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Social Work in the Philippines: Proceedings of the First National Conference of Social Workers by the Philippine Association of Social Workers (PASW)

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Furthermore, the descriptive notices do not seem to be always accurate and may be the result of a too cursory examination of the periodical in question. To mention a modest instance: HEIGHTS, the literary quarterly published under my direction, is incorrectly described on page 94. The August 1954 issue of that magazine was not Volume I Number 1 but Volume III Number 1. Mr. Severino was not editor in August 1954 but came to the editorship later (editors are changed every semester or so). And finally HEIGHTS does *not* publish "news of the Ateneo and personal items about faculty and alumni" (such items are found in the three newspapers and three yearbooks published by the Ateneo de Manila): HEIGHTS is a literary magazine which publishes stories, essays, verse, plays, drawings, illustrated travelogues, and reviews of current books, drama and music.

MIGUEL A. BERNAD

SOCIAL WORK IN THE PHILIPPINES

PROCEEDINGS OF THE FIRST NATIONAL CONFERENCE OF SOCIAL WORKERS, Manila, as published by the Philippine Association of Social Workers (PASW) in *Social Work* 2 (April to July 1957) 35-80.

"THIS is the first conference of social workers in this country. It is a small beginning as beginnings generally are and should be." The modest greeting by Mrs. Virginia A. Paraiso, president of the PASW, fails to prepare the audience for the high quality of prepared talks and participant-discussion which followed on 16-17 November 1956. The theme of the Conference ("Social Work and Community Development") was clarified by definitions of "social work" and "community development." For "social work" Stroup's definition is employed: "the art of bringing various resources to bear on individual, group, and community needs by the application of a scientific method of helping people to help themselves."

Following an address by the Honorable Carlos P. Garcia, then Vice-President of the Philippines and Secretary of Foreign Affairs, a forthright recognition was made of the Filipino's economic situation by Ernest E. Neal, Special Assistant for Community

Development, U.S. Operations Mission to the Philippines. He stressed the need of feeder roads (13,000 out of 19,000 barrios lack "any kind of a connecting road," and many of the existing roads are impassable in the rainy season); the growth and unequal distribution of population; the high percentage of unemployment and underemployment; the reluctance to adopt new methods of farming; exploitation of the farmer by the money lenders; etc.

Following this paper, the Conference devoted itself to the work of its seven commissions: namely those on Youth, Health, Rehabilitation, Family, Public Assistance and Social Security, Industry, the Community.

The Child and Youth Commission mentioned the existence in the Philippines of cottage type dwellings for dependent children exemplified at *Boys' Town*, Marikina, Rizal. Youth activities are provided for the seven-to-eighteen-year-old group by scouts, and for adolescents by the CYO and "Y". It is noted, however, that there are only a few trained group workers available. Among the resolutions of this commission are included recommendations for more parks and playgrounds, more informal court proceedings for minors, and protection of children from demoralizing factors in the community.

The Health Commission mentioned the inadequate number of social workers in eight governmental and eight private hospitals of Manila. The eight governmental hospitals had twenty social workers for 6,000 patients (1/300).

The third commission, on Rehabilitation, following papers by Mr. Victor J. Baltazar, Supervisor of the Office of Vocational Rehabilitation (OVR) of SWA, and by Miss Norma B. Alampay, psychiatric social worker of the Psychological Center, recommended representation of social workers at the Labor Department, a survey to determine jobs suitable for the handicapped, and sheltered workshops.

Incidental to the discussion of the role of the social worker for the handicapped were several pertinent facts; for example, that with a capacity for only 1600 patients, the National Mental Hospital had more than 4000 in-patients as of 30 October 1956 and served over 1700 out-patients in the year ending June 1956. This hospital is supported by the national government. The Phil-

ippine Mental Health Association's Guidance Clinic serves more than 300 patients annually. This Clinic is supported by private funds.

The fourth commission, on the Family, following a paper by Father Thomas Mitchell S.J., included in its resolutions the endorsement of a proposed experiment in group counseling for marital problems and the sponsorship of proposed training for social workers in marriage counseling. The discussion following Father Mitchell's paper stressed the fact that social workers pay too little attention to spiritual problems in families.

Included among the several important points discussed by the other commissions was the fact that only about 3% of the population carries insurance, at an average value of ₱3,500. Work of Filipino social workers in community development was illustrated by a project in the free section of Vietnam where the communities were assisted by Filipinos in solving local problems. Description of SWA revealed that it has about 700 field personnel, with branch offices in every province.

Although one speaker felt that legislation should require employment of social workers in industry, others pointed to the lack of social work training at the moment, and to the desirability that employers *want* social workers rather than having them forced upon employers.

Concerning techniques and principles of community organization, Miss Pablo's paper is worthy of special mention. Miss Leonor Pablo is chief of the Social Welfare Section, Manila Health Department.

In the final evaluation of the Conference, the Committee on Evaluation recommended certain topics for future conferences. Included among recommendations for the future were such topics as: Group Therapy for Children, Unmarried Mothers, Social Legislation, The Social Worker in Industry and Coordination of Family Welfare Work and Welfare Agencies.

CHARLES R. MCKENNEY