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NOTES AND COMMENTS

For this issue of the *Review*, we had hoped to include a full coverage of the First Sociological Conference, held at the Conference Hall, College of Education, University of Santo Tomas on July 15, 1956. However, because of some stenographic difficulties (completely beyond our control), we are unable to include a presentation of the open forum which followed the conference papers. This is indeed unfortunate because in many ways the forum discussion was the most provocative part of the conference. Certainly all present received a good insight into the wide area of disagreement and mutual jealousies existing between the partisans of the community school movement and the community development leaders. Sociologists were left wondering how "agents of change and reform" can ever "reconstruct the barrio" if they cannot even agree among themselves.

The first three articles included in this issue are, therefore, the three papers read at the conference. Senator Puyat discusses the role of public policy in community improvement. His paper reflects the progressive commitment of the present government to rural development. Dr. Polson discussed basic sociological principles related to community improvement in his stimulating report. Mr. Tupas, in his paper cites the achievements of the Philippine public schools in community betterment.

As a sort of "filler" the *Review* includes two other papers on Philippine rural life. However, both are of considerable merit. Mrs. Manluca summarizes problems involved in the implementation of the community school program. As such, it constitutes a supplement to the preceding paper by Mr. Tupas.

Father Arens in previous issues of the *Review* has already described the rice and corn ritual surviving in the eastern Visayas. It is, therefore, with considerable pleasure, that we publish his present discussion of the fishing ritual in the Samar-Leyte cultural area. Until quite recently little attention had been given to pre-Christmas religious survivals in the Philippines. Father Arens's studies are valuable additions to our growing insight into this phenomenon.

As a postscript we include a list of delegates and members of the Philippine Sociological Society who attended the July conference.

G. H. W.

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