

THE MESSAGE THIS MONTH

OUR NEW SCHOOLS

Our school classes are now going on.

As usual, there are many school-children in all our schools.

In some places, many children cannot be admitted. Why? Because there are no classrooms. There are no teachers. There are not enough books and other things needed in schools. In other words, the government does not have enough money to spend for the things necessary for school work.

In such a case, what would you do?

Well, this is what the government did. It shortened the elementary grades from seven to six years. This means that our schools this year and the years to come are different from our schools of last year.

You may ask, "Could we learn just as much in our new schools as we did in our old schools?"

My answer is Yes and No.

No, if you do not study diligently. If you had two hours to study a lesson but you spent that much playing instead of studying, you would learn very little. Formerly you had forty minutes to study; now you have only thirty. What happens if you do not study?

Yes, if you study diligently. Many school-children do not have time to study because they have plenty of time. That sounds funny, doesn't it? But it is true! You are supposed to study your arithmetic lesson. You have two hours to do it. But you say, "I have plenty of time. I'll play a while before I study my lesson." And you play. And you play on and on. Soon you find out that you have played for two hours and you have no more time to study.

Now, since school hours are shorter, perhaps school-children have more time to study. And, therefore, if you spend your time wisely and study diligently, I am sure you will learn as much as you did before.

So let us make the best out of our short hours in our school.

—DR. I. PANLASIGUI