

# Union Church Hall

● *A Home for Girls*

By Walter Brooks Foley

For fifteen years in the city of Manila there has been maintained a home in which over 150 girls, plus a few smaller boys, have been cared for under capable supervision while they learned the ordinary duties of simple home living, and while they attended a variety of schools. This enterprise is directly sponsored by Union Church of Manila, but is separately incorporated with directors, annually elected from those especially interested in the project. An Executive Committee (now composed of Dr. W. B. Foley, President; Mrs. Murray Crosby, Vice-President; and Mr. C. W. Edmunds, Secretary-Treasurer) has responsibility for supervising the Hall's finances and activities between the Quarterly meetings of the Directors. Miss Sadie Livingstone has served as Superintendent since April, 1925.

The Hall is located in a specially erected building on several acres of ground at 181 Piña, Santa Mesa. A bus is maintained for the transportation of the pupils to and from their schools.

Wards are placed in the Hall by such organizations as Masonic Lodges, the American Guardian Association, the Red Cross. Due to a variety of reasons some parents prefer to have their children in the Hall, and special arrangements are made to meet this demand.

The year 1936-1937 closed with expenditures met in full by receipts of over P19,000. This indicates specifically the practical interest shown in the Hall by the Church which sponsors it and the friends who, through the years, contribute to its support. The Hall maintains its efficiency through the extensive service and financial contributions of friends.

Every effort is made to teach the residents in the Hall self-reliance and dependability. Close cooperation is maintained between the Hall and the Schools of the city which the girls attend. Their religious education is worked out through Central Student Church, corner San Luis and General Luna, Dr. Don W. Holter, Minister. The President of the Corporation, Dr. Foley, conducts a discussion class in practical psychology twice each month which is attended by the older girls; in this class personal and social questions are answered.

The long experience of the Superintendent, Miss Livingstone, has enabled her to gain a thorough back-

ground of the residents, their homes, parents, early environmental problems, and trends of abilities. Records are maintained for each resident, which make it possible to check progress or failure in time to make correct decisions.

Application and guarantee forms are filled out by parents or guardians of entering residents. These forms call for essential information and are approved or disapproved by the Executive Committee acting for the Directors before a new resident is admitted permanently. However, emergency entrances are permitted for short periods. The records indicate that more than fifty girls have been accommodated in the Hall for brief periods. These emergency situations always entail financial expenditures which cannot be foreseen when the budget is made up each year.

Those interested in becoming patrons may secure additional detailed information from the Superintendent at any time, and are cordially invited to arrange to visit the Hall to get a better knowledge of its activities and place of importance in the civic life of Manila.

Girls from the Hall have married Americans, part Americans, Spanish Filipinos, Chinese Filipinos, Filipinos and English. Single girls from the Hall are serving as beauticians, nurses, teachers, stenographers, salesgirls, seamstresses, and housekeepers, as well as going on for more advanced education.

The problem of mixed racial marriages is in the last analysis, seen to be one which the children are compelled to work out. Men and women who insist on complicating life for their children by presenting them with confused hereditary backgrounds often do not have the answers to the questions that naturally occur. Union Church Hall is an organized attempt on the part of thinking individuals to help young people from homes of mixed parentage face a society which is hostile in many ways by preparing them for lives of service and helpful leadership in their local environment. The financial and personal interest and assistance given by any friends is always welcomed by the Corporation and its officers.

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