

## EDITORIAL

Once in a while a great administrator is born. Occasionally one is made through the school of experience or latent talents are given an opportunity to express themselves. It is with great regret that the announcement was recently received that Dr. Pedro N. Ortiz, Commissioner of the Department of Health of Porto Rico for the past eight years, is to retire at the expiration of his term of office in February. Public health work everywhere has required administrative ability in order to handle the diverse problems concerning the health of the people. It also requires scientific acumen and the ability to develop trained specialists for the manifold phases of health work. It requires team work on the part of this personnel. Dr. Ortiz is peculiarly endowed with administrative ability, a forceful personality and a great sympathy for the scientific aspects of medicine and public health. His years of service to the people of Porto Rico have seen the development of a small department of sanitation into one of the best departments of health in Latin America. These years, as they appear in retrospect, have been full of achievement. Besides developing a most efficient centralized department of health Dr. Ortiz, by his vision and dynamic energy, has created personally or assisted in the development of several notable institutions concerned directly with phases of public health and medical research. This publication itself had its inception in the department of health and has always had the loyal and enthusiastic support of the Commissioner. Nearly every movement concerning the development of medicine or public health in Porto Rico during the past eight years has felt his influence. His has been a record of achievement—a record of unselfish service to the people of Porto Rico and to his profession. Through the columns of this Journal we wish to record in some measure an appreciation of the service Dr. Ortiz has rendered Porto Rico during his years as chief of the health department. We wish for him even greater success in the private practice of his profession to which he now returns.

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