

THE BOARD OF MISSIONS
PROTESTANT EPISCOPAL CHURCH
JUN 10 1918
A. R. GRAY
281 4TH AVE. N. Y. N. Y.

SAINT LUKE'S MEMORIAL HOSPITAL
PONCE, PUERTO RICO.

MAY? - 29th, 1918-

My dear Dr. Gray-

Thank you for your letter, which I have delayed answering, as I wanted to make up my mind definitely, before writing, as to what I was going to do- I have just written to Bishop Colmore, to say that I am going to cancel my passage for the 12th. of June, as Dr Lopez, seems so anxious that I should stay- Please do not think that it was Dr. Lopez alone that brought me to this decision, but I am feeling so much better, and thentoo, the Roman Catholic Hospital here is fighting the Hospital and Dr. Lopez, and he seems to think that it will mean so much, not only to the Hospital, but to him, to have no change at this time, that my fighting blood is up too, and I will stay for a while until the stress is over- The Romans are angry that Dr. Lopez has allied himself with this Hospital, and they are planning to run him ~~down~~ and us out of business-

Dr. Lopez is such a nice man, and has done so much for the Hospital, that it seems to me that we should support him, now when his own church is fighting him-

The Doctors also are taking sides, and of course the people will be influenced, so we must try to make this the best Hospital in Ponce, or else, close the doors- The crying need at present, is to have the nurses House enlarged, and to build some better private rooms- There should be a second story made to the ward building, for some really good, private rooms, and let these be used for the less expensive ones- There is a lot of money in Ponce, and the people are very keen to have everything they want when they are ill- The Nurses are now crowded together in a very uncomfortable way, simply because, we have had to open another ward, that has heretofore, been used for their Dormitory- The Hospital has been very full this month, and we have been able to pay off all of the old debts, except the balance due to the Deaconesses, for their horse and carriage, this, I did not know about, until

just the other day, and I told the Bishop that there were so many things that seemed to me so much needed, that, that debt would have to wait a little-
Please see what you can do towards helping us to do this necessary building-
It seems to me that my mission in life, is to build Hospitals, and then, after living through it ^{under} the most uncomfortable circumstances, to move on to the next-
Really after all that I went through last year, I marvel that I can sit here and write to you asking for help to build another addition to a Hospital-
I do nothing but make the way smooth for the Religious Workers- You did not say anything about Mrs. Rafter, as far as I can see she could do very little in the way of religious work or as business Manager if she does not know Spanish- Of course I do not mean to say anything to influence you in any way, but the poor old Dr. Barker is an example of a person who wants to do religious work, but has no training- *of any other*
The people who are needed to do Missionary work are the people who have some definite training, and are PRACTICAL- Sentiment is all very well, but it is of very little use, alone- I suppose you are saying to yourself, that I am trying to be fresh, or, cheeky- but I am not, I am just an old Missionary, who has seen a good deal of all kinds of Missionaries, and am thinking of writing a book, which will be interesting reading- As to my salary, as you say, I will speak to Bishop Colmore about that but I don't think it is possible for me to take the offer of \$66.66, per month, and pay \$26.66- for board- not at this time of my life- I must make arrangements for my funeral- so if the Bishop and I do not come to terms, you must not think that I am not a good Churchman, but only trying to make a living-
With very kind regards, I am-

Very truly yours-

Ellen T. Hicks