MANY of the agencies which are helping to draw the Americas closer together either work so quietly that the general public rarely hears of them, or else they are individually small, seemingly of little importance, though of great significance when one discovers how numerous and how constant and how effective these small factors are.

Since Porto Rico is Spanish-American in its past, Anglo-Saxon in its present, and I trust in the deepest sense Pan-American in its future, I shall note briefly some of these unofficial cultural interchanges as we in the University of Porto Rico have seen them actually at work on the island. The university with its bilingual and bi-cultural program has been especially active in fostering such interchanges, and, to use a time honored metaphor, we have been able to observe through the press of the Americas, how the ripples have continued widening from every pebble tossed into the Caribbean. Some of you may remember, for example, the accounts of the bilingual debate between Yale university and the University of Porto Rico, which took place this spring. On that occasion the young men from Yale, North-American all of them, spoke brilliantly in Spanish against Imperialism, which was defended by the Porto Rican debaters. On the following evening these latter youthful American citizens whose native language is Spanish, attacked Imperialism, in English, in their turn, and were answered by the Yale group. The delight and interest of the audience, and their equal pleasure in both groups of debaters, were apparent at every moment. The four days during which the young visitors from the north were in Porto Rico were of real importance, both on account of the impression which they left and because of the impression which they carried back north with them.

We have a regrettable tendency in most parts of the modern world to underestimate the importance of methods of cooking. Yet, how often international misunderstanding is complicated by preparing the right food in the wrong way! The University of Porto Rico is doing its best to forestall any further such complications as regards the Americas by preparing a series of bulletins on tropical foods, under the direction of its department of home economics. We have in the tropics many fruits and vegetables which should be a valuable addition to your diet; you have many which we need and are beginning to aclimatize as well as import. Moreover, recipes should be both interchangeable and adaptable. When I speak of your familiarizing yourself with our fruits and vegetables I am not thinking of the more spectacular varieties—the pink coconuts, for instance, which are found in a few spots in Porto Rico and the Philippines; and the white egg-plant, with fruit the color and size of an egg, a native of our part of the world and the variety which gave the familiar name to the species; and the rose-apple which is almost as much flower as a fruit. I refer rather to such every-day practical vegetables as the vañita, which is—how shall we describe it?—like a potato that grows already buttered, with none of the potato's drawbacks and all its advantages! It is nourishing and delicious, but does not make one put on flesh. The university's bulletins on tropical vegetables give methods of preparing these and many others. Some of them are traditional tropical recipes, brought into accordance with modern knowledge of dietetics; some are frank and delightful exportations from the United States. Our adaptations of northern recipes might amaze you, at times; just as we are amazed to see you making salads of alligator pears. We use the alligator pear for almost everything else, but the mere thought of adding more oil to that oiliest member of the vegetable kingdom seems to us eccentric beyond words. Have you ever cut it into little cubes and scattered them over a clear soup with which they blend deliciously? Out of the dozen satisfying ways in which it may be eaten, won't you try this one, next time, in the interest of international understanding?

The purpose of the university of Porto Rico has been not merely to introduce what is best from our university system in the States, but to conserve the rich Hispanic culture of the Porto Rican past; to make the island a point of confluence of these two magnificent currents. It is a North American university in a Spanish American environment! We feel each of these two factors to be an advantage. To the university have come, for instance, some of the greatest figures in the intellectual life of contemporary Spain: men such as Dr. Tomás Navarro Tomás, Américo Castro, and Fernando de los Rios. I mention them not merely for their own eminence and the benefits they have conferred on our university, but in order to speak of an important cultural agency developed by Spain, whose example in this the United States would do well to adopt.

Spain has never reconciled herself to the loss of her Spanish American colonies, and in many ways, indeed, has never lost...
them wholly. And now, Spain has decided to reconquer them. Not as colonies, not as territories, but as the inheritors and developers of that culture which made the Golden Age of Spain magnificent beyond any other triumphant epoch of the world. And as agents of this re-conquest, the Instituciones Culturales Españoles, the Spanish Cultural Institutions, are being established throughout the Hispanic world. Ours in Porto Rico was the third to be established; they exist also in Chile, Argentina, Santo Domingo, Mexico, Cuba, New York, and elsewhere. Their purpose is purely cultural: they take no part, no interest, in politics, commerce nor anything other than the conservation and growth of what is legitimately Spanish in Spanish America. The Cultural in Porto Rico, for example, has been generous in giving the aid which has made it possible for our university, a young school confronted with great financial difficulties, to number among its faculty those men I have mentioned, and others: men who have filled chairs at Oxford, Cambridge, Columbia, Hamburg and Vienna, and whom we could not have called to us for years to come, without this aid. One of them, explaining their rôle in this hemisphere, said simply, "We are missionaries"; and all who have been benefited by their mission will, I am sure, agree with me in hoping that such missionaries may continue to come; and to wish that the United States might establish similar cultural agencies. If we had a cultural center for the United States in each of the countries mentioned, distinct from politics and commerce, a center such as these Spanish Culturales which ask nothing but an opportunity to contribute to the enrichment of the national life, I am sure we should feel the benefit in every way—even commercially and politically. I might add that these are not established by the Spanish government but by the voluntary association of enlightened Spaniards resident in the different countries.

That, by the way, indicates a very important source of mutual friendship or misunderstanding: the North Americans resident in Latin America and the Latin Americans resident here. One need not go into details of the criticisms usually levelled against such groups. Basically, criticism reduces itself to the elemental fact that a resident in a foreign country is generally a transient and adopts the viewpoint of a transient—which does not make for good fellowship. The important thing in such a relationship is to do away with foregone conclusions and keep an open mind. If to this may be added a real interest in one's environment, no problems are likely to arise.

The lack of understanding that comes from actual ignorance is notorious. Most North Americans know nothing even of Porto Rico, which has been under the Stars and Stripes for thirty years; so it is hardly surprising that they are apt to confuse Uruguay with Uganda. Only last week, in Washington one of the most eminent scientists of the United States, a man whose name is known all over the world and with whose achievements we are all familiar, said to me, speaking of our recently appointed governor, "I suppose he has a hard task ahead in Porto Rico, with all those scattered islands having no settled government." Porto Rico is one island, one very small island almost exactly the size of Long Island, and its government house, still in use, was already busy with age when the Pilgrims landed at Plymouth! It has, moreover, a long tradition of obtaining legislation by peaceful methods; it was the only Spanish colony of the New World which in all its history never had a revolution. Yet though Porto Ricans have been citizens of the United States for more than a quarter century, I have heard a very distinguished southern writer ask my husband with keen interest, "What do you people think of your king?"

One important and too little recognized factor in removing or in creating misunderstanding is fiction. The North American in a Spanish story is apt to be tall, uncouth, and childish in everything except his ability to strike a bargain, if a man; and arrogant, domineering and ugly, if a woman. The Latin American of the North American films and the blood-and-thunder novel is like something that never was on land or sea. Our novelists who write about Spanish America have usually spent only a few months there at the most; and even the Spanish phrases supposed to give color to their books are almost always wrong, in grammar and in spelling. Too many are like the traveler who saw Latin America on foot, and in his book about his trip, bitterly criticizes the inhospitality of the "Latin Americans" because an Indian family in a stone hut high up in the Andes were afraid to let him in when he suddenly appeared at their door one night demanding food from their inadequate stores. And yet, even according to his own story, he was ultimately given not only food but shelter in spite of the natural lack of enthusiasm of his involuntary hosts!

There is at least one American writer who is doing golden service in helping to break down these barriers of ignorance. Constance Lindsay Skinner has written a delightful book for boys, The Tiger Who Walks Alone, in which the hero is a South American revolutionist who is a gentleman and a patriot and, what is more, displays that sense of humor which all Spanish Americans have in real life but which they all seem to lose in fiction. She has also a book on California, The Ranch of the Golden Flowers, in which the interaction of Spanish and Anglo-Saxon traits are sympathetically portrayed. The same author's publishers announce a

**BUST OF MUÑOZ-RIVERA**

Known as the George Washington of Porto Rico, Muñoz-Rivera was Luisito Muñoz Lee's grandfather. This bust is in the principal park of San Juan.
OCTOBER, 1929

new novel for fall publication, *Red Willows* with North American and Latin American characters, in which we may confidently expect a similarly faithful, discerning and illuminating portrayal.

Translators, again—the most abused and patient lot of folk on earth—are helpful in making us better acquainted; though we hope the time will soon come when citizens of the twenty-one republics will no longer need translators. There is no reason for our not speaking each other's language. Among these translators we may mention Alice Stone Blackwell, Isaac Goldberg, the late Thomas Walsh. We may recall also such friendly gestures as that of Harriet Monroe who dedicated an entire number of her magazine, *Poetry*, to poets of Spanish America; and Mr. Goldberg's services in writing and Knopf's in publishing his studies of Latin-American poets. Ernesto Montenegro, on the other hand, has introduced Sandburg, Frost, Robinson, Masters, and many other North American poets to the Spanish reading public. In fact, there are a dozen translators of our writers into Spanish for everyone who translates from Spanish into English. *Babbitt* and *Main Street* have become familiar terms in Spanish America; and many commentators in the Spanish press have called attention to the fact that gentlemen prefer blondes but marry brunettes.

Harvard university has just initiated an investigation which will undoubtedly prove to be a valuable contribution to knowledge, and incidentally to friendship. A committee has been appointed, with five years to work in, to complete a bibliography for each of the Latin American republics. One of the members of this committee, Doctor Waxman, visited Porto Rico, Santo Domingo, and Cuba, a short time ago, and the reception which he received in these places evidenced their appreciation of the interest shown in their writers by the great northern university. These investigators may well prove to be cultural missionaries in the sense in which our visiting professor from Spain used the word.

AGAIN, the Inter American Commission of Women is a very vigorous and a very friendly force in promoting friendship and understanding. It is the illustrious offspring of an agency, at first purely unofficial—a committee of four, of the National Woman's Party—which won popular and governmental approval resulting in the official creation of the present body. It consists of one representative from each of the countries of the Pan American Union, appointed by the sixth Pan American Conference to determine the present status of women in these twenty-one countries and to make a report to the seventh conference when it meets in Montevideo in 1933; together with recommendations looking toward the establishment of equal rights for men and women in this hemisphere. The commission's first year has largely been devoted to the vexed question of the nationality of married women and their children; a subject so vital and immediate that it has claimed the attention of the press all over the world, thereby serving to introduce the purposes and methods of the commission under highly favorable circumstances. The consequent friendly and widespread response throughout the Americas has been overwhelming proof that women—and, I assume, men—in our different countries can co-operate quickly, efficiently, and delightfully, once their interest is really aroused and they are convinced of the need of action. Another example of such co-operation is the institute of Public Affairs of the University of Virginia. The growth and increasing interest in the round table on Latin American relations is proof of the general desire for accurate knowledge, the determination to do away with old barriers of ignorance and misunderstanding. Williamstown has for some years past been proving the same thing.

Last year, in another section of the institute mentioned above, some one made a stirring plea for fewer and better billboards. The reason was the wholly inadequate one of delivering our landscape from defacement. But how many have stopped to think in how great part billboards and other advertising represent us and misrepresent us abroad? Too often our advertising is written for that mythical Latin-American of the cheap novels—the one who, fortunately, has never existed in human form. But many pages of advertising matter carry material written for his presumable taste and creating an unconscious prejudice against the United States. In our advertising in English here in the states, we often show a fine imagination, poetic and practical at the same time. It would be helpful in many ways if we employed those qualities in the matter we sent to advertise our products in Spanish America. Even matter which is excellently presented in English may not prove effective nor even intelligible in Spanish: This is particularly true of that favorite device of our advertisers, an ap-
I cannot understand," a puzzled Dominican said to me as he studied a large and striking billboard, "why the fact that that extremely attractive child wants to go to bed should presumably induce me to buy a new tire for my car!"

Science of course, is the great international bond. Especially, has medical research helped to unite investigators in this hemisphere. It has been prophesied that the next quarter century will be the greatest yet known in the history of Tropical Medicine; and American research, north, south, and central, is already playing a very important part in making it great. Men like Ashford in Porto Rico, Lutz in Brazil, Iturbe in Venezuela, by their organized work of investigation and their generous interchange of ideas, are of the noblest type of international mediator.

I have mentioned almost at random a number of different agencies, some large and some small but all helping to make up the sum total of influence. These, and dozens of others, are unceasingly at work. And the rest of us will benefit by their work if we permit ourselves to do so.

When my little sister was ten years old, I gave her a Spanish First Reader and began teaching her Spanish. After a week or so of the book with its stories and pictures of children in the Spanish countries, she exclaimed one day, "Why, those people speak differently but they are really just like we are!"

It was the most important lesson she learned that summer.

IN 1892 the Territorial University of Oklahoma invited the youth of its seven counties: "Any young man or woman who has finished the course in a good country school may enter the university and find educational work and a welcome."

These words were written with deliberate seriousness for in 1892 the Territorial University of Oklahoma had the spiritual commodities of work and cheer to offer in plenty. Of material things it had little. The equipment it did possess was more discouraging than encouraging.

So it was that the Territorial University of Oklahoma began its existence by placing importance on cheer and work, the things of the spirit. So it is that perhaps because of this quite elemental beginning it has grown into the present magnificent State University of Oklahoma, with an annual enrollment of 5,000 students and several millions of dollars invested in buildings and grounds.

This far in our history mention has been made only of the abstract things of the university's birth and early existence. To understand the concrete side of the development it is best to listen to Dr. David Ross Boyd, the university's first president, and hear the chuckles and anecdotes of Dr. S. Roy Hadsell, who as plain Roy Hadsell, undergraduate, served Doctor Boyd as secretary.

Today Doctor Boyd is more than seventy years old. He is tall, his body structure is accented, his eye is alert and his voice still holds a chuckle. He is of the stuff of pioneers.

That his work was to be the work of a pioneer becomes obvious when we view Doctor Boyd in retrospect the physical appearance of Norman, O.T., the site selected in 1890 by the territorial legislature for the University of Oklahoma.

"I looked off to the southwest where our university was to be located. There was not a tree or shrub in sight. All I could see was the monotonous stillness of prairie grass. Later I was to find out that this prairie grass wasn't so monotonous as it seemed for its sameness was broken at quite frequent intervals by buffalo wallows. In August they were dry and hard and not even prairie grass could grow on them.

"To the southwest led a trail, it couldn't possibly be called a road. I was to learn that this trail lead out to Adkins ford which was near the present bridge across the South Canadian. It was the trail followed by the thirsty cowboys who came into Norman on Saturday nights. They couldn't get liquor in the Chickasaw Nation across the river so they made plentiful use of Norman's fifteen saloons. This was also the trail to be followed by my students a year from that time when our first building was to be built.

"These details I couldn't know of then, though. I could know only the actualities