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Editor's Preface

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All too often measures taken to resolve the "squatter problem" are more concerned with the beautification of the city than with the real problems of the people who find themselves forced to live under such undesirable circumstances. On the other hand, efforts on the part of government and the private sector to provide decent housing for the growing urban population are increasingly seen to be quite inadequate to cope with the magnitude of the need. William J. Keyes, S.J., shows the practical insolubility of the problem in terms of such conventional solutions, and suggests some radically different approaches, based on an extensive field study of the way the poor themselves perceive their needs and of the methods by which they have attempted to supply them.

Among Filipino writers in English, Manuel Arguilla continues to attract the attention of literary critics. Joseph A. Galdon, S.J., looks at Arguilla's stories and analyzes how they fit into the tradition of pastoral literature.

Leo Boethin, S.V.D., describes how from his mission station in Abra, he discovered the first comet of 1975 before it was observed in any of the world astronomical observatories. Pedro S. de Achútegui, S.J., gives an account of the First Asian Congress of Jesuit Ecumenists, held in Quezon City this past year. Thomas R. Fitzpatrick, S.J., who presented a report in the previous issue on current government measures to increase taxes on private educational institutions, examines some of the basic principles which seem to be behind current government thinking on private education.

Among recent books which have attracted much attention is

the effort of Renato Constantino to take a new look at the Philippine past, and to write a nationalist "people's history." The editor gives an extensive analysis of the extent to which Constantino has succeeded in this major historical enterprise, and attempts some suggestions of his own. Several briefer reviews complete the issue, in which we hope to have met the orientation set out in the previous number, of balancing research into Philippine history and culture with attention to contemporary Philippine problems.

John N. Schumacher, S.J.