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The PTUC and the KMP

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So we finally have:

High, through a net of branches,
Flake-fluttering yet more high,
A splash of plaid into azure,
Swirls up the butterfly.

There were eight word changes even after the original form was set; and more tinkering would bring about further refinement. To make the students see the value of such tinkering in improved meaning and tone is half the battle.

Such a simple stanza as this *can* be written—and re-written over and over—by nearly every student, if the careful preparatory steps are followed. This task of “writing a poem”, even unsuccessfully accomplished, unquestionably improves every student’s future compositions. All profit from a heightened awareness of word and phrase values and of the inner workings of sentence organization.

H. B. FURAY

The PTUC and the KMP

The following communication from the General Secretary of the Philippine Trade Unions Council (PTUC) was received last August by the Editors:

We have come upon a copy of PHILIPPINE STUDIES for April 1961 (Vol. 9, No. 2) and our attention was called to an article entitled “Philippine Labor Unions” by John J. Carroll.

The article in question is quite enlightening and it contains certain illuminating passages. However, we would like to correct an inaccuracy contained in the first paragraph on page 245, which we quote:

The PTUC was for a short time a part of the KMP¹ and both of them owe their origin in part at least to outside influence: the U.S. International Cooperation Administration in the case of the PTUC and the International Confederation of Free Trade Unions in the case of the KMP.

The PTUC was created in 1954 upon the initiative of different existing labor unions including those which subsequently withdrew and joined the KMP. The PTUC absolutely does not owe its origin to the U.S. International Cooperation Administration. The latter has definitely nothing to do either with the birth or the present operations of the PTUC.

In 1959, in its desire to bring about unity and solidarity in the Philippine trade union movement, the PTUC agreed to work hand in

¹ Katipunan ng Manggagawang Pilipino.

hand with other organizations, including those that formerly were part of it but which had since withdrawn from it, in order to form a united front which eventually became known as the KMP. For certain reasons which we need not dwell at this time, the PTUC and several groups later on broke away from the KMP. It is wrong to say that the KMP owes its origin to the ICFTU influence. If there is any such influence, it was only because the PTUC, which was one of the prime movers for the organization of the KMP, was then—and still is—the national trade union center in the Philippines which is recognized by the ICFTU.

We make this correction in our interest that the Carroll article, which was excellently written, would conform more to the truth.

JOSE J. HERNANDEZ

The Teaching of Biology

In the history of Biology, beginning with the eighteenth century, there has been a strong tendency or direction of investigation from higher to lower levels of organization. This reductionistic or atomistic approach probably began with Cuvier and his detailed comparative analysis of organs. Bichat carried the process a step further when he classified human tissues. Schleiden and Schwann are generally credited with the statement that all organisms consist of cells, although Lamarck, Dutrochet and other biologists had actually stated this concept, the cell theory or principle, several years earlier. The cell theory established the cell as the ultimate unit of life. And in all plant and animal cells there is a complex substance, first recognized as living by Dujardin and first called protoplasm by Purkinje.

But this was not to be the end of elementalizing in biology. Now the cellular physiologist began to study the physical and chemical properties of protoplasm. He discovered that living cells are composed of the self-same chemical elements as are found in non-living things. However only a few of the existing elements have been found in living matter, the most abundant ones: carbon, hydrogen, oxygen and nitrogen. These elements along with a few less abundant ones exist in the form of compounds of great complexity—carbohydrates, lipids, proteins, hormones, vitamins, and enzymes.

Today there is great emphasis and progress in molecular biology. The structure of certain large molecules found in cells have been studied as well as the role of DNA (deoxyribonucleic acid) and RNA (ribonucleic acid) in protein synthesis, the kinetics of enzyme activity, and the details of cellular structure as revealed by the electron micros-