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November 11, 1916

The Rt. Rev. C. B. Colmore, D.D.,
Box 1115,
San Juan, P.R.

Dear Bishop Colmore:

On February 5th in response to a request in your letter
of January 25th, from which I quote:

"I was staggered last week by the receipt of a report from the hospital showing an indebtedness of nearly \$2000. still remaining against the institution. When Miss Robbins turned the books over to me she handed me bills amounting to some eight hundred, which I thought rather bad. Since her departure I have found others, one for \$500. which I could not doubt, and since then others have been coming in at irregular intervals, e.g., a milk bill of 12 mos. standing from the regular dealer with whom we have been dealing for several years, amounting to one hundred dollars. Several bills have come in since Jan. 1st of this year for goods bought in Dec. 1915. We have no records to show what has been purchased so we can not contest a reasonable bill which we have no record of having paid. They do not seem to have been able to hold Dr. Barker back during her regime and the profits in earnings have not been what they should. In short I find an indebtedness of \$1879. up to January 1st, and some of the creditors behaving rather as though they feared for their accounts. I knew something had to be done at once, and so I have acted in the short time remaining before sailing. I have drawn on Mr. Dickey the Board's Treasurer for \$1000. with which to pay 50% of the accounts and have seen all the firms and have satisfied them with the promise to pay the rest of the pending accounts within four months. I borrowed for the Board from the Board rather than making my note to the bank and paying for the same. My hope of paying both the loan and remaining accounts is in a campaign for funds in Ponce next April, to which all concerned have agreed. I hope it can all be raised here. Expenses

of course are very high and everyone who can is keeping out of a hospital. Dr. Lopez Nussa will probably do more to fill it than anyone else could do now, so I hope current expenses will be paid."

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The Executive Committee passed the following:

RESOLVED: That the temporary use by the Bishop of Porto Rico of \$1000. of the appropriation to apply on debts of St. Luke's Hospital, Ponce, is hereby approved.

You wrote also a letter No. 3, January 25, in which you state:

"Referring to my No. 2 of January 25 will say that I had planned at first to take over with me as much money as the Treas. could spare from unexpended balances in the appropriation schedule, in accordance with your suggestion to Sister Edwardina of some weeks ago. I found that there was an amount of \$200. from December and January, which I am going to consider as deducted from the loan of \$1000. in the final settlement. Also the Treasurer's (N.Y.) report for January 1st shows a balance of \$84.85 on hand in account of "specials received for Ponce, P.R." which I think we might also use, which would bring the amount to about \$785. I don't think I will have very much trouble in raising the necessary amount in April."

On November 7th I received the following inquiry from the Treasurer's office, but in view of the earthquake and general upset of the whole situation I hardly know what to say.

The summing up of the matter is

(1) What you used \$785. of the money that was appropriated for other purposes to pay back debts on the hospital.

(2) The Executive Committee approved this action as a "temporary" matter.

(3) The Treasurer's Department is in duty bound to see that that \$785. is returned.

(4) What recommendation do you wish me to make to the
Executive Committee in view of the general breakup of things?

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Very faithfully yours,

Secretary for Latin America.

ARG/M