

CHRISTCHURCH CATHOLIC CLUB

LECTURE ON THE PHILIPPINES

(From the club correspondent.)

The Right Rev. Mgr. Fowler, of Sioux City, U.S.A., who is at present on a visit to Christchurch, delivered a lecture on the 'Philippines' before the members of the Catholic Club and their friends on Tuesday evening, February 14. Amongst those present were his Lordship Bishop Grimes, Very Rev. Father Price, Adm., Rev. Fathers Graham and Quinn (St. Bede's Collegiate School), Rev. Dr. Kennedy, Rev. Fathers McDonnell and Haunrahan.

Mr. J. R. Hayward (president) briefly introduced Monsignor Fowler, who said that his talk on the 'Philippines' could not be dignified by the title of lecture. Monsignor Fowler then went on to say that he spent three years in the Philippines and found them very interesting. When the islands fell into the hands of the Americans, the one great thing that the Church was anxious about was that the religion of the people would not be interfered with. Both his Holiness the Pope and the American Government thought it the best policy to have American Bishops to rule over the various sees instead of Spanish Bishops, and the Government petition his Holiness to appoint American Bishops. The Spanish prelates were quite willing to vacate their sees to the American Bishops. It was then explained how the Taft Commission was formed. It was composed of Mr. Taft, Bishop O'Gorman, Mr. Smith, one of the principal members of the Government, and some military attaches. Archbishop Harty, a life-long friend of Monsignor Fowler's, was chosen as the first Metropolitan of the Islands. Monsignor Fowler accompanied him to Rome as his secretary. On their return to the Philippines they visited Japan. With regard to the Japanese, the thing that impressed him especially was the utter disrespect they had for anything which was sacred to other people, and the manner in which they treated foreigners, especially Americans and the English people. The latter think the Japanese like them, but they do not. Monsignor Fowler said that the Japanese merchants were not trusted by English or American merchants, as they had

no business integrity. What seemed strange to him was that in all banks in Japan, and in large business houses and large stores, the Chinese handle the money. He considered that the Yellow Peril was not a myth. He was very glad to get away from Japan, but was on the contrary glad to get to Hong Kong, which had a great many English residents. It was a thoroughly English city, and very beautiful. After a short stay in Hong Kong they sailed across the Yellow Sea to Manila, which took forty-eight hours to reach. The Philippine Islands are composed of some 2007 great and small isles, the principal being Luzon. Their arrival in Manila was the occasion of very great rejoicing by the people. They were received most cordially by the Governor and the principal officials. The resources of the country are most wonderful, principally untouched as yet, and consist of, among other things, gold, silver, copper, and tin. There are some very fine woods, and the various articles of furniture made from them were then described. The people are small in size and brown in color. They are of Malay race, and the only one of that race which has been Christianised. They are very treacherous. One may have a Filipino servant for years and even then not know him. The Filipinos mistook the Americans' kindness for weakness. Americans see now that the Spaniards knew how to treat the Filipinos. They needed to be ruled with an iron hand. The Americans learnt to esteem the Spaniards in the Philippines. There were no more courteous people in the world, and a Spanish gentleman was one in every sense of the word. The food of the natives is principally rice; they may eat meat once or twice a year, but don't care for it. The natives have very large families, usually from sixteen to twenty children. They are a very moral people, the women being noted for their modesty, and the people as a whole are very religious. The standard of education is a very high one. They have some very fine colleges conducted by the Jesuits, Augustinians, and other Orders. A large number of the Filipinos are educated therein and a good number are studying for the priesthood. Mass is said from 4 o'clock in the morning until 7. After that there is a Mass at 8.30 for the 'lazy Americans.' Their churches are most beautiful, especially the Cathedral of Manila. The Filipino is a great smoker, men, women, and also children indulging in the habit. They are extremely fond of reli-

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