

BRIEF NEWS NOTES

NEW HOSPITALS

A new Municipal Hospital has just been inaugurated at Aguadilla. This building is modern in every way and has been completely equipped to meet the accepted hospital standards.

During the past two years, twelve new municipal hospitals have been constructed in various towns and cities to take the place of the old, inadequate buildings which were formerly used.

MORE CLINICS

Two Tuberculosis dispensaries, one in Coamo and the other in Yauco, have been opened recently by the Bureau of Tuberculosis of the Department of Health. There are now eleven Tuberculosis dispensaries operating in Porto Rico.

CHRISTMAS CHEER FOR MANY

The Porto Rico Chapter of the American Red Cross was fortunate in gaining the cooperation of different philanthropic persons and organizations of San Juan in carrying Christmas cheer this year to those least remembered.

The patients of the Insular Anti-Tuberculosis Sanatorium were made happy by a musical entertainment given by Miss Amalia Paoli and her pupils, after which ice cream and cake were served.

At "La Perla", Municipal Hospital for chronic cases, the Red Cross distributed pajamas, fruit and cigarettes to the men patients and the Ladies Guild of the Union Church in cooperation with the Red Cross distributed night gowns, towels, powder, dressing sacks, boudoir caps, fruit, etc., to the women patients. Music was also arranged for by the Red Cross and for the first time in years these most unfortunates forgot their troubles in the joy of being remembered at Christmas.

The Day Nursery children were given clothing by the Red Cross and the little chaps from the Home for Destitute Boys were given toys.

The Junior Red Cross members of Lincoln School prepared an entertainment for the patients of the Monteflores Hospital in which the different nations were represented. The way Christmas is observed in these different nations constituted the main feature of this program. From the Christmas bags sent to the Porto Rico Chapter by the National Red Cross Headquarters for soldiers and sailors, those left over were distributed among the ex-soldiers at Monteflores Hospital and at the Anti-Tuberculosis Sanatorium.

TEMPORARY HOME FOR PRE-TUBERCULOSIS CHILDREN

The inmates of the Temporary Home for pre-tuberculous children were made happy by the gift of a Christmas tree, toys, candy and fruit which were contributed by members of the board of the Society for the Prevention of Tuberculosis in Children and the generosity of Mrs. Eduardo Georgetti and Mrs. Genoveva Lago of San Juan.

BETTER HEALTH FOR THE BOYS

The Boys' Work Committee of the Young Men's Christian Association of San Juan in cooperation with the Elks and Rotary Club has been carrying out an interesting program during the past year for the newsboys and bootblacks of the city. This committee reaches five hundred and thirty boys, 195 of which are newsboys and bootblacks who meet at the Young Men's Christian Association every Saturday night for gymnasium practice, shower baths, swimming-pool privileges and other healthful exercises. The group is divided into two sections known as Newsboy's Club and Bootblack's Club. During the summer the Rotary Club and Elks provided a week's outing in camp for these two groups.

For some months past the inmates of the Home for Destitute Boys have been receiving physical instruction in the Boys Department of the Y. M. C. A.

The Boys' Work Committee also extends its activities to other more fortunate boys and Lodge No. 17 of the Boy Rangers of America and Troop No. 1 of the Boy Scouts are the guests of the Boys' Department each week.

There are 237 members of the Boys' Department of the Y. M. C. A. who receive regular instruction three times a week and twenty of these boys were recently organized into a weekly class for the study and practice of the American Red Cross methods of life saving.

Miss Sara Lane, Superintendent of the Public Nursing Service of the Department of Health, has just returned and taken up her work again after a short vacation north.

While on the mainland Miss Lane attended the Annual Convention of the New York State organization for Public Health Nursing, the League of Nursing Education and State Nurses' Association held in Albany, N. Y., October 27 to 29. The leading speakers at this joint convention were Miss Elizabeth Fox, President of the National Organization of Public Health Nursing and Dr. Matthias Nicoll, New York State Commissioner of Health.

After a delightful week spent at Lake George, N. Y., and three weeks at her home in Schenectady, N. Y., Miss Lane returned on the Transport Chateau Thierry stopping off at Galveston, Texas, a day and a half and in Panama two days.

A meeting was held recently for the purpose of organizing the Porto Rican Child Welfare Board created by the passing of an act in the last session of the Legislature of Porto Rico, which reads as follows:

[No. 39]

AN ACT

TO CREATE A PORTO RICAN CHILD-WELFARE BOARD, WHICH SHALL STUDY AND SOLVE ALL PROBLEMS AFFECTING CHILDHOOD, INCLUDING A REVISION OF PRESENT LEGISLATION, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of Porto Rico:

Section 1.—That a board is hereby created to be known as the "Porto Rican Child Welfare Board."

Section 2.—Said board shall have charge of the study of all problems affecting childhood and shall revise all present legislation on the subject, as well as inspect all institutions at present established and hereafter to be established to shelter or benefit the children of Porto Rico in any form.

Section 3.—Every two years, when the Legislature meets in regular session, said Board shall render a report thereto concerning the operation of such institutions and shall recommend such measures as it may deem necessary to adopt for the benefit of childhood.

Section 4.—Said Board shall be appointed by the Governor of Porto Rico, with the advice and consent of the Senate, for a term of two years, and shall consist of five members, two of whom shall be mothers of families.

Section 5.—The Commissioners of Health and Education shall be members *ex-officio* of said Board, but shall have only a voice in its deliberations.

Section 6.—Within a term of fifteen days, counting from the date on which they qualify, the members of the Board shall hold their first meeting, shall designate a chairman and shall prepare their by-laws, which shall not be in conflict herewith.

Section 7.—The secretary, who shall be appointed by the Commissioner of Health on recommendation of the Board, shall be a person of recognized ability in social study and work especially in regard to infancy, it being indispensable for appointment that he shall prove to the Board that he has a knowledge of such matters.

Section 8.—The office of the Board shall be located in the Department of Health which shall furnish said Board with all such supplies as may be required in its work.

Section 9.—All laws or parts of laws in conflict herewith are hereby repealed.

Section 10.—This Act shall take effect ninety days after its approval.

Approved, June 24, 1925.

At the first meeting of this board the following officers were elected: Dr. Antonio Fernós Isern, President; Hon. E. González Mena, Vice President; Mrs. Angela Negrón Muñoz, Secretary; Mrs. Grace de Lugo Viña and Mrs. Isabel A. de Aguilar. The *ex-officio* members are Honorable Pedro N. Ortiz, Commissioner of Health, and Honorable Juan B. Huyke, Commissioner of Education.

It was agreed at this meeting that the laws regarding children should be compiled and that a registry of institutions for the protection of children should be made.

