

# The Life of Patients at Culion Leprosarium

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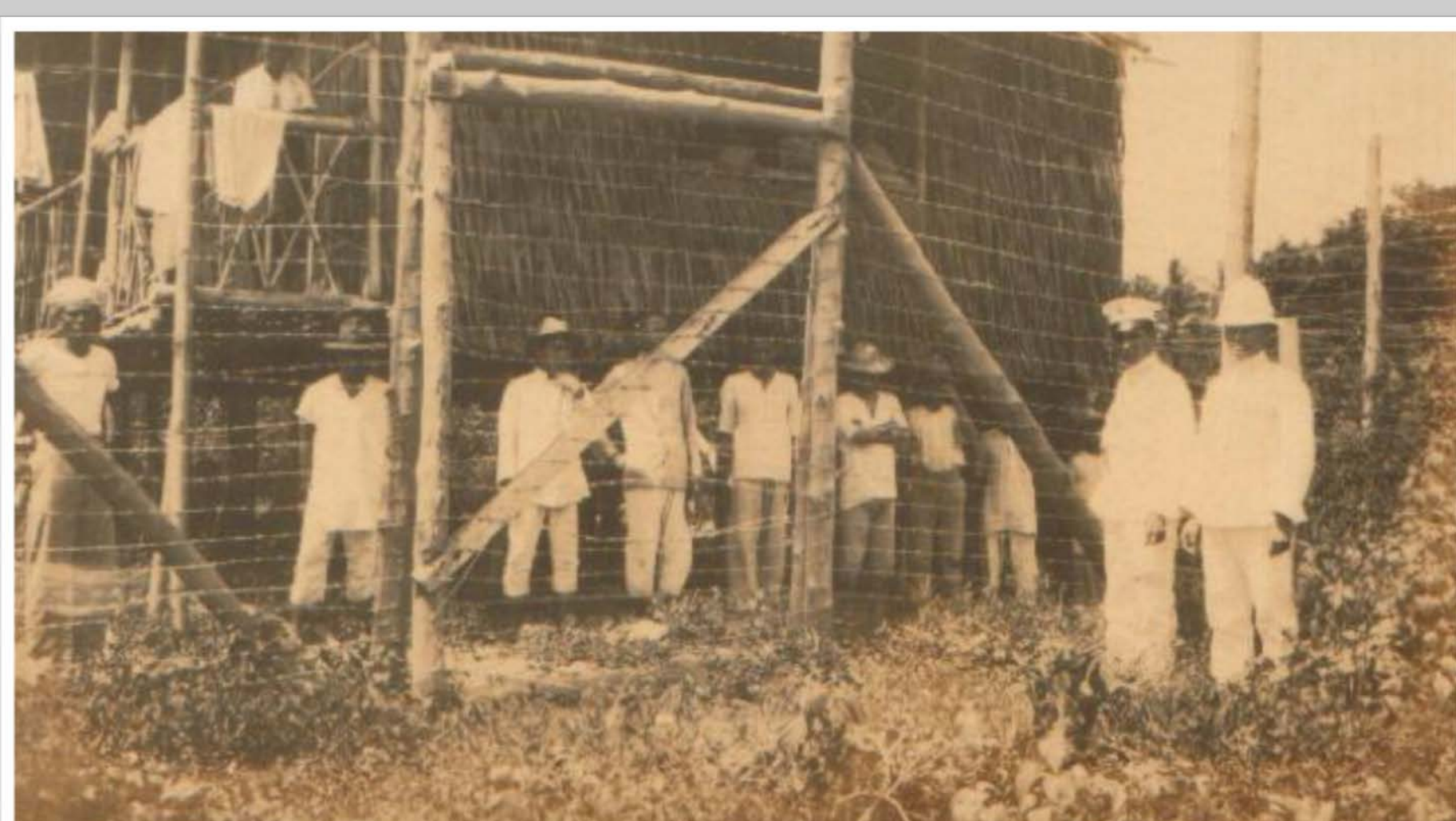
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#### Abstract

This research examines the outlook in approach to care for the leprosy patients at Culion Leprosarium in the Philippines through medical, social, and religious aspects of life at Culion. Frederick and Elizabeth Jansen, Presbyterian missionaries, received criticism for caring for Protestant leprosy patients as if they would never leave Culion. Tension between Protestants and Catholics at Culion revealed a disparity in the outlook of treatment for patients. Catholics tended to focus on treatment and recovery of patients with the objective of returning them to Filipino society. Protestant missionaries focused on establishing a lasting refuge for the patients at Culion. Would the patients with leprosy remain at Culion for their entire lives or would they eventually be cured and remain healthy enough to return to Filipino society? The Catholic and Protestant missionaries and doctors alleviated the physical and spiritual anguish of the people of Culion. In spite of this, apathy lingered among the patients. Patients cured of leprosy were allowed to return home or remain at Culion. The remaining patients participated in work, schooling, and farming at Culion. Frederick Jansen noted that work such as tailoring and carpentry, schooling, improved infrastructure, and availability of smallholdings for farming boosted the morale of patients.

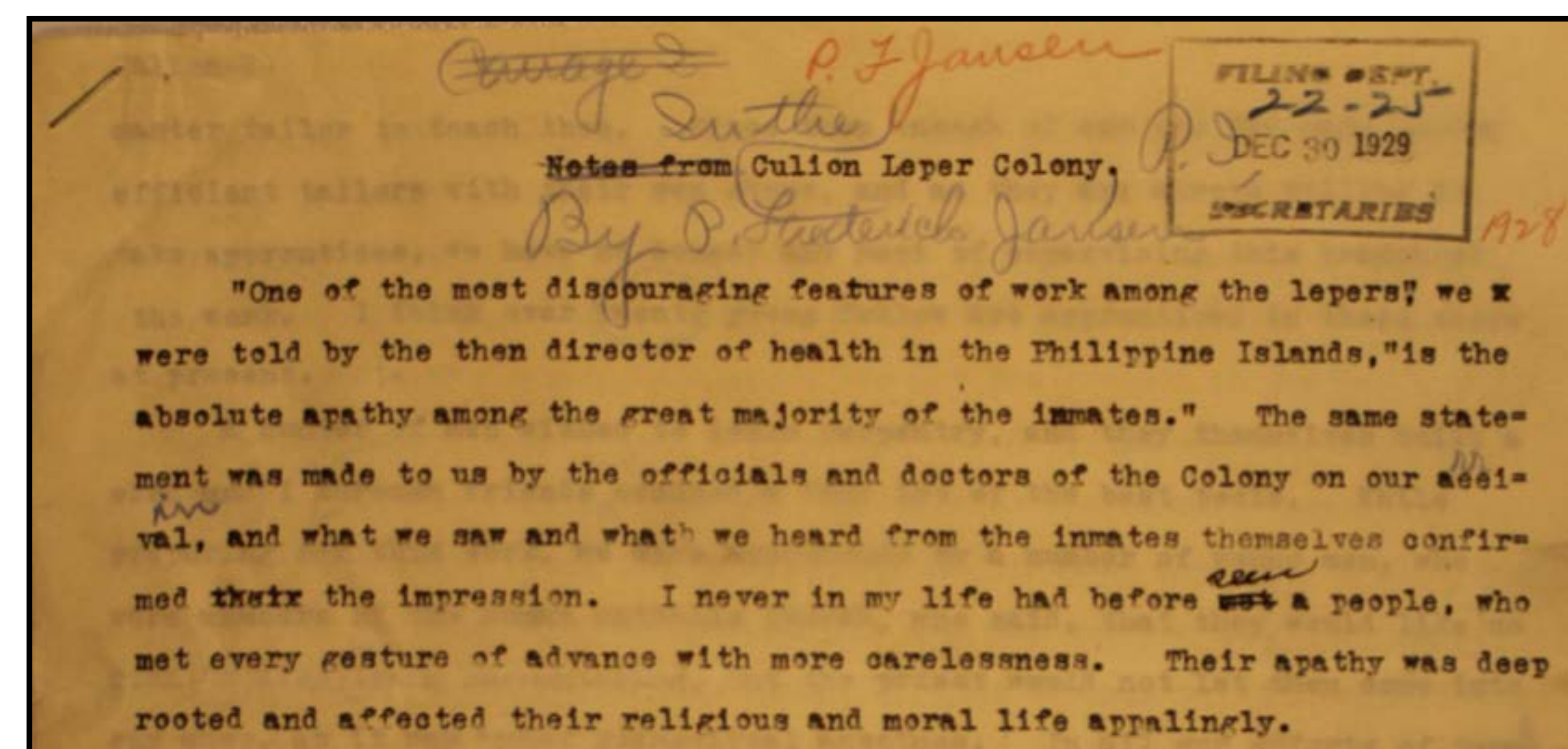


1. Arrival in Culion.



2. Quarantine upon arrival.

#### Apathy at Culion



#### 3. Frederick Jansen's notes from Culion.

Apathy is a lack of feeling or emotion; lack of interest or concern. (Merriam-Webster)

#### Frederick Jansen's observations:

- "One of the most discouraging features of work among the lepers is the absolute apathy among the great majority of the inmates"
  - "I never in my life had before seen a people, who met every gesture of advance with more carelessness"
  - "Their apathy was deep rooted and affected their religious and moral life appallingly"
- (RG-85-15-6 Missionary Correspondence 1928)

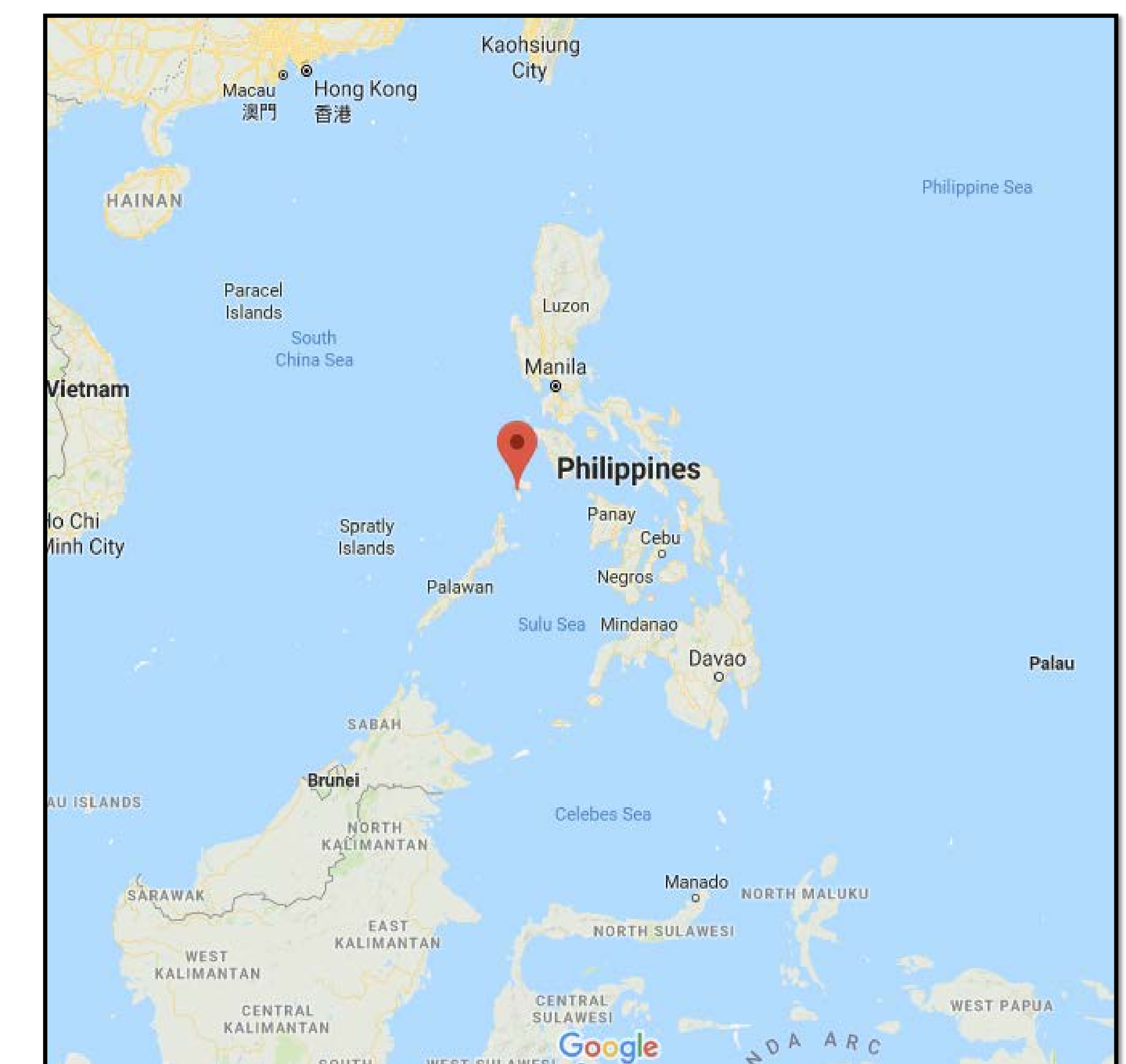
#### Frederick Jansen notes that the following activities boosted the morale of the patients:

- Active work (i.e. tailoring and carpentry)
- Schooling
- Improved infrastructure (i.e. new roads)
- Availability of small holdings for farming



4. Leper's ward.

#### Location within the Philippines



5. Municipality of Culion, Palawan, Philippines from: "Culion, Philippines". Map. Google Maps. Google, 5 Apr. 2018.

#### Citations

1. Arrival in Culion. Culion Sanitarium & General Hospital, Culion. [www.culionsanitariumandgeneralhospital.com/culionmuseum.html](http://www.culionsanitariumandgeneralhospital.com/culionmuseum.html)
  2. Quarantine upon arrival. Culion Sanitarium & General Hospital, Culion. [www.culionsanitariumandgeneralhospital.com/culionmuseum.html](http://www.culionsanitariumandgeneralhospital.com/culionmuseum.html)
  3. Jansen, Frederick. Notes from Culion Leper Colony. 1928.
  4. Leper's ward. Culion Sanitarium & General Hospital, Culion. [www.culionsanitariumandgeneralhospital.com/culionmuseum.html](http://www.culionsanitariumandgeneralhospital.com/culionmuseum.html)
  5. "Culion, Philippines". Map. Google Maps. Google, 5 Apr. 2018.
- "Apathy." Merriam-Webster. Merriam-Webster. [www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/apathy](http://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/apathy). Accessed 5 April 2018.