

BRIEF NEWS NOTES

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DR. ROBERT A. LAMBERT

The director of the School of Tropical Medicine, Dr. Robert A. Lambert, and the Professor of Bio-Chemistry Dr. Donald H. Cook, accompanied by his wife, arrived on the S. S. *Coamo* recently. They were met by Dr. Pedro N. Ortiz, Commissioner of Health, Dr. Bailey K. Ashford, and Dr. E. Fernández García.

Dr. Lambert assumed his duties as Director of the School of Tropical Medicine immediately upon his arrival, and he expects that the regular annual school course will be inaugurated the first of October.

DR. H. H. HOWARD

After a month's stay in Porto Rico Dr. H. H. Howard, Director of the International Health Board of the Rockefeller Foundation for the West Indies, sailed for Venezuela.

Following an inspection of the Uncinariasis and Malaria work which is being carried on by the Department of Health of Porto Rico with the cooperation of the Rockefeller Foundation, Dr. Howard with Dr. Ortiz and Dr. Fernós Isern studied the possibility of establishing, as an experiment a Municipal Health Unit, such as the County Health Units which have been organized in different States. To this end the towns of Caguas, Villalba, Bayamón, Manatí and Río Piedras were visited by Drs. Howard, Payne and Fernós.

The arrival of Dr. Eduardo Garrido Morales, who is taking a special course in public health at Johns' Hopkins University, is expected in Porto Rico soon. He will take charge of this new work.

Dr. Fernós Isern, the Assistant Commissioner of Health, by request of the Rockefeller Foundation, made a special study of County Health Units while he was travelling through the Southern States of the mainland recently.

DR. GEORGE C. PAYNE

Dr. George C. Payne, who has been in Haiti until recently, has taken the place of Dr. Rolla B. Hill as director for Porto Rico of the International Health Board of the Rockefeller Foundation.

ACTIVITIES OF THE CHILD WELFARE BOARD

At the last meeting of the Child Welfare Board it was decided that steps should be taken to have day nurseries established in the factories and shops where women are employed, in order to insure ample protection for infants whose mothers are compelled to work out.

It was agreed that this matter should be given careful study and a report submitted later.

THE ASSOCIATION OF REGISTERED NURSES OF PORTO RICO

This organization has recently renewed its activities in Porto Rico and is now publishing a monthly bulletin entitled *Puerto Rico y su Enfermera*.

Miss Rosa A. González, R. N., who has long been affiliated with the organization, is the manager of the bulletin and is also actively engaged in building up the association.

Starting with eighteen members in 1916 it has made splendid progress and has the record of being "the first professional association organized by Porto Rican women."

In 1917 the association sent its first petition to the Legislature of Porto Rico for the creation of a law requiring that prospective nurses be in possession of an eighth-grade school diploma, be 17 years of age, have a good reputation, and after graduating be required to pass an examination prepared by the Board of Medical Examiners before being allowed to practice the profession.

In 1924 the Association of Registered Nurses of Porto Rico became affiliated with the American Nurses' Association, and in June of that year sent Miss Rosa A. González as its first representative to the National Convention which was held in Detroit, Michigan.

The object of the organization is:

(a) To raise the nursing profession to the highest grade of efficiency in benefit of Public Health.

(b) To bring about the union of all nurses, in order that they may defend their professional rights and may develop as a class.

(c) To obtain legislation from the Government which would provide for the creation of a Nurses' Board of Examiners.

(d) To raise funds for the construction of a Nurses Club and a House of Convalescence.

(e) To found and to sustain a bulletin which will not only benefit the nurses, but will also instruct mothers in the care of their children, contributing in this way to the future progress of the Island by helping to prepare healthy and happy citizens.

The work of this Association has already done much to raise the standard of the nursing profession. At present the aspirant nurse is required to have taken a two-years' course in high school before being admitted to a Nurses' Training School. The registered nurse of Porto Rico is much better prepared to do credit to her profession to-day than she was a few years ago.

It is estimated that there are about three hundred and fifty professional nurses in Porto Rico to whom this association holds out splendid advantages.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION IN THE PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Among the many physical educational advantages launched from time to time by the Department of Education, perhaps none have been more popular than those carried on by the Interscholastic Athletic Association.

This association which was organized in 1916 holds "field and track meets" every year; fourteen have been held up to the present time.

It is interesting to note that very few districts were represented in the first track and field contest, while to the last one held, forty-one districts and organizations sent athletes. A general spirit of enthusiasm has been demonstrated in this work throughout the Island.

Due to the growing interest in athletics and to the fact that many contestants are sent to take part in these events, it has been necessary to classify the contesting schools or organizations into five classes:

Class AA: The University of Porto Rico at Río Piedras, the College of Agriculture and Mechanic Arts at Mayagüez, and all four-year high schools having more than 500 pupils at the end of the third school month.

Class A: All four-year high schools having less than 500 pupils at the end of the third school month.

Class BB: All districts having 2,000 or more pupils in the grammar grades and continuation grades at the end of the third school month in districts not having four-year high schools.

Class B: All districts having at the end of the third school month, between 1,500 and 2,000 pupils in their grammar and continuation grades, in towns not having full high-school courses. The Boys' Charity School and St. Augustine's Academy are included in this class.

Class C: All districts having less than 1,500 pupils in their urban school at the end of the third school month.

The importance of these field and track meets has been shown by the fact that thousands of people attended each one of the three contests conducted in the past year. Great credit is due the Superintendent of Physical Education for the efficient way in which this work is being managed and for the efforts he is putting forth to make the physical educational activities more general in their scope, so as to extend the advantages of this department to every school child in Porto Rico.

