

BRIEF NEWS NOTES

DR. ROLLA B. HILL

After having spent six years in active service connected with public-health matters throughout the Island, Dr. Rolla B. Hill sailed for New York the 11th of March.

Dr. Hill was a pioneer in the work of rural sanitation in Porto Rico. As Chief of the Bureau of Uncinariasis which was created in 1923 he played a leading part, in cooperation with the Department of Health, in the organization of this work, bringing it up to such a standard of proficiency that the methods used are now being accepted as models throughout the world. As Director of the International Health Board of the Rockefeller Foundation for Porto Rico he rendered invaluable service in outlining a plan to carry out sanitation and the treatment of Uncinariasis at the same time, and with most satisfactory results.

Dr. Hill's activities in Porto Rico date back to the year 1920 when he was sent by the Rockefeller Foundation to represent it here and to cooperate with the Department of Health in the campaign against uncinariasis. From then on until the first of July 1925, when Dr. J. G. Bajandas was appointed Chief of the Bureau of Uncinariasis, all the work of this important service was inspected by him under the direction of the Commissioner of Health. From July 1925 on he served as Medical Advisor of the Bureau of Rural Sanitation, which important position was taken over by Dr. Payne, also of the Rockefeller Foundation, when it was decided by the International Health Board to send Dr. Hill to Venezuela.

In 1921 Dr. Hill gave splendid service in helping to suppress the second epidemic of Bubonic Plague which appeared in Porto Rico. His work in charge of the deratization campaign is deserving of the warmest commendation. In fact, the record he has left is one of great achievement and unstinted service.

While Porto Rico loses the valuable services of Dr. Hill, Venezuela will gain the results of his ample experience, the International Health Board of the Rockefeller Foundation having chosen him to represent them in that country in the same capacity that he served in Porto Rico.

Before leaving, Dr. and Mrs. Hill were the guests of honor at a sumptuous luncheon and picnic which was tendered them by Dr.

Ortiz, Commissioner of Health, and other officials of the Department in a beautiful grove near the beach. Others guests were Dr. and Mrs. Wells of Boston and Drs. Frankel, Howard and Payne.

DR. DAVID W. WELLS

Dr. David W. Wells, Professor Emeritus of Ophthalmology of Boston University, sailed on the last trip of the S. S. *Coamo*, after visiting Porto Rico for a few days, accompanied by his wife.

Dr. Wells is a noted ophthalmologist who has practiced for many years in Boston and has been associated with a number of hospitals. He is the author of several books on ophthalmology and has done a great deal of research work in muscular anomalies of the eye, being the author of a book written on the subject.

Shortly after their arrival Dr. and Mrs. Wells visited the various clinics of the Department of Health and expressed their surprise at finding the public-health organization of Porto Rico so well developed.

ACTIVITIES OF THE CHILD-WELFARE BOARD

At the first session of the Child-Welfare Board which was recently held, the following resolutions were drawn up:

1. To request the Resident Commissioner of Porto Rico at Washington to petition Congress to extend the Shepard-Towner Bill so as to include Porto Rico.
 2. To visit the institutions which shelter, or in any way care for children, with the purpose of presenting a report to the Legislature of Porto Rico, as to how these institutions are functioning, and to submit to it necessary recommendations for consideration.
 3. At the second session of the board it was agreed to revise the Child Welfare Laws in order that a careful study of them may be carried out at the next session.
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CONGRESS FOR THE STUDY OF CRIMINOLOGY

Increased interest is shown in the weekly meetings held by this committee, which are attended by physicians, lawyers, school authorities and prominent citizens of San Juan.

At the last meeting a masterful address was made by Mr. Francisco Vicenty on the need of a course on Social Morality in the

schools of Porto Rico. All the representatives of the different womens' organizations who were present at this meeting recommended the teaching of social morality in the graded and high schools.

A NEW Y. M. C. A.

The Fajardo Sugar Company has taken the initiative in opening the first Y. M. C. A. branch in Porto Rico.

The building which was erected at a cost of \$10,000 is to be operated as an industrial Y. M. C. A. for the specific use of the laborers who are employed in the Fajardo sugar mills and is as well equipped as is the employees' club house which was opened by the company at the beginning of the year.

The three or four hundred laborers in the mill will form the membership of the new Y. M. C. A. branch, and each man will be asked to pay a small fee for the use of the association privileges. The Fajardo Sugar Company will pay the salary of a secretary and furnish him a house.

The opening of the Y. M. C. A. branch is the outcome of a plan worked out by Mr. Jorge Bird Arias, general manager of the Fajardo Sugar Company, and Mr. W. G. Coxhead, general secretary of the Y. M. C. A. in San Juan. It is the first enterprise of its kind to be started in Porto Rico or the West Indies for the interests of laboring men.

The Fajardo Sugar Company has made a record for itself in showing interest in its laborers and other employees. It has established good housing conditions, good school and hospital facilities, and has provided two fine club houses, one for employees and one for laborers, with opportunities for wholesome diversion and health-producing recreation. The company has built one hundred modern concrete houses consisting of a parlor, bedroom diningroom, kitchen and bathroom; light, water and ice are provided free of charge. An attractive graded-school building erected on the grounds of the sugar mills was built and turned over to the municipality free of cost not long ago. A fine herd of Holstein cows is maintained by the company which insures good milk to the employees at twelve cents a quart.

It is pleasing to note that Mr. Bird is the initiator of these movements which will mean so much for the permanent well-being of the laboring men employed by this company.

EDUCATIONAL ACTIVITIES IN THE TUBERCULOSIS CLINICS

During the month of January, classes in Personal Hygiene were started in each of the nine tuberculosis clinics of the Department of Health. These classes were organized especially for the children who are ten per cent or more underweight, the object being to educate the children to a more healthful mode of living.

In order to arouse enthusiasm competitive devices have been established. For instance, a gold star is placed on the weight chart opposite the name of the child who makes the greatest gain in weight, who keeps the greatest number of health rules and who passes the final examination.

These classes have awakened the interest of quite a number of mothers who accompany their children and help to keep them interested. The course lasts two months and attractive certificates are presented to all those who pass the final examinations.

A BOYS' WARD FOR TUBERCULOUS PATIENTS

Through an agreement made between the Junior Red Cross and the Department of Health, wards to accommodate tuberculous children have just been completed at the Insular Anti-tuberculosis Sanatorium.

These wards consist of four cottages built to accommodate four patients each, and represent a total cost of \$10,000. Eight of the patients were selected by the Department of Health and eight more are being selected by the Junior Red Cross.

