

## SOLDIERS LIFE IN MINDANAO

A letter describing conditions among the soldiers in a United States army camp of the Philippine Islands (Mindanao) has been recently received by an acquaintance of Dr. William O. Stillman, president of the American Humane association, at Albany, and he has obtained a copy for distribution. The writer is a chaplain, John T. Axton, of the Eighteenth infantry, whose camp is pictured. His letter in part follows:

"Camp Keithley is 600 miles south of Manila, on the large island of Mindanao, in hostile Moro territory. Although this region was nominally under Spanish control for nearly 400 years, there are but two points at which the Spaniards established permanent stations, and they are both on the seashore. At no time did they succeed in subduing the natives or giving them an idea of a civilized form of government.

"As you are perhaps aware, a sort of feudal system exists among these people. Each datto has his cotta, or fort, has slaves and a number of wives, according to his wealth. Near the stronger posts the slave trade is nearly broken up now, and polygamy will eventually be abolished. When not at war with the whites these datto prey upon each other. Their religion is a perverted form of Mohammedanism and is very hard to fathom.

"We are stationed 20 miles inland. The post is reached by a mountain trail, over which only heavily armed parties can travel in safety. A thousand men constitute our garrison, and, while some of the native natives are friendly, the general condition is such that men are not allowed out of the post except between 1 and 5 o'clock in the afternoon, and then special precaution is taken for their safety. On post at night the sentinels walk in pairs, one behind the other, to prevent being cut up by skulking Moro. Two months ago 3000 rounds were fired into the barracks of a constabulary company about a mile and a half from our home. It was at 10 o'clock, and we heard the shooting plainly. The Moros were driven off with but slight loss of life.

"All of the life of our men must be spent right in the post. We have a short dry season when it is fairly pleasant, but most of the year it rains heavily every day, so that outdoor sports are not possible. There is absolutely no assembling place in the post for these men. There was an old straw building that I used for about two months. We had braced the walls with bamboo and repaired the roof with grass, but that became so dilapidated that we considered it unsafe and had to abandon it.

"The men out of their \$13 per month last pay day gave \$450 toward the erection of a building. This expresses to any one familiar with the army more strongly than anything I can say the great need of the building. The plan is to buy logs from the friendly natives (there are no trees on the reservation), and the men will use a small sawmill we have on the reservation to saw them into lumber. The logs are already coming in, and we have plans made for a building of the bungalow type, adapted to this climate, containing all of the usual features of an institutional church—reading room, writing room, games, library, small gymnasium. The apparatus is here, but no place to set it up. We want a chapel large enough to seat 450 men. The building will have a metal roof.

"Fortunately one of our officers is an experienced engineer. He has made the plans for the building and will superintend the labor of the

men in constructing it. Of course it will cost more than the amount the men have given to start it, but they are confident that if the matter is properly presented to friends in the 'home land' enough subscriptions will be made to carry it through. They have already got the first big lot of logs in and are at work.

"Captain Burt, who has made the estimate, says that \$700, in addition to what we have, will complete the building. I have no wealthy friends in the states to whom to appeal. The government has no appropriation for this purpose, and so I am writing you in the hope that you may be willing and able to include this among your gifts for benevolent purposes.

"This is the third tour of the Eighteenth infantry in the Philippines, and I have not previously seen a situation quite the equal of this. Our men are all very, very young, most of them away from home for the first time. They came out here four months before I did, and when I arrived I found them, both officers and men, saying, 'When the chaplain comes something will be doing to break this awful monotony.' It is the duty of the chaplain to provide encouragement, recreation, those things which will contribute to the contentment, moral and religious instruction and be a real friend to these boys for whom hearts in the states are yearning.

"We do not expect to get home until Christmas, 1909, and if our tour here is to be at all satisfactory, if the days and weeks are not to drag, something definite must be done for these young men."

### FRESH-AIR PAVILION FOR CONSUMPTIVES

It may be said that today the curative treatment of tuberculosis finds itself little departed from the principles of Hippocrates, who, 400 years before Christ, advised patients to "go into the hills and drink goat's milk."

Modern methods with tuberculosis are still largely advisory, and are regulated by the four essentials: air, food, rest, control; and although this regimen is filled out by certain measures tending to alleviate and aid, without these four essentials the physician of today is able to do little. The International Congress on Tuberculosis, which meets at Washington this fall, will have nothing beyond to offer. The single specific for tuberculosis is yet to be found.

Of course, "new cures" are being evolved constantly. We have had the "vegetable-juice" cure, the "stuf-fing" treatment, and various "inhalations," but one and all prove upon read trial, to be either worthless or else of only superficial value.

However, it must not be conjectured that the curative treatment of tuberculosis has not advanced. The principles are as ever, but they are being more thoroughly applied, and their effectiveness furthered. An unremitting study is being made for a better understanding and appreciation of the fresh air, the proper food, the rest, the careful supervision.

Fresh air maintains its position as first among the requirements in the treatment of tuberculosis. That the fresh air may be unimpeded and absolutely incapable of contamination, the outdoor pavilion is assuming the perfect type. The tent is losing ground; not even the most radical styles can be fully ventilated at all hours of all seasons with the precision of the modern constructed pavilion. The tent is hotter than the pavilion, colder than the pavilion and damper than the pavilion. The pavilion is also being accorded precedence over the cottage plan.—Edwin L. Sabin, in American Review of Reviews.

### HOW A NEWSPAPER SHOULD BE RUN (?)

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- When the critics roast a play Keep it out.
- When two men in anger clash; When a merchant goes to smash; When a cashier steals the cash— Keep it out.
- When they quarrel in the church Keep it out.
- When a teacher wields the birch Keep it out.
- When fine women fair to see Whisper something over tea— Print it! Goodness gracious me! "Keep it out!"
- When two statesmen make a deal Keep it out.
- When another tries to steal Keep it out.
- Stories thin and stories tall; Good and bad and big and small— Anything that's news at all— Hear 'em shout: "Keep it out!" —Pearla Transcript.

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