Harris started too. Faster went the cattle and faster went Will Harris. He looked like a colonel at the head of a wild cavalry charge. For a few minutes his speedy little pony kept a safe lead but the cows were gaining. Will bent down, dug his heels into his pony's sweating flanks and guided this flying bunch of wind and muscle toward a pile of logs. At his heels came the roaring dust cloud of monomaniac cows. They were expressing crowd psychology with a vengeance. A couple of leaders in the center struck the log pile with terrific impact. An awful bellowing wail rent the air. The spell of monomania was broken. The stampede ceased. Will halted his tired pony and sat with bared head for an instant, thankful for his deliverance.

(To be continued)



SCIENCE HALL

Graduates in Action

Reverend Alvaro Morales, who married a graduate nurse of the Methodist hospital, was sent to a rural district about two miles from the main automobile road. He had designed and completed the well built manse in which he lives. Morales went to the mayor of Aguadilla and asked him to construct a road from the main automobile highway out to his parish. The mayor gave Morales money and told him to build the road. Morales did the work for less than half of what it would have cost the Government to do it.

Another preacher, who once ran away from the Institute because he had to work, later returned and graduated. He is living now in a town which is being benefitted by his influence and work. He has converted a sterile back lot into a productive garden which provides food for the neighborhood and as an example of thrift and industry has stimulated many others to follow his leadership. He not only provides his little family with abundance of fresh vegetables but sells garden stuff daily to his neighbors and has become a model for other families in his town. As a result this community is exchanging its poverty-stricken look for one of prosperity.

Another example is that of Lorenzo Casiano who is employed by the Republic of Santo Domingo to teach farmers how to use modern farm implements and employ modern methods in the cultivation of their farms. This graduate of the Institute is an agricultural missionary carrying the Gospel of good soil, productive crops and better homes to the destitute and oppressed people of Santo Domingo.

Dedication of Teachers' Home

Extract of Speech by Don Arturo Lluberas

Since the privilege of speaking to you has been granted to me I am going to tell you in short and simple words how this building that we dedicate today originated.

Some time ago, while I was on the Guanica shore with my family, in the summer months, I saw one morning the arrival of an automobile with two persons, one I knew, the other I did not know. The latter was a northern type, of high stature, fair complexion, blue and penetrating eyes, hard frown and cowboy's hat.

I confess ingenuously that when I saw them descend from the automobile I asked myself mentally: "I wonder what these birds are looking for?" The tall, blond man was none other than Mr. Harris, of whom I already knew something, for the fame of the work that he was doing in the city of the hills had reached me.

After the presentation and courtesies of the moment the object of the morning's visit was explained by pictures and plans and my financial help was solicited.

I confess that when he reached this point, after having a clear idea of the importance and utility of the plan proposed I did not vacillate in subscribing the amount that has made possible the construction and equipment of this house; and today I rejoice when I see the beautiful and useful way in which so small an amount has been invested.