

BRIEF NEWS NOTES

In the first number of the PORTO RICO HEALTH REVIEW, July issue, there appeared an article on Plague Prevention in Porto Rico, by Dr. A. L. Carrión, Chief of the Bureau of Plague Prevention. Permission to publish said article in the *Pan-American Bulletin* has been granted in accordance with the following letter from the Managing Editor.

PAN AMERICAN UNION,
WASHINGTON, D. C., October 2, 1925.

DÉAR SIR:

I am greatly impressed with your article, entitled, "Organization of a Bureau of Plague Prevention in Porto Rico," in the July issue of the PORTO RICO REVIEW and should like to publish it, in Spanish and Portuguese versions, in the *Pan-American Bulletin*. To this end I am writing to inquire whether you would be willing to grant permission to do this, and also whether you would be good enough to coöperate further by loaning the original photographs which illustrate the article. Full credit will naturally be given both you and the REVIEW.

Thanking you in anticipation of your good offices,

Very truly yours,

ISABEL K. MACDERMOTT,
Managing Editor.

DR. A. L. CARRIÓN,
Chief, Bureau of Plague Prevention,
Department of Health, San Juan, Porto Rico.

PROMINENT GUESTS

Among distinguished visitors who have been in Porto Rico recently are Drs. Frederick F. Russell, Director of the International Health Board of the Rockefeller Foundation and H. H. Howard, Director of the same Board for the West Indies.

Dr. Russell is not a stranger, having resided here immediately after the Spanish-American War and later on for a short period of time during the first epidemic of bubonic plague in 1912. The work of the Department of Health with the cooperation of the Rockefeller Foundation which is being carried on for the eradication of uncinariasis and for the control of malaria in Porto Rico has been inspected throughout the Island.

Dr. Howard has also visited the Island before in connection with

activities of the Rockefeller Foundation. Accompanied by the Commissioner of Health Dr. Pedro N. Ortiz and Drs. Hill and Earle, resident physicians who represent the Rockefeller Foundation here, the visitors made a thorough study of actual conditions returning north on the third of December.

Undoubtedly the visit of these distinguished officials will prove of great benefit in the further development of the work which is being carried out.

DR. WILLIAM DARRACH

Dr. William Darrach, Dean of the college of Physicians and Surgeons of Columbia University has just made a hasty visit to Porto Rico in the interests of the School of Tropical Medicine. After holding conferences with Governor Towner; the President of the Senate, Honorable Antonio R. Barceló; the Chancellor of the University, Dr. Thomas Benner; the Commissioner of Health, Dr. Pedro N. Ortiz, and other prominent officials he returned to New York, having been in the Island only two days. Dr. Darrach was the guest of Colonel Bailey K. Ashford, U. S. Army Surgeon.

Dr. Antonio Fernós Isern, by special invitation of the International Health Board of the Rockefeller Foundation, has been on the mainland making a study of the local sanitary organizations as well as of the methods used in the Southern States for the control of malaria.

Dr. Fernós, with officials of the Rockefeller Foundation, visited Alabama, North Carolina and Maryland and as a result of his observations in these States, doubtless our health work in general will be greatly benefitted.

On his return from the south Dr. Fernós spent some days in Washington, D. C., having visited the Resident Commissioner of Porto Rico, Honorable Félix Córdova Dávila; the Bureau of Insular Affairs, the Census Office and other important Departments.

Dr. and Mrs. Fernós returned on the *S.S. Porto Rico* which arrived the 24th of November, bringing with them most pleasant impressions.

Dr. Ramón Lavandero, chief of the Bureau of Social Medicine and Puericulture of the Department of Health has just returned

from a three months' vacation spent in the north, part of which time he dedicated to the study of sanitary organizations and health centres of New York, Boston and Schnectady, where he spent most of his time.

Dr. Lavandero brings back a great many suggestions and is enthusiastic as to plans which he expects to carry out in connection with the very important work of his bureau.

Dr. Ernesto Quintero, Chief of the Bureau of Venereal Diseases of the Department of Health has recently returned from an extensive trip abroad and on the mainland. In Paris he attended the Urologic Clinics in charge of Dr. Marion of Lariboisier and others conducted by Professor Lugen in the Neker Hospital.

Dr. Quintero also observed the latest methods used for the treatment of Syphilis in Saint Antoine and Saint Louis hospitals by the most eminent French syphilologists and in Vienna, where, according to the judgment of Dr. Quintero, the most advanced methods for the treatment of syphilis have been established, he took the regular course given by Professors Finger and Wagner Jauregg in the Central University of that city.

Immediately upon his arrival in Porto Rico Dr. Quintero took up his duties again in the Bureau of Venereal Diseases.

The "Society for the Prevention of Tuberculosis in Children" was organized not long ago and due to the persistent efforts of its directors it has developed into a strong organization which is rendering incalculable benefits to pre-tuberculous children. This society puts forth every effort for the protection, education and permanent welfare of such children and in this way saves them from becoming victims to the dread White Plague.

Among the most humanitarian and practical activities of this society has been the conducting of summer camps for pre-tuberculous boys and girls who attend school, taking them out of their unwholesome home environment, and giving them a vacation in which they have the advantages of hygiene, pure air, varied and nutritive food, and country life which affords them new strength and a better physical preparation for the next school year as well as resistance against succumbing to disease.

This society has also started a Temporary Home for pre-tuberculous children which serves the purpose of a preventorium. In

cases where the families of these children are very poor this society finds homes for them among families of comfortable means.

In Porto Rico, where it has been the custom to expect the Government to grapple with all the constructive health and welfare projects, the examples offered by this group of private persons taking the initiative in this kind of work, which is so important and which affects us so seriously is most gratifying. Tuberculosis in all its forms stands out conspicuously among the causes of death in Porto Rico, having caused during the past fiscal year 3,085 deaths, or 221 for 100,000 population. The organizers of this society deserve the heartiest backing and warmest response from all.

Dr. Américo Oms, who has rendered valuable service in the Department of Health for some years, has just tendered his resignation as Medical Inspector. He will now devote his time to his own private practice in the city of Ponce.

The Clinic of Venereal Diseases (Social Hygiene Centre) which was located on San Sebastián St., San Juan, has been transferred to Puerta de Tierra, 5 Lugo Viña Street, where the Tuberculosis and Social Medicine Dispensaries were formerly located.

The clinic is now situated in a strategic point between San Juan and Santurce and almost in the heart of Puerta de Tierra, these being the three urban centres which constitute the city of San Juan.

The Tuberculosis dispensary which was formerly located on San Sebastián street has been removed and is now splendidly situated on the Boulevard del Valle facing the ocean.

During the latter part of October and first of November a slight epidemic of typhoid fever broke out in the town of Lares, twenty-two patients being registered.

The necessary steps to check the epidemic were taken by the Bureau of Transmissible Diseases and the situation was readily controlled with such good results that the epidemic was confined to its original source of outbreak and no deaths were registered.

From investigations made it was confirmed that the epidemic was due to a deficient water supply.

By the first of the year the new leprosarium located in barrio "Las Cuevas" of Trujillo Alto district, at a distance of about twenty

kilometers from San Juan, will be occupied. Although all the buildings and divisions of the hospital are completed and its equipment is ready, the delay in opening the leprosarium is due to the fact that the sewerage system is not finished. This, however, is progressing rapidly and the patients will be transferred from Cabras Island to their new home by the beginning of the New Year.

Dr. W. R. Galbreath, Medical Director of the Presbyterian Hospital of this city has recently returned from a short vacation in Canada.

While north Dr. Galbreath was made Fellow of the American College of Surgeons, the title being conferred at the Annual Convocation of the Clinical Congress of the American College of Surgeons which met at Philadelphia, October 30th, 1925.

During the last year the Presbyterian Hospital has added to its always splendid record and has been included in the list of Approved Graduate Medical Schools. It has also been placed among the list of hospitals for Higher Instruction in Tropical Medicine, and recently was approved by the American College of Surgeons for inclusion in the Hospital Standardization Report, being the only hospital in the West Indies and South America with the exception of two in Montivideo, Uruguay, that has attained this honor.

A letter received from the American College of Surgeons, is as follows:

AMERICAN COLLEGE OF SURGEONS,
40 EAST ERIE STREET, CHICAGO, ILLINOIS,

MISS JENNIE ORDWAY, *Superintendent*,
Presbyterian Hospital,
San Juan, Porto Rico.

MY DEAR MISS ORDWAY:

Enclosed please find our last Hospital Standardization report including our list of approved hospitals released for publication to all papers of the United States on Monday, October 26, and announced at the Hospital Standardization Meeting of the Clinical Congress of Surgeons.

You will note that Presbyterian Hospital has been found acceptable and has conformed with the Minimum Standard as required by the American College of Surgeons.

In due time, a hand-engrossed certificate for display in the hospital (the property of the College) will be loaned to you and held as long as you maintain the approved standard.

With kind regards, I remain

Sincerely yours,
(Sgd.) EDW. I. SALISBURY,
Director of Inter-American Affairs.