

BRIEF NEWS NOTES

DR. ROBERT A. LAMBERT

After a short visit in Venezuela, Dr. Robert A. Lambert, Director of the School of Tropical Medicine, has returned to Porto Rico. Dr. Lambert was accompanied by Dr. Garry Burke of the Presbyterian Hospital, San Juan.

Both Dr. Lambert and Dr. Burke are enthusiastic over their short stay in Caracas due to the numerous courtesies extended them by members of the Medical Fraternity. Among others, special mention is made of Dr. Juan Iturbe, Dr. Carbonell, Rector of the Central University, Dr. Chassin Itriago, Director of the Sanidad Nacional, Dr. Enrique Tejera, Director of the Laboratories of the Department of Health and Dr. Hector Sánchez, Director of Vargas Hospital.

At the request of the Rockefeller Foundation, Dr. Lambert made a survey of the Medical School in Caracas.

SCHOOL OF TROPICAL AGRICULTURE

During the latter part of this month, Dr. Wm. Crocker, Director of the Boyce Thompson Institute for Plant Research (Yonkers N. Y.), spent ten days in Porto Rico, as the representative of the National Research Council and the Tropical Plant Research Foundation. The object of Dr. Crocker's visit was to investigate the suitability of Porto Rico as a site for the establishment of a Graduate School of Tropical Agriculture, under the auspices of the National Research Council and in cooperation with some continental university.

Before leaving, Dr. Crocker announced his intention of recommending Porto Rico as a most suitable place for this purpose, stating that other places already considered, including Florida, Panama and Southern California, do not possess all the advantages found in Porto Rico, among which he mentioned the presence here of a very active and progressive Department of Agriculture, a modern university, varied terrain for multiple crops, a deep interest in agricultural research among the planters themselves and the outlook for hearty support on the part of the Insular Government. He expressed keen satisfaction at the example of successful cooperation between a continental and an insular institution which the recently organized School of Tropical Medicine presents.

The question of the establishment of the School of Tropical Agriculture will probably not be settled before next spring, since the matter must first be approved by the National Research Council and guarantees of financial support must be obtained; but on both of these points Dr. Crocker expressed optimism.

THE BOARD OF CHILD WELFARE

Among other bills presented at the last session of the legislature of Porto Rico through the recommendation of the Board of Child Welfare was one "Providing punishment for the abandonment of minors and considering this offense a state crime". Another "To punish concubinage, making legal the union by marriage and legitimizing their children". Bills "To provide aid to the children of tuberculous patients in their homes", "To provide aid to the children of prisoners in their homes", "To provide funds for the work of investigation and study which the Board of Child Welfare carries out", "To create courts of domestic relations—providing funds for their maintenance" were also presented.

The Board also presented to the consideration of the Legislature, a plan whereby the Boys' Charity School could be made a School of Manual Arts. The plan presented would in no way alter the living accommodations of the inmates, but would merely bring about a practical change in the course of instruction by providing the inmates of the institution with an adequate form of instruction and in this way fully fit them to earn a living after leaving the school.

All the projects recommended by the Board were related to the protection of children in the hope of bringing about some form of solution to the problems of desertion of minors, illegitimacy, lack of food and proper nourishment, particularly among the children of tuberculosis patients and prisoners.

The Board analyzed and revised all the existing laws on the subject and recommended the specific amendments which tended to uplift the permanent welfare of childhood. At the same time it recommended that the Reform School be given some other name in order to change the suggestive and graphic meaning of the mission for which the institution was created.

The establishment of children's hospitals was especially recom-

mended as was also the establishment of a House of Detention for Delinquent Children, this being of imperative need in Porto Rico.

A careful study of the conditions of the mothers of the working classes was made with particular attention to those who earn their daily wages in the embroidery and drawn-work shops and are paid such a meagre compensation that the most frugal provisions for the support of their children have to be disregarded.

SUMMER ACTIVITIES AT THE SCHOOL OF TROPICAL MEDICINE

Although no regular courses were offered during the summer months at the School of Tropical Medicine the following students were registered for special work in subjects indicated:

Luis García de Quevedo, M.D., Pathology

Antonio Mayoral, M.D., Pathology

Antonio Martínez Alvarez, M.D., Pathology

Juan A. Pons, B.S., 4th-year Class, Jefferson Medical College, Pathology and Parasitology

Ignacio Bird, B.S., 2nd-year Class, Yale Medical School, Pathology and Parasitology

George S. Lambert, A.B., 4th-year class, College of Physicians & Surgeons, Columbia University, Tropical Medicine and Parasitology

Mrs. Georgia O'Reilly, A.B., Chemistry

Rev. Gonzalo Palacios continued his studies on the epidemiology of leprosy until his departure for Spain, by way of New York on August 11th.

Dr. Gurbar Singh Sant, who obtained a certificate in Tropical Medicine last June, spent the summer in Porto Rico doing special work in parasitology and tuberculosis. He will sail for India the latter part of September.

Dr. Wm. A. Hoffman and Mr. R. A. Marin, of the department of parasitology made a number of trips over the Island during June, July and August in a general survey of schistosomiasis and filariasis. They spent several days in each of the following places: Ponce, Fajardo, Aguirre, Añasco and San Germán, with shorter visits to other districts.

Dr. Wm. Crocker, Director of the Boyce Thompson Institute for Plant Research and member of the National Research Council was

given an informal reception by the members of the staff of the School of Tropical Medicine on the afternoon of August 22nd.

Among the recent visitors the following names are registered: Dr. Vicente Hernández, Lieut., U. S. Navy, New York City; Dr. E. R. Hildreth, former Director of the Presbyterian Hospital, San Juan, Bay Shore N. Y.; Dr. Felix Butte, Medical School of the University of Texas, Galveston; Dr. R. M. Robles, Chief Medical Officer, St. Martin, Dutch West Indies, and Dr. Francis M. Root, Associate Professor of Entomology, Johns Hopkins Hospital of Hygiene, Baltimore, Md.

School of Tropical Medicine of the UNIVERSITY OF PORTO RICO

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First term of second session begins Oct., 1, 1927; second term, Feb., 1, 1928. Special students and investigators admitted at other times as space and circumstances permit. In all cases arrangement in advance is advised.

For further information apply to

Director
School of Tropical Medicine
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