The Work of the Church in Porto Rico.

San Juan.

Church of St. John the Baptist. This congregation is composed of Americans and other English speaking people. There is a flourishing Sunday School, and a select pay school in the Condado has been opened in connection with this parish. The parish also has a young Porto Rican woman who is preparing to undertake the work of Kindergarten and first grade school work among the Porto Rican children of the neighborhood.

St. Luke's Church, Puerta de Tierra, has two congregations, one composed of Porto Ricans, the other of the British West Indians. There is a large Sunday School with children from both congregations. The English speaking colored people, members of the Church of England, are well instructed and loyal. A weekly Bible class is conducted for them, as also a mutual benefit association, which insures them a small sick benefit allowance, and burial in case of death. In the basement of the Church there is a good assembly room and here we have a day school of some forty-five children in the lower school grades.

in the suburbs,

Two other auxiliary Chapels/St. Paul's, in which there are two congregations, and the "Annunciation", complete the list of our places of worship in the Capital. It is planned to coordinate all this work in a modified Cathedral organization at St. John's Church under the leadership of the Bishop.

Ponce.

The Church building here is the oldest non-Roman place of worship in the Spanish possessions. Some forty years ago the English residents organized the parish and brought over from England a portable wooden Church, and in that length of time the climate and the tropical ants have well nigh destroyed it. This Church is now used for services in both the Spanish and English languages. In the lower storey of the Rectory there is a hall, where a reading room and games attract the young people. This hall is also the home of the Sunday School and the Mutual Benefit Society of Holy Trinity.

St. Luke's Hospital, situated in Ponce is our most successful institutional work.
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and helps to commend the Church to the people of the Western part of the Island.

We have here a large building thoroughly equipped, and an average of some thirty-five patients are taken care of at all times. The hospital after having been closed for a year, is rapidly winning favor among both the people and the local Physicians. A well appointed Chapel, where regular services are held, marks the connection between the philanthropic and evangelical work of the Church. A good Training School with fourteen pupil nurses, gives an opportunity for the Porto Rican girls to obtain a valuable and useful profession.

Maguel,  

Our building here is also old and disreputable, but still serves as home for the Church services, parish school, and the beginning of a Church home for orphan children. We believe the Church school is the most effective means of holding the children for the Church and the influence exerted here is sure to tell in later years. There are usually forty children in the school, and it is most encouraging to hear them take part in the morning service, before school begins. A few of the girls live at St. Andrew's, as charges of the Church. Most of them have no homes, or come from undesirable surroundings, and the instruction they are receiving, both theoretical and practical, will be the largest factor in their lives.

Vieques,  

The Island of Vieques (Crab Island) lies some fifteen miles off the eastern coast of Porto Rico, and consists chiefly of sugar lands. There is one town of importance, Isabel Segunda, where we have a Church building and Rectory. This work was begun for the benefit of the West Indians who came to Vieques in the earlier days, that they might continue to receive the benefits of their Church. At the present time the oversight of the parish is in the hands of the Priest of Fajardo, who makes fortnightly visits to the Island, across the stormy passage in the twenty foot mail launch. We also have a resident parish worker, who between the visits of the Priest, holds services, conducts Sunday School, the different Auxiliaries and sewing classes.

Fajardo,
Fajardo.
This is our only Mission in Porto Rico which does not own its buildings. We are in great need of a property and have our own plan for using one building for both Chapel and Parish house. We estimate that six thousand dollars will be sufficient to buy the land and put up the building. Our work here is almost entirely among the Porto Rican people and will grow faster as soon as we can procure a home for it.

El Coto.
This is the newest and most prosperous Mission we have among the Porto Ricans. In a rural district, where there are no other advantages for spiritual refreshment, the people as a whole flock to the Chapel of the Resurrection whenever there is to be a service. The Chapel is constructed of concrete, and with the exception of a few gifts of furnishings, represents the self-sacrifice of the devoted Missionary and his wife. The wife is a most capable graduate nurse and her ministrations in the community are a Godsend to the people. Just lately these devoted people have bought an refitted a small building on a piece of property adjoining their own, and have arranged it for the purpose of a night school, dispensary and reading room. The little place is crowded and the doors and windows are full of the eager adults who try to gain some advantage from the instruction being imparted to the younger ones by these Missionaries. We should establish more missions of this kind among these communities which are not receiving the ministrations of any other Christian body.