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Cliff Lodge,  
New London, N. H.

My dear Mr. Post:

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Mr. Heylman and I will probably spend this winter in Porto Rico again where we plan to build a small Spanish house on a hill-top adjoining the Polytechnic Institute grounds.

As you may know, we are much interested in the Institute, and have invested about twenty-five thousand within the last two years in the Athletic Field, which has been named Heylman Field, in memory of our boy Dick, who died in Porto Rico.

The first athletic meet was held last winter, and we had the pleasure of awarding the prizes to the winners.

We find the students a fine lot of boys and girls and the college life interesting at all times.

I always attend at least one student breakfast and prayers, although it means getting up at half-past five and walking up the hill before daybreak with the aid of a flashlight.

This last winter I arrived at the dining-room a few minutes early, and found the electric lights burning in the open-air kitchen where the girl students were preparing breakfast.

I was invited to have breakfast with them, and enjoyed it,- a big dish of cereal with sugar- no milk, coffee with milk and sugar already added, and Porto Rican bread, no butter.

Boys and girls sat at the same table.

Morning prayers are held just after breakfast, as the students still sit at table. Every student opens his own Bible and hymn-book,- a boy plays the air on a cornet, and all join in the singing of one or two hymns- they love to sing- then a portion of Scripture is read, alternate verses in English and in Spanish. Dr. Harris, who always leads morning prayers, then explains the Scripture lesson, or gives a few helpful words to start the day; then leads in prayer and the service ends with another hymn.



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By this time daylight is breaking over the beautiful hills and the students go to their dormitories or to classes.

It is a very simple lovely service.

The greatest need of the college today is money to finish the dining hall begun by Mr. Berwind and left unfinished by his sudden death.

The foundations and half the kitchen walls have been built on the hillside just below the present miserable wooden shack,- really only a floor and roof- which serves for the present dining room.

It is particularly inadequate during the rainy season. There are no facilities for any kind of domestic science classes- a course very much needed by the girls: indeed the present kitchen is most crude and inconvenient.

The new dining room plans provide reading and rest rooms for the boys on the lower floor, store rooms which allow food to be purchased in quantity and economically: large kitchen for classes in cooking, and a dining hall, which can be used for morning pictures and lectures.

The question of amusements is one of the important sides of the college life. The "movie" theatre in the town of San German is small, dirty and would be a fire trap in case of fire. The college should have its own movies at least once a week, I think, but there is no hall where they could be shown.

Table manners are wanting in many of the students who come from poor small country homes, but nothing can be done to help this until decent tables and chairs are provided. Long wooden benches are in use now. The dining hall is the great need of the college now, and I hope it may soon be provided.

Please pardon this long letter. I know that as a trustee of the Institute you are interested in the life of the college, and so you may be interested in what we have seen from the inside of the college.

Harry sends his cordial greetings and I send my deep affection for your friendship through the years.

Gratefully,

M. T. H.

September 4, 1929.