

AMERICAN WOMEN IN MANILA

Unattached Live in Messes and Share the Expenses.

ALL SERVANTS ARE MEN AND BOYS

Messals Are Good—Autos to Ride In at Five Dollars an Hour, but No Rubberneck Wagon.

WASHINGTON, Oct. 12.—(Special).—Miss Beale A. Dwyer, home on leave from the Philippines—and might be glad to be here—is nevertheless far from gloomy at the prospect of going back next month. Miss Dwyer is assistant in the American library at Manila, where she has been in the federal service for almost four years. She belongs to the rapidly growing colony of American women who are helping to do Uncle Sam's work out there. "While there are more American women in Manila than there used to be," says Miss Dwyer, "the men still outnumber us ten to one. Most of the unattached women are in the federal service and our mode of living is probably borrowed from the army, which established certain local customs during the military regime. "We do not live in boarding houses, but in messes. Three or four or more club together, take a house, hire servants and live co-operatively, one member of the mess being in charge. The mess is generally known by the name of the person who runs it. "Where are you living?" somebody asked. "Oh, I'm at Mrs. Brown's mess." Or, "I'm at Mr. Jones' mess."

Servants and Their Pay.

"All the servants are men and boys. The Filipinos do not send their girls out to service. In fact girls do not do much work of any kind outside their own homes. Occasionally they work in some small factory, and before I came away I saw one of two salesgirls in the large shops. But it is not customary. "We pay our cooks—and the Filipinos are good cooks—about \$15 a month. The assistants, or house boys, receive from \$5 to \$10 a month, but the \$5 boy is likely to be incompetent. "I was in one mess of three—all women—and we had only one cook and one house boy. But when there are men in a mess the number of servants runs up to five or six for every man brings his own muckchuck. "Out there, as everybody wears not only white clothing, but also white shoes, the men hire a boy as muckchuck to keep their things in order. I had no special boy for my own service, but gave our house boy a few pesos a month—the peso is worth 50 cents in our money—to whitewash my shoes—plance them, as we say. Of course, the servants are always on the lookout to pick up a few extra pesos, but even then they are much cheaper than our servants in this country. "Food and Meal Hours. "As for food, we live well out there. Breakfast is between 7 and 8 for those in the civil service, I mean. It is almost always fruit, eggs and coffee. Coffee seems to be a necessity. "Eggs and chickens are plentiful. In Manila we have certain stock ideas on which we are forever tapping, one of them being the theory that the chickens are not like those back home. We say they have no taste. "But now that I am here I must admit that I can't see any difference. Our Filipino chickens are just as good as those that have scratched American soil, except perhaps that they are not so well fed, the people being too poor to feed them. "At 1 o'clock we have luncheon, or as we say there tiffin. That is a hearty meal of meat, vegetables, salad and dessert. Dinner is at night; the average American has it at 7 or 7:30 o'clock. But the fashionable Filipinos of Manila have it at 9 o'clock and remain at the table until 11. "There is a good deal of entertaining among the Americans, most of it taking the form of eating, for the simple reason that there isn't much else to do. There is driving and automobile—oh, yes, we have autos! We even have public ones for hire at \$5 an hour. "A Seeing Manila wagon? No, no, not yet. But that's a good idea. I should wonder if the livvymen who keep the public autos would think it a good plan to start a Seeing Manila service after a while. "Only Five Weeks Behind. "Of course, stranger can't come so very often, for the only way to get there is by steamer, and, as we know to our sorrow, mail steamers arrive only on an average of once in two weeks. That is the worst feature of the life there. "We are always five weeks behind our world at home. There is the cable, but it is expensive that between private individuals it is rarely used except—well, except to tell of sickness or death. A private cable message generally means a tragedy. "But the mail steamer is a never failing topic of conversation. Before it arrives everybody is guessing when it will come. When it does get in there is a grand rush for the postoffice. And from that time on for several days there is but one question between friends: "What did you hear?" "The Americans are fortunate in living where they can see the harbor, and they know as soon as anybody when the steamer arrives. Manila itself—that is, the end city, which had its walls and its moat—is as level as a floor. "Outside there was originally a circle of little native villages, each with its own name. In the course of time these have become merged with one another and now are a part of Manila itself. The old city is called the intra-muros, or within the walls. "Americans on High Ground. "The Americans have settled up at Ermita, in the Malate district, one of the sec-

tions of the city which lie on higher ground. It has a fine view, is cooler, the drainage is better and—though this may not have been considered—it is on the side of the city toward the William McKinley post, and in case of need could be more easily reached by the troops than if they had to march clear through the city. "That post, by the way, is something in Manila we are very proud of. It is the largest brigade post Americans have anywhere. It is a community in itself, with streets, barracks, quarters, stores and its own postoffice. "It is only five miles from Manila and is reached by trolley in thirty minutes. The parade ground was made by hand, you might say. It was all ups and downs, ridges and hollows. But it has been put into fine condition. Trees have been planted along the streets and the officers' wives who live there have pleasant quarters. "As a rule the American women in Manila do not see very much of the native society of the city. There are a few of the leading Filipino families who mingle freely with the Americans, but most of them form a circle of their own. They are practically without exception mestizas; that is, of mixed blood. "There is almost no such thing, certainly not in Manila, as an absolutely pure-blooded Filipino. There has been through many generations intermarriage with foreigners, especially with the Spaniards, until the mestizo is present in an infinite variety of degrees of mixedness. "American-Filipino Matrimony. "Any marriages with Americans? Yes, quite a number. Men in the civil service some teachers, two officers—who, I think left the army after their marriage—have Filipino wives. "Americans as a rule do not regard their marriages with favor. But the men themselves say they love the girls they marry and that these girls make them good wives. They don't want fashionable ones. "It is true that many of the Filipino girls are very attractive, but it is doubtful whether such marriages are wise in the long run. If the man returns to America his wife will find herself strange to what is closely kin to her husband. There is plenty of room, you see, for disappointment on both sides. "But the women of the rich mestizo class in Manila form a charming and cultivated society. The people live luxuriously and entertain extravagantly. They speak several languages, are devoted to music, going constantly to the Italian opera during the season and having a great manumuscules of their own. "It is the ambition of every boy, and in fact every girl, of this class to go to Paris and live. So and so has just returned from Paris, where she has been pursuing a course in voice culture," or something of that sort. "The average American woman does not meet these Filipino society women at all. We see them in their carriages or at the theater or occasionally in the shops. That is all. Sometimes an American who speaks their language and is found agreeable is taken into their set. But it is not common. "Women Have Their Rights. "Filipino women of other classes, however, are very much in evidence. It is they who conduct the retail business; they are the Chinamen. The women of the Philippines have a position which is enjoyed by the women of no other oriental race. "They can buy, sell and hold property and can bequeath it as they like. This gives them a position and an independence unique among the oriental women. In the schools which the Americans have established girls are taught just as the boys are. Among the native teachers whom I saw the best were women teachers. "The Filipinos all over the islands are eager for education. I visited some schools in the provinces and in the buildings which are visited occasionally by the priests for the saying of mass, though the host is not kept there all the time. The priests have placed these viasfas, as they are called, at the service of the government for use as public schools, which shows a friendly attitude on their part. "One of the things I noticed in these schools indicates a very pleasing trait of the Filipinos. They were many young boys—at school, remember—with the baby of the family in their charge. They would get up to read with little Mr. Baby astride their hip, in the same position that the babies are carried by the mothers. "This kindness and affection is one of the most striking features of family life there. Filipino fathers are devoted to their children. They will take the baby and walk miles to church, whether the mother happens to go along or not. "The father even takes the baby with him to his cock fight. Outside of a house you see a group of men standing and at their feet is not one of them is holding a baby. Even young men carry their baby brothers and sisters around with them without any of the apologetic embarrassment an American would show. "Of course the cynics will say that the men are so lazy that they would rather take easy going charge of the baby than to do the harder work with which the women are busy. But I don't think they are as lazy as they are said to be. "Under the Spaniards they did not receive more than 25 cents a day for ordinary labor, not a great incentive to industry. Very often they received a good deal less. Sometimes they did not get anything at all, but were drafted into work without pay. "Since we have been in the islands tramways have been constructed, sewers put in and other public works carried on in a way to show that the Filipinos really can work. Of course we pay them an unprecedented rate. "All through the east Americans have paid wages which have made the other foreigners groan. But we want the work done and done quickly. We have the money, moreover, and we are willing to pay for the 'right away' which seems essential to us. "As a matter of fact we are paying for unskilled labor at the rate which formerly prevailed for skilled labor 20 cents a day. In lots of little ways, too, we have upset old standards of compensation. "For instance, if a driver asks me a pesos more than the regular rate I pay it. It's only 5 cents, anyway, and my time and nerves are worth more than that. But an Englishman will stand out on the sidewalk for half an hour and he'll ask about that 5 cents! It's a matter of principle with him. He isn't going to be imposed on. "On the other hand, though the Americans pay more, they expect more work than the Filipinos have ever been doing. In fact, I think we ask a little too much of them. "Our white men out there work hard themselves, too hard. I know many American men who are shortening their lives by the hard work they are doing in our insular possessions. "Hours and Labor. "It isn't possible to work in tropical countries as we do here at home. Yet many of our men try to do it themselves and expect some approach to it from their native assistants. "The government working day there is even hours, except in the hottest season, when we have a single session of five hours—from 9 to 1 or from 1 to 3. These

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we go home to tiffin, after which we do not go back to work. "If we did we would be too exhausted to accomplish anything. I really think there would be better work done if the ordinary day were six, or even five hours, instead of seven. "We expect the natives to take from thirty minutes to an hour for luncheon, as we do in this country, and then get down to work again. Why, before we came those people and their fathers before them were asleep at 3 o'clock. "Now, you will see young men at their desks, their heads drooping or even down their arms, and they are fast asleep, at 3 in the afternoon. I've often seen them that way and hadn't the heart to awaken them. "The Americans themselves feel the effects of the climate. It isn't a bad climate, except for the long continued heat. "Beginning with the first of October we have three ideal months, like our own beautiful autumn weather. Then comes the summer, which is very hot. About in May begins the rainy season, and though the nights are cooler than the days are steaming. "There are mountainous regions where it is cool and pleasant. They used to be beautiful autumn weather. Then comes Mr. Taff had a road built by railway engineers from the terminus of the railway, 12 miles from Manila up to Baguio, 5,000 feet above the sea. There, at Baguio, there are pines and frosts and a deliciously cool atmosphere. "The building of the road was very much

criticized at the time, not only by the native papers but in this country, too. It cost 3,000,000 pesos and was always getting out of repair. But it has justified itself now. "It is a splendid highway and of the greatest benefit. Ambulances meet the trains in the morning, and by going right in through one can reach Baguio before daylight. Or one can stop at Twin Peaks, a halfway rest house, and break the journey by one or more days there. Baguio was made the summer capital and has proved an incalculable boon. "Conditions are Encouraging. "There is a fascination about the work here which it is hard to explain. It is totally different from the routine of ordinary government service here. "There you seem to be doing something, getting somewhere. And yet it is true that the natives accept all that we have done for them in the way of schools, of sanitation, of improved industrial conditions, very much as a child would take a piece of cake. They have always been exploited by those in authority over them and they probably think we are at the same game even if they do not see through it. "Americans are apt to overestimate the Filipino at first. Even the poorer natives have a quiet gentleness which gives them dignity. But it is not an indication of the depth of character the stranger imagines it to hide. Sometimes it covers only stupidity. "But with their eagerness for education and with the improved conditions we have given them they are making really great

progress. They have certain decided gifts; for instance, the gift of eloquence. "They are born orators. They are naturally good actors, too. The schools give English plays, and when 'The Merchant of Venice' was produced on one of these occasions the part of Portia was taken by a Filipino girl who was really wonderful. "I must say one thing, and that is I have never been treated with anything but respect by the natives. Often I am obliged to go home from the library alone, even as late as 10 o'clock at night, but I have never had an unpleasant experience of any sort. "For one thing the natives stand very much in awe of the American men, and indeed, not a little in awe of the American women as well. Most of them are very small, below the height of the average American women. And like children, they are more or less dominated by mere bulk. They have become accustomed anyway to seeing American women go about alone and they accept it as a part of the situation. "Merely Between Friends. "Rivers, who was making a memorandum in his note book, muttered something heavily under his breath and threw down the third pencil. "What's the reason the points of these blamed things break off as soon as you begin to use them?" he said. "It's because the boy that sharpens them uses a machine," said Brooks, who was hammering away on a first page story. "What kind of a machine?" "One that works with a crank." "Don't say that, dear boy," remonstrated Brooks. "I work with a crank all day long."—Chicago Tribune

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