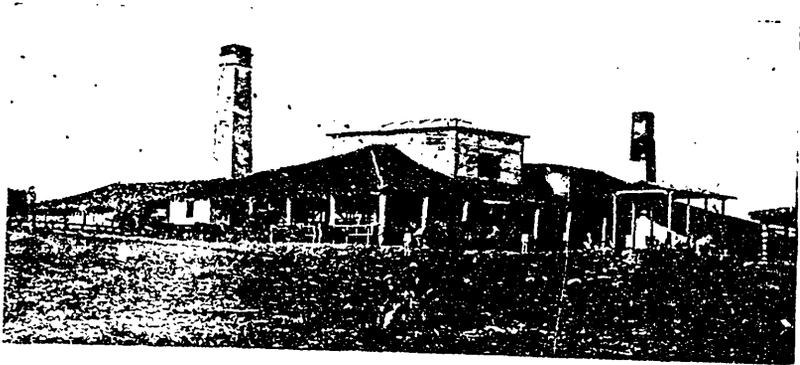


# Methodist Magazine and Review.

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CUBA—HER PRESENT CONDITION AND NEED.

BY THE REV. ARCHIBALD M'LEAN.\*



CRUSHING MILL ON A SUGAR PLANTATION.

Although the people of Cuba have had a form of Christianity for four hundred years, a recent visit to that noble island has convinced the writer that it is a proper field for Christian missions. Priests and nuns are everywhere. Churches abound, and their bells are ringing almost incessantly. Religious processions are numerous. Mass is said in every church several times every day in the year. Children are baptized and confirmed. Lovers are married. The dead are buried. All ecclesiastical functions are punctiliously performed. The forms of devotion are as scrupulously observed as in Italy and Spain and other Roman Catholic countries. At the same time it is quite apparent that the church has done very little for

the moral elevation and spiritual well-being of the people. Sunday is much like other days. True, the government offices are closed, so are most of the wholesale business houses, and perhaps some shops; but, for the most part, the retail places are open, and tradesmen pursue their callings. At all hours of the day, and far into the night, lottery tickets are hawked about the streets. If one goes to mass in the morning, he thinks that he can do as he pleases the remainder of the day. Sunday is the great day for receptions and dinners. Even on Easter the people are free to sing and dance, to eat meat, to trade horses, and to do many other things of the same sort. Sunday is the day for bull-fights and cock-fights. On Sunday evening the attendance at the theatres is the largest, and the crowds are

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