

LIFE OF A TRAINEE

By Fortunato Asuncion

(A trainee is one who undergoes training. In this case it is military training that was undergone.)

A trainee—he was a father, to be exact—released a sigh of relief when he came out of the gate of the once Manila Garrison. Directly, he went home. How happy the small family was! The son who was the noisiest of the group stared at his father from head to foot. The father upon noticing this stood at attention, perhaps to impress the young son, or perhaps to display his uniform—a sanitary inspector's uniform, as someone remarked.

"I will be a soldier like father," boasted the boy who stood erect, put his chest out and gave an awkward military salute. Happily, the couple laughed.

"You are eager to be a soldier. Cesar, aren't you? You might change your mind when you learn the hard life I spent there," said the father to the son.

"Do tell us, Father, what you did there."

Father, mother, and son gathered in a small room. The father began—

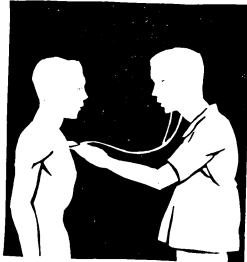
We were in the assembly hall passing a line of doctors and their assistants.

"Take off your shirt!" commanded the first assistant. "Your pants!" barked the second. " . . . your shoes!" " . . . your socks!" " . . . your everything!"

"Father, do you need to do that to be a soldier?" interrupted Cesar. "Aren't you ashamed to take off your clothes there? I think, I just can't. I'll be terribly embarrassed."

"But you have to," continued the father. "Obedience is the first thing to observe in military life." Then he continued.

The hall offered a very peculiar sight. In one corner was a tall man—exceedingly tall for his head pro-



truded over the limit of the meter stick. His height and weight were being determined. In another corner was a dreamy-eyed fellow who found much difficulty in passing the vision test—how would he when he said blue for orange and C for E? In the other corner was a human sack filled to the very neck hopping and jumping with much difficulty. In the center of the hall was a man whose heart was being examined by a physician. The physical examination was long and thorough. I was filled with joy when the head doctor pronounced me fit for the work.

In the afternoon of that first day we were given our supplies—rifle, bayonet, belt, sling, etc. After finding our quarters, we retired. Thus, ended our first day in the training camp.

Incredible, But--

By A. B. L. R.

A mounted white crow is owned by Mr. Adriano G. de Gorastiza, of Pasay, Rizal. Another crow, spotted with white, was once kept alive by Mr. Felix Asuncion, of Magdalena, Laguna.

Beef can be preserved for three or four months when elevated thirty feet from the ground at Haight's Place, Mountain Province, believed to be the coldest place in the Philippines. Meat easily spoils when kept inside the house at Haight's Place unless it is preserved some way.

When the waters of the Pasig River and the Manila Bay rise only a few feet, most parts of the City of Manila become flooded. Manila stands on ground which is but one foot above high water, and there are even places in the city which are below high water.

The population of Cebu, a small island, is almost equal to that of Mindanao, one of the largest islands in the world, which is believed to have enough natural wealth and resources to support the whole population of the Philippines.

The smallest bird in the Philippines is only as large as an ordinary person's thumb.

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