

Carpenter Visits The Sulu Islands

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JOLO, Island of Sulu, May 22, 1900.—(Special Correspondence to The Bee.)—I am still in the land of the Moros. I have sailed westward from Mindanao and for the last week have been traveling among the islands of the Sulu archipelago which dot the sea in a great crescent from Mindanao to Borneo. There are 200 of these islands, some mere dots upon the face of the sea, others composed of mountains and plains, covering an area equal to that of several hundred good-sized farms. Some, such as Basilan, Sulu and Tawi Tawi, even approach the dignity of countries, running from ninety-five square miles in Tawi Tawi to 330 square miles in Sulu, with Basilan coming between at an area of 263 square miles.
 The Sulu islands are among the most curious, wild and romantic of our Philippine

mass rising about one thousand feet almost straight up out of the sea. At one end of it there is some low land. This is about Bongao bay, and upon it are the barracks of our soldiers. There is a fort and some other buildings.

It is said that the pirates used Bongao as a resort in the past, it being especially well fitted for defense, and the jungle on the mountain forming a good place for retreat when attacked. Bongao is only a few hours' ride from Borneo.

Among the Divers.

These islands are all more or less surrounded by pearl fisheries. The chief business is in the shells of the pearl oysters which are gathered from the bed of the ocean near the islands. There is an English company at Jolo which is shipping



IN THE MARKET AT JOLO.

possessions. They are inhabited chiefly by Moros of the most savage order, governed by dattos, and all subject to the sultan of Sulu, with whom the government has made a special treaty, giving him a monthly salary from the United States treasury. His rule is such, however, that we have had to place troops at a number of stations throughout the archipelago. The chief garrison is here at Jolo, but there are soldiers also at Siasi, Bongao and Basilan.

Basilan, Siasi and Bongao.
 Basilan is only a few hours' ride by boat from Zamboanga. It has a population of something like a thousand or so, and its capital, Isabella, contains about eight hundred inhabitants. It is a beautiful island, with good soil, and having mountains covered with timber. The Spaniards used it as a naval station, and built there dockyards, barracks and a hospital.

The island of Siasi is the most important of the Tapul group, embracing about a score of islands and isles. It is situated about forty miles from Sulu, and its capital, Siasi, vies with Jolo as one of the commercial centers of the archipelago.

The town of Siasi is the only port in the Sulu sea at which steamers can come directly up to the docks. The main street of the town, in fact, is built out over the sea. Its houses are up on posts standing out above the water and some of the people go from house to house on stilts, stepping from their stilts to the first floor of the houses and leaving them outside until they are ready to depart. The town is very pretty, being well shaded with coconut trees and doing a considerable business in copra, sharks' fins and shells. We have a company stationed at this point.

Another company is quartered at Bongao to keep watch over the two dattos who live there and the people of the Tawi Tawi group. The group has about forty islands, the most important being Tawi Tawi, a long oval island ninety-five miles in circumference and about three hundred and eighty-five square miles in area. It is very mountainous, lacks water and has almost no cultivated land.

The island of Bongao is a huge rocky

quantities of these shells to Europe. They receive from the poorest variety about \$700 a ton, with the additional profit which now and then comes from the pearls in the oysters, some of which sell for hundreds of dollars apiece. General Bates told me that when he called on the sultan his majesty offered him a pearl as big as the end of your little finger as a present. He says it was worth about \$5,000, but that as he was a government official he did not feel that he had a right to accept it, and hence, to the surprise of the sultan, refused.

The sultan and the dattos have the right to the largest of the pearls which are gathered by the Moros, and it is said that the sultan has a great fortune in pearls stored away in his palace. A German jeweler called upon him the other day and tried to buy some, but he found his majesty as well posted on value as himself and went away sorrowful. The company which is now doing most of the business is composed of Englishmen. They paid, I am told, something like \$25,000 for their fishing outfit and they have a special arrangement with the sultan. They own about thirty schooners and make regular excursions to the pearl fishing grounds. They use divers who wear diving suits and carry on the business after modern methods. The shells are used in manufacturing knife handles, buttons, papercutters and other such things.

I am told that not one-tenth of the money made from the fishing comes from the pearls themselves. The shells are the most valuable, the pearls being merely a by-product. This is so, I believe, in all the pearl fishing centers. In the western Australian fisheries, for instance, the returns for the shells in one year were \$400,000, while the pearls gotten during the same time sold for \$150,000.

The fishing goes on about the island of Basilan and in other grounds in the western part of the archipelago, such as at Bongao and Tawi Tawi, as well as in the seas not far from Sulu. The seas have not yet been carefully prospected, however.

The method of diving for pearls as followed by the natives is exceedingly simple. They use no diving suits, but go naked into



NATIVES OUTSIDE THE WALLS OF JOLO.

SUMMER HEAT ADDS TO DANGERS FROM VARICOCELE

This Insidious Disease Undermines the Foundations of Vital Power.



THE MAN WHO CURES VARICOCELE.

The extreme hot weather greatly increases the danger to which sufferers from Varicocele are liable, for the disease, which is always debilitating, is ten-fold more injurious during the summer months.

The super-heated blood retained in the congested varicose veins is exceedingly unhealthy, as it becomes filled with minute clots, which are a serious menace to the whole nervous system.

Varicocele slowly but surely lowers the standard of vitality and depletes the nervous system, which is the foundation of physical strength and that masterful quality which is best expressed by the term—Manliness.

Its presence is an evidence that, either knowingly or unknowingly, certain physical laws have been transgressed, and its penalty is as certain as the law of cause and effect.

No man who neglects the disease can escape the loss of physical vitality, and in the majority of cases the intellectual forces are dulled to a greater or less extent.

I care not how seemingly successful the sufferer from Varicocele may be in business affairs or social life, his disease has robbed him of the full enjoyment of the pleasures that success should bring.

The Consciousness of Weakness.
 The consciousness of physical deficiency and the knowledge that the condition is constantly gaining headway is enough to tinge all his thoughts with bitterness.

He becomes a misanthrope, because he feels that he must suffer in silence, and as he tries suspensories, electric bolts, tonics and lotions, without relief, he gets the idea that his case is hopeless.

My original method of treatment for Varicocele enables me to assure every discouraged and disheartened sufferer that no mat-

ter how long he has been afflicted with this malady or how serious it may have become, I can absolutely cure him in one week if he will visit me at my "H. M." in Chicago for that brief time.



After investigating every known treatment for Varicocele, I came to the conclusion that no treatment then in vogue was either scientific or successful, and my Electro-Chemic Method fulfills both of these requirements most perfectly.

Living Witnesses to Its Benefits.
 Thousands of cured cases scattered throughout the length and breadth of the land and even in foreign countries are living witnesses of the singular success of Electro-Chemics when administered by myself at "The Home."

Those who visit my institution express surprise and wonder at its magnitude and at the completeness of its scientific equipment, which I have no hesitancy in saying excels any sanitarium in the world devoted to the class of diseases I treat and cure.

Treatment Personally Administered.
 The treatment consists of Electrical and Chemical forces which I apply directly to the diseased parts, and I have never failed to effect a cure by my new but thoroughly tried method.

I have known the old-time, wide-open surgical operation to be practiced with a fair degree of success, but the pain and danger of that procedure is such that I cannot conscientiously advise it.

The Electro-Chemic System is the only treatment that is entirely successful and is not attended by the pains and risks of radical surgery. The patient must come to me to be cured. I have no remedies to sell, but

give my best professional services to all those who are in need of my treatment.

I confine my practice to Varicocele and Associated Pelvic Diseases and to the Nervous and Mental diseases which result from them, thus accomplishing results impossible to the general practitioner.

Rupture Cured.

By an adaptation of my system of treatment, I am equally successful in the cure of Rupture. A truss is a veritable instrument of torture to the unhappy wearer during the very warm weather and it is best to get rid of it as soon as possible and be permanently cured.

The truss is not a cure for Rupture and by no means assures safety to the Ruptured man. A little strain or jar may cause it to slip aside, permitting the Rupture to become strangulated. Death often results from that most agonizing malady—strangulated Hernia.

I would see every man strong and robust—fitted to cope with the burdens and responsibilities of business life. The class of diseases which I treat exclusively are of the most distressing nature, and they develop so gradually that a man scarcely realizes his condition until it has almost unfitted him for the active duties of life.

Don't Take Chances—Act Today.

Understanding so well the treacherous nature of Varicocele and its associated diseases, I would urge every man who even suspects that he is affected with these troubles to lose no time in placing himself under my professional care.

I have always found it desirable to give each case a thorough physical examination, but should you live at a distance and wish to consult me by letter, I will write you an honest professional opinion based on your own description of your case as you understand it.

My books on Varicocele, Rupture, Nervous and Mental Diseases, and Vital Power are free to those who write for them and tell me what their symptoms are. If books are to be sent sealed, ten cents should be enclosed for postage.

D. D. RICHARDSON, M. D., 1266-74 Michigan Ave., Long Distance Phone South 1029. CHICAGO.

the water, tying heavy stones to their feet to help them sink to the bottom. They usually choose grounds where the pearl oysters are not more than forty feet below the surface. The oysters are attached to the rocks and the diver cuts them loose with his knife and puts them in a net bag. He then gives the signal by jerking the rope about his waist and is dragged to the surface.

The Moros are expert divers and swimmers. They have trained themselves to holding their breath under water and some can remain below the surface for about two minutes at a time. The business is exceedingly dangerous, for there are numerous sharks and a man is liable to lose a leg or an arm, if not his life.

After the shells are gathered they must be cleaned and the oysters shucked out before they are ready for sale. They are often piled up on the shore and left there to decay, in order that the pearls may be squeezed out. Not all of the oysters have pearls in them, but a very poor shell may sometimes contain a very fine pearl, so that great care is used in handling the product.

How Pearls Are Formed.

Pearls, you know, are caused by some foreign substance working its way into the flesh of the oyster. It may be a grain of sand, a small pebble or other foreign matter. The oyster tries to protect himself from

it by putting a coating of pearl about it and this coating goes on and on until at last we have a pearl.

Indeed, I am told that pearls are now being made in Japan and China by taking the oysters from the sea and carefully opening them just wide enough to slip a particle of sand between the leaves of the shell. The oysters thus treated are planted and fed and within a short time each begins to grow a pearl. It is said that the French bore holes through the oyster's shell and insert a little sliver of glass and about this the oyster grows a pearl.

I have seen something of the pearl fisheries of different parts of the world. Some of the best until recently have been in Ceylon, but more are now being discovered in the Persian gulf, where about \$2,000,000 worth are taken out every year. The fishing there is done by naked Arabs, who plug up their noses and ears before they go down into the water and, like the Moros here, tie great stones to their feet to enable them to remain down more easily. In Panama the diving is done by the native Colombians. They find both pearls and shells and some of the shells are exceedingly fine. Not long ago a sea captain made a contract with the natives of Panama to clean the barnacles from the bottom of his ship. They did so and among the shells fastened to the hull found an oyster containing a pearl worth \$5,000. The captain claimed that the pearl

should be his, but he was not able to persuade the Colombians to give it up.

I am told here that the best pearls come from oysters which are about four years old and that they range greatly in value according to color and shape. Those which are perfectly round are most prized. The most of the Sulu product consists of small pearls, many seed pearls being found. The largest pearl known to the world is about as big around as an English walnut. It weighs three ounces, but its shape is not a perfect sphere.

English Can Keep a Secret.

I find it very difficult to get much information from the English concerning the pearl industry here. They have succeeded to the business of a Chinese, who evidently found it quite profitable, for he is said to be a millionaire and is one of the richest men of the Philippines. The English evidently have a good thing and prefer to keep the details concerning it secret.

What they pay the sultan I do not know, but I am told that the Chinese gave him \$1,000 a month for the privilege of fishing in the deep waters of the archipelago.

During the past week I have coasted around the island of Sulu. It was one of the most beautiful of the Philippine group, made up of mountains and valleys covered with rich grass and here and there spotted

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