

## BRIEF NEWS NOTES

By EDITH M. IRVINE-RIVERA

### THE SCHOOL OF TROPICAL MEDICINE

A series of public lectures is announced by the School of Tropical Medicine which dates from December 7, 1926 to February 1, 1927. These lectures are given in the assembly room of the school and a cordial invitation is extended not only to physicians, but to teachers and all those interested in health matters.

Among the topics announced for this series of lectures we can mention "History of Medicine in Porto Rico", by Dr. Manuel Quevedo Báez; "The Environment", by Dr. Earle B. Phelps, Professor of Sanitary Science of the Institute of Public Health, Columbia University; "The Diseases of Tropical Plants: their nature, economic importance, and general principles of treatment", by Dr. Melville T. Cook, Plant Pathologist and Botanist of the Insular Experiment Station, Department of Agriculture.

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### FIGHTING THE WHITE PLAGUE

Among other organizations that are sharing in a vigorous anti-tuberculosis campaign is Juanita Chapter No. 1, order of the Eastern Star, of San Juan, Porto Rico.

Miss Elsie Mae Willsey is the Worthy Matron of this chapter and has taken special interest in helping to raise funds for the erection of a cottage for tuberculous patients at the Insular Sanatorium. As a result of the arduous efforts of this Chapter a large sum of money is already in hand, and the members and friends who helped to raise the amount met recently on the grounds of the Insular Sanatorium to formally take possession of the lot on which the cottage is to be erected and to unveil the easel which marks the site.

Dr. William F. Lippitt, former Commissioner of Health, made the speech of presentation and Dr. A. Fernós Isern, Assistant Commissioner of Health, accepted it in the name of the Department of Health. The cottage will cost from \$4,000 to \$5,000.

### THE SOCIETY FOR THE PREVENTION OF TUBERCULOSIS IN CHILDREN

Carrying out its usual method of raising funds to maintain a temporary home for pre-tuberculous children, the society for the Prevention of Tuberculosis in Children has dedicated the month of December to the sale of Christmas seals issued by the National Tuberculosis Association.

It is hoped that enough money will be raised by this island-wide campaign to insure the upkeep of this institution, which in a small way is filling a great need in the Island by helping to reduce contagion, thus saving the lives of those who would otherwise fall victims to the disease.

As a result of the constructive work mapped out by this society a similar one has been organized at Río Piedras, Porto Rico's University town, and some two thousand dollars were raised in a campaign held this month in behalf of the pre-tuberculous children of that vicinity.

The officers of this local organization aim to open a preventorium for the children of Río Piedras with the funds already obtained.

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### THE ASSOCIATION OF REGISTERED NURSES OF PORTO RICO

The annual assembly of the Association of Registered Nurses was held in San Juan from the 5th to the 8th of January.

A very full program was prepared for the occasion in which prominent physicians and representatives of important organizations took part. Among the outstanding addresses made were "The relation of the nurse to public health", by Dr. Pedro N. Ortiz, Commissioner of Health; "Public Health as related to the kind of food ordinarily consumed in Porto Rico", by Dr. Bailey K. Ashford, U. S. A.; "The preparation of the nurse as an educational problem", by Dr. R. A. Lambert, Director of the School of Tropical Medicine; "The responsibility of the nurse in questions of eugenesis", by Dr. Martha Robert de Romeu; "What should be included and what should be eliminated in the course of studies outlined for the student nurse", by Miss Ruth L. Pearce R. N., Superintendent of the Nurses Training School of the Presbyterian Hospital. Other outstanding addresses were: "What society expects of the nurse as a citizen", by Chief Justice Emilio del Toro and, "The responsibility of the physician in the education and progress of the school of nurses", by Dr. J. Rodríguez Pastor, Chief of the Bureau of Social Welfare of the Department of Health.



The assembly was opened with an invocation by the Rt. Rev. Charles B. Colmore, Bishop of the Episcopal diocese of Porto Rico. The address of welcome was made by the Honorable Robert H. Todd, Mayor of San Juan.

Besides several business sessions, various excursions were planned for the delegates which made the assembly a most enjoyable one.

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#### HOME HYGIENE COURSES

The Porto Rico Chapter of the American Red Cross has carried out an interesting series of classes in Home Hygiene and care of the sick during the past month in the towns of Aibonito and Barranquitas.

One of the most interesting parts of the course was a series of conferences prepared for teachers on the following subjects:

- (a) What constitutes a physical examination.
- (b) Practical methods for teaching Hygiene in the school.
- (c) Contagious diseases and symptoms that every teacher should understand.
- (d) First aid in case of emergency.

Open discussions were held after the lectures, in which the teachers took part enthusiastically. These conferences were prepared both for rural and graded teachers.

Another series of conferences was held for the parents of school children. Among the subjects presented the following topics were considered:

- (1) The mental and physical development of the child.
- (2) Predisposition to contagious diseases.
- (3) The danger of contagious diseases.
- (4) Permanent physical defects.
- (5) Ignorance on the part of parents as to the proper food for children.
- (6) Congenital diseases.
- (7) Results of mal-nutrition.

Demonstrations in the bathing of a patient confined to the bed, in the making of the bed and seating the patient in bed, were also given. All these conferences were well attended.

The classes in home hygiene and care of the sick for school pupils were given principally to the girls of the Domestic Science groups and to those enrolled in the first and second years of high school. Demonstrations were given as to how to bathe an infant; how to

prepare poultices and how to take temperature, pulse and breathing.

In the lower grades talks on hygiene were given and demonstrations in the use of the tooth brush were made.

Miss Olympia Torres, who is the Instructor of Home Hygiene and Care of the Sick, visited the schools of Aibonito and Barranquitas each day while carrying out the program in those towns, and is glad to report keen interest on the part of both teachers and parents in this most important course, as well as a wholesome response on the part of the school children.

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**DR. E. B. PHELPS**

On the last trip of the *S. S. Coamo* Dr. E. B. Phelps, Professor of Sanitary Science of the Institute of Public Health, Columbia University, arrived to spend a few weeks in Porto Rico as visiting professor of the School of Tropical Medicine of the University of Porto Rico.

The series of conferences which he will present have been prepared especially for the benefit of those taking courses at the School of Tropical Medicine, but all others interested in the topics under discussion are extended a cordial invitation.

The schedule of lectures on Public-Health Engineering follows:

- January 13 (Thursday) 4:30 P. M.—Water and its impurities.
- January 14 (Friday) 4:30 P. M.—The Sources of Water.
- January 17 (Monday) 4:30 P. M.—The Self-purification of water.
- January 18 (Tuesday) 4:30 P. M.—Artificial Purification of water.
- January 19 (Wednesday) 4:30 P. M.—Biology of Exereta Disposal.
- January 20 (Thursday) 4:30 P. M.—Application of Biological Principles to Practical Disposal.
- January 21 (Friday) 4:30 P. M.—The Disposal of City Sewage.
- January 24 (Monday) 4:30 P. M.—Municipal Waste Collection and Disposal.
- January 25 (Tuesday) 4:30 P. M.—Milk Supply.
- January 26 (Wednesday) 4:30 P. M.—The Atmosphere and its Pollution.

