The Polytechnic Institute of Porto Rico

The only school of its kind in Latin America

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The boys quarry rock, run it through the crusher, mix cement, and fill the forms. They do all the carpentry work and cultivate the farm. The concrete buildings rising on different parts of the campus are the work of their hands. Two hours daily labor is a part of their education.

**Representing Six Countries**

The Polytechnic Institute promises to be for the long future the source of culture and the central seat of the liberal arts not only for Porto Rico but for the other Antillean Islands and for a considerable part of Central and South America. Its object is to develop mentally, morally and physically, the youth of Latin America, through the regularly accepted studies of liberal arts and sciences, the study of the Bible, and the performance of daily manual labor. Students come from Porto Rico, Santo Domingo, the Virgin Islands, Cuba, the Lesser Antilles, Columbia and Venezuela. Parents accompany their children seeking for admission. They come in Fords, oxcarts, by train, on horseback and afoot. Students are stowed away six and seven in a room twelve feet square.

On account of the crowded condition the balconies are necessarily obstructed by cots, study tables and wash stands. One boy slept for weeks on top of two trunks till a bed could be secured for him. There are hundreds of others who would do the same thing if they could get admission.

A father from over on the Caribbean Coast came riding on a thin pony with his long-shanked boy walking by his side. The father had recently been hurt in a copper mine. He was told that the last vacancy for free students had been filled. Tears of disappointment rolled down the father's cheeks. He

Every dollar of your money plus the free student labor does the work of two dollars in erecting and equipping the handsome new buildings costing free thousand dollars to sixty thousand dollars each.

**Science Hall**
The girls cook, serve tables, wash, iron, and do a great variety of other work directed toward practical ends. Thus the expenses of the school are reduced and the hardy characters of the girls develop with the growth of this Christian Institution.

started to leave but stopped under the shade of a tree nearby. Returning later in the day he said, "My chest is crushed in. I am no good any more. My boy must do better. I want to give him an education. I have sold my pony and will pay five dollars monthly 'till the money is gone. Won't you take him?" What else could a fellow do?

All the students are happy and contented in this life of work and study. Young people from aristocratic families work, study and play with the children of laborers. All have a growing sense of the value of this cooperative educational life and with a fine spirit of harmony are building up an institution that will stamp its lasting spiritual and moral impress upon all Latin America.

This school is the greatest force for promulgating and perpetuating ideas, ideals and practical customs. Its education is broad as well as deep. It takes in the whole man, a trained head to think, a developed heart to feel and a strong hand to do, co-ordinating the intellectual, spiritual and physical faculties in service for the good of these people and the glory of God. Thus the Polytechnic Institute of Porto Rico, now in operation on the hills of San German, is bringing the dawn of Christian hope to multitudes of boys and girls who are flocking from South America, Central America and the Spanish Islands to this great Christian school of four hundred pupils.

**Yearly Maintenance**

- **Student scholarship** $100
- **Salaries of teachers** $900-$1,800
- **Furnish room** $150
- **Dining room supplies** $350
- **Medicine** $200
Place yourself for a moment in Porto Rico. To the North lies North America with her men of vision and action, a nation of Christian homes and churches. To the South lies South America, rich in idle resources, with 71 millions of Latin Americans, 40 millions of whom are semi-pagans. Only a few of the remaining 30 millions are educated. North America speaks English. South America speaks Spanish. While midway between them lies the Pearl of the Antilles, Porto Rico, destined by God to become the common ground of mutual understanding of the two races. Here is where the Latin and Saxon are meeting as they are in no other place. Both English and Spanish are official languages.

Take Porto Rico as the centre. Draw a circle of 1,000 miles radius. It will touch or include 16 different nations with a population of 21,000,000, sitting in the shade of walls built one hundred years before the pilgrims landed in America. All these are within the field of influence of the Polytechnic Institute. To all these a Christian institution of learning like the Polytechnic Institute should be not only a place to educate their children, but also a model of the highest type after which all these countries may pattern, an honor to the Christian people of North America.

"In 1912 there was one little school with just one student the first day. A constant stream of criticism was heaped upon the pioneer of this progressive idea. People said, 'You can never succeed.' Now it is seen that he could succeed. Twelve years have passed and only God knows at what cost and pain the victory was won. Dr. Harris himself does not say. In his manly face of frankness there is always a smile while his heart burns with the desire to push forward the work to which he has given his life. May God give strength to this great Porto Rican, this great American that he may see his work completed."—JUAN B. HUYKE, Commissioner of Education in Porto Rico.