

BRIEF NEWS NOTES

DR. JAMES W. JOBLING

On May 14 Dr. James W. Jobling, Professor of Pathology in the School of Medicine of Columbia University arrived in San Juan for a four-days' visit. As Columbia's representative, Dr. Jobling's trip to Porto Rico at this time was for the purpose of conferring with the faculty and trustees of the School of Tropical Medicine. It will be remembered that Dr. Jobling was sent to Porto Rico by Columbia University a year ago on a similar mission.

DR. J. RODRIGUEZ PASTOR

On May 26 Dr. J. Rodríguez Pastor, Chief of the Bureau of Social Medicine of the Department of Health of Porto Rico sailed for New York for a stay of several months. While in the United States Dr. Rodríguez Pastor will visit various tuberculosis clinics, as the guest of the Rockefeller Foundation.

DR. ROBERT A. LAMBERT AND DR. CHARLES WEISS

After a short stay in New York and Washington, D. C., Dr. Robert A. Lambert, Director of the School of Tropical Medicine, and Dr. Charles Weiss, Director of the Laboratory of the Presbyterian Hospital and Assistant Professor of Bacteriology in School of Tropical Medicine, returned to Porto Rico on May 7. The primary object of their trip was to attend the recent session of the Congress of American Physicians and Surgeons held in Washington.

CERTIFICATES IN TROPICAL MEDICINE

At the Commencement Exercises of the University of Porto Rico held on May 23, Certificates in Tropical Medicine were received by the following: Dr. Alice B. Burke, Dr. O. Costa Mandry, Dr. P. Morales Otero, Dr. Ramón Ruiz Nazario and Dr. Américo Serra.

AMERICAN CONGRESS OF PHYSICIANS AND SURGEONS

This Congress, with its fifteen constituent societies embracing the various branches of medicine, meets every three years in Washington. The fourteenth session was held the first two days of this month.

One of the most notable addresses delivered at the Congress was that of the President, Dr. Theobald Smith, who discussed "The

Decline of Infectious Diseases and its Relation to Modern Medicine." In the course of this address Dr. Smith asserted that infectious diseases have declined, but predicted "acute crises in the sanitary affairs of large communities" in the future because of the "intimate relation between water supply and sewage disposal."

There are three causes, he declared, for the decline in infectious diseases—the changes in economic conditions, the application of medical science, and the interplay of natural forces still largely unknown and not controlled by human foresight, which tend to raise the resistance of mankind against virulent parasites.

"Improvements in economic conditions provide opportunity for a wider aseptic zone about individuals through personal cleanliness", he continued. "On the other hand, industrial changes lead to huge concentrations of the population in which the individual aseptic zone is broken into at many points. The sewage problem is still unsolved, and all we have done is to convert our water courses into open sewers which will occasion explosive outbreaks of intestinal diseases.

"The time is coming when the intimate relationship between water supply and sewage disposal will suddenly develop acute crises in the sanitary affairs of large communities."

SCHOOL OF TROPICAL MEDICINE

The following schedule of Seminars and Clinics is scheduled for the month of May 1928:

- May 3 (Thursday) 8:30 p.m.: Seminar. Methods of measuring hydrogen ions and significance of pH. Dr. D. H. Cook.
- May 5 (Saturday) 11:30 a.m.: Clinic. Children for Diagnosis. Dr. W. R. Galbreath.
- May 10 (Thursday) 8:30 p.m.: Reports of Washington meetings. Dr. Robert A. Lambert & Dr. Charles Weiss.
- May 12 (Saturday) 11:30 a.m.: Clinic. Reports on "The Tuberculosis Problem in Porto Rico" from members of Dr. Haven Emerson's Class.
- May 17 (Thursday) 8:30 p.m. Clinic—Pathological Conference. Dr. Lambert and Staff.
- May 19 (Saturday) 11:30 a.m. Clinic. "Spina Bifida Oculata". Dr. A. Mayoral.
- May 23 (Wednesday) 10 a.m. (Municipal Theatre). Commencement Exercises of the University of Porto Rico including delivery of Certificates in Tropical Medicine.

NOTE: There will be no meetings during the summer except as specially announced. Regular classes will be also omitted during this period. The institution however will remain open for research and students for special laboratory, clinical or field work will be admitted by individual arrangement.