

The Week's *Personality*

M. Victoriano: Ex-Newsman's Fight For Life



Marcelo Victoriano is a former Manila newspaperman who is now fighting for his life against a dreaded enemy—tuberculosis. Victoriano contracted the disease about 11 years ago in the course of his work as a police reporter on one of the pre-war Manila dailies. Although already suffering from incipient TB, the young newspaperman continued with his work until the outbreak of the war when his health even became more impaired.

After liberation, Victoriano “hang on,” being unable to resume his old job because of his ailment which has slowly eaten away half of his lung. In desperation, he sought for hospitalization at the Quezon Institute where Dr. C. P. Jacinto attended him. Hospital physicians in consultation with Dr. Jacinto informed Victoriano that he could win his fight for life against TB if his diseased lung were operated. Before any operation could be undertaken, however, 12 pints of Type B blood, 90 vials of streptomycin, 40 vials of penicillin and 2,000 tablets of para-aminosalicylic acid, should be made in readiness.

These facts were brought by the *Manila Times* to the attention of the public. Response came generously.

Officials of the WDC volunteered to donate the blood needed, a Chinese newspaperman delivered to the *Times* the 90 vials of streptomycin, a hospital director brought in the 40 vials of penicillin, while Marsman & Co. offered to supply the 2,000 tablets of para-aminosalicylic acid. Meantime friends of Victoriano rallied to his needs with financial assistance.

Some years ago while Victoriano was active in newspaper work, he broke the insidious hold of the Magdaragat association in San Nicolas when he exposed its illegal activities by means of an expose in his paper. He was also the one who located the former Miss Iluminada Laurel, 1927 Miss Luzon of the Manila Carnival, who left home and was missing for several days. As a police reporter, Victoriano did his work and did it well in the interest of his readers and his public.

But that is now over—those days of beats and deadlines. Now Victoriano is fighting for his life. But with the generous response of the public, who has not forgotten him, he has a fifty-fifty chance. That is something that heartens Victoriano in his fight for life.