

SCHOOL OF TROPICAL MEDICINE OF THE UNIVERSITY OF PORTO RICO

UNDER THE AUSPICES OF COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY NOTES ON THE SECOND SESSION (1927-28)

The following notes which will be incorporated in the annual report of the School of Tropical Medicine for 1927-28 have been supplied by the Director.

Courses.

During the year, sixteen systematic courses, in addition to four research courses, were given in the following subjects:

Bacteriology (1), immunology (1), pathological anatomy (2), clinical pathology (1), biological methods (1), food and nutrition (2), helminthology (1), entomology (1), protozoology (1), tropical medicine (2), public health (2), and communicable diseases (1).

Students.

There was a total of thirty students, not including four in the summer of 1927, or one more than in the first year. (See list appended.) Of these, nineteen were physicians, and eleven held degrees (A. B., B. S.) or certificates which permitted their taking certain courses in chemistry, bacteriology, parasitology, and public health, for which a medical training was not a pre-requisite.

Two of the non-medical students are candidates for an M. A. degree, one at Columbia University, the other at the University of Minnesota, and a third (a teacher of pharmacy at the University of Porto Rico) is continuing his studies at the University of Michigan this summer.

Five students, all of them graduates in medicine, completed the requirements for a "Certificate in Tropical Medicine"; the certificates being conferred at the Commencement Exercises of the University of Porto Rico, on May 23.

Public Lectures.

Visiting professors and lecturers were as follows:

Dr. F. W. O'Connor,

Assistant Director, Division of Medical Education of the Rockefeller Foundation.

(Former Instructor in the London School of Trop. Med.)

Dr. W. H. Taliaferro,

Professor of Parasitology, University of Chicago.

Dr. Haven Emerson,
Director and Professor of Public Health Administration, De
Lamar Institute of Public Health, Columbia University.

Dr. Oscar Riddle,
Carnegie Institute for Experimental Evolution, Cold Spring
Harbor.

Dr. R. G. Hopkins,
Professor of Dermatology, Columbia University.

Dr. J. W. Jobling,
Professor of Pathology, Columbia University.

Dr. O'Connor gave three scientific lectures, two on "Filariasis" and one on "Amebic Dysentery", and two popular lectures in San Juan and Ponce on his researches in the South Sea Islands. In addition he began some field investigations on filariasis with Dr. G. Burke, and Dr. Hoffman, which have led to interesting results, soon to be published.

Dr. Taliaferro, with Mrs. Taliaferro, who collaborated in all his research activities, remained nearly three months, and besides giving a special course in protozoology he carried out researches on the precipitin test in malaria, and began serological studies on schistosomiasis with Drs. Cook and Hoffman which are still in progress. Dr. Taliaferro delivered four public lectures, two at the School of Tropical Medicine on "Experimental Malarial Infections", and "Experimental Trypanosome Infections", one at the San Juan Medical Association on "Amebic Infections", and one at the Ponce District Medical Association on "The Precipitin Test in Malaria".

Dr. Haven Emerson delivered a series of nine lectures on various public health problems, including the epidemiology of non-communicable diseases, such as diabetes, cancer and heart disease. In addition, Dr. Emerson organized a study of the epidemiology of tuberculosis in Porto Rico, assigning to each of seven students a different phase of the problem. Four papers dealing with the results of this study will be published soon, and the investigation is being continued.

Dr. Riddle gave six public lectures on various problems associated with internal secretion and reproduction, reporting in detail his studies of the past ten years at the Carnegie Institution.

Professor Jobling and Professor Hopkins gave no public lectures but each held informal meetings with students and physicians in which problems in their respective fields were discussed. Dr. Jobling was a guest at one of the meetings of the San Juan District Medical Association.

Public Meetings.

Lectures, Clinics, Seminars, and Pathological Conferences.

Notices of these meetings were distributed widely among physicians and hospitals, all being open to the medical profession.

The numbers given were as follows:

Clinics (Saturday mornings)-----	30
Seminars (Thursday evenings)-----	14
Pathological Conferences (Thursday evenings)-----	11
Public Lectures by visiting scientists-----	21

Routine Services.

The only routine laboratory services offered by the School are tissue examinations and autopsies, the Biological Laboratory of the Health Department meeting other needs.

During the first two years 1,450 surgical specimens have been examined and 143 autopsies have been performed.

A number of cases have been referred to the School for special study by physicians of the Island. The study of these cases has involved numerous bacteriological, mycological and hematological examinations. No charge has been made for any of these tests.

Between the Department of Health and the School of Tropical Medicine there has been the closest and most cordial cooperation in both special laboratory investigations and field studies, each assisting the other whenever the occasion has arisen.

Finances.

The School receives \$30,500 annually from the Government of Porto Rico, out of the University Fund, this sum being the same as was formerly directly appropriated to the Institute of Tropical Medicine.

Columbia University appropriated for the current year (1927-28) \$19,000, all of which has been expended for the salaries of four continental Americans of professorial rank, including the Director, and for traveling expenses of three visiting lecturers. The total assured income was therefore \$49,500, whereas, the budget approved by the Trustees at the beginning of the year called for an expenditure of approximately \$57,000. It was hoped that special donations during the year would take care of the expected deficit of \$7,500.

So far the only additional receipts to meet the deficit have been \$1,140 from tuition fees.

In other words, we have secured a gradual increase in Columbia's participation but we have as yet no assurance of an increase from the University of Porto Rico, though it is only fair to state that the entire cost of buildings has been borne by the Insular Govern-

ment, and that the University of Porto Rico met the School deficit for the first year (1926-27) of \$5,000. It is expected that the deficit this year (1927-28) will be less than \$1,000, as the result of economies including salaries.

The University's needs for the fundamental biological sciences and other branches are so great that the Director has hesitated to ask for any larger share of the University's funds for operating the School of Tropical Medicine. He believes the increased needs of this School should be met, in considerable part at least, by aid from outside sources; that is, wealthy individuals and corporations, having large material interests on the Island. In this regard it may be pertinent to report that when the Director approached a foundation in the United States last year for a donation he was asked how much wealthy residents and local corporations had given. He had to answer, nothing. His appeal to the foundation was refused. Nowadays, philanthropic organizations in general follow the policy of helping only those who show a willingness to help themselves to the full extent of their ability. It is recognized by such foundations that in the case of institutions like this, aimed not only at ameliorating the sufferings of the masses but also indirectly at increasing the prosperity of the more favored classes, the responsibility of support should not fall entirely on the local Government and extra-territorial agencies, but should be shared by interested individuals and organizations as are in a position to give material assistance.