

REVIEW:

LITERARY GUIDEPOST

By FEDERICO S. MARQUARDT

FIRST MALAYAN REPUBLIC

By GEORGE A. MALCOLM (Christopher, Boston, Mass., \$5.)

George A. Malcolm landed in Manila in 1906 with \$10 in his pocket and a University of Michigan law degree in his trunk. During the next 37 years he was as close to the development of the Philippines as any American could have been. He was dean of the College of Law at the University of the Philippines, a justice on the Philippine Supreme Court and an adviser to the American High Commissioners. Two of the three Presidents of the Philippines and innumerable cabinet officers, senators and congressmen studied law in his classes.

WHEN MALCOLM arrived in the Philippines it was customary to say that Malaysians couldn't govern themselves. After all, they never had. Not long after Justice Malcolm left the Philippines, an independent Republic of the Philippines was set up with American blessing. What this Republic is like and how it came into being is the subject of FIRST MALAYAN REPUBLIC.

Unlike many American "oldtimers", Justice Malcolm clearly understands that the war and independence changed things in the Philippines. He realizes that the destruction of war and the occupation by Japan have left scars that will not be healed quickly. And yet, weighing the evidence judicially, the author concludes that "the outlook is not discouraging" for our daughter republic in the Far East..

JUSTICE MALCOLM mixed personal recollection with great research in securing his material. Although the book will be a standard reference work for years to come it is written so that casual readers will enjoy it.

Two of the author's anecdotes deserve repetition. One involved the Spanish priest who was sent to Manila to make a study of the Philippines. Many years later he died, and in his effects was found a large book. Every page in the book was blank, except the first on which was written. "Here is all that I have found out about the Filipinos."

THEN THERE was the jest the Filipinos made during the Japanese occupation. "When the Spaniards came, they called us 'Indios' and we were insulted," said the Filipinos. "When the Americans came they called us 'goo-goo's' and that insulted us. But when the Japanese came they called us 'brothers' and that insulted us most of all."

The Philippines is America's showcase in the Orient. Justice Malcolm tells the story of the Filipinos in a shrewd but sympathetic manner.