

## THE SAN JUAN DISTRICT HOSPITAL

PEDEO N. ORTIZ  
Commissioner of Health.

According to Act No. 13, Special Session of the Legislature of Porto Rico, 1923, the issuance of bonds of the people of Porto Rico in the amount of \$6,000,000 for the construction of public improvements, was authorized.

Among other items, funds were provided for the construction and extension of the following institutions all under the control of the Department of Health as follows:

Insane Hospital.....	\$750,000
Leper Hospital.....	100,000
Institute for Blind Children.....	50,000
For the Insular Sanatorium.....	100,000
For four Insular Hospitals at a cost of \$100,000 each	400,000

The San Juan District Hospital erected at a cost of \$100,000 and built on a lot to the rear of the School of Tropical Medicine and facing the new boulevard recently constructed, is one of the four district hospitals. Another district hospital was constructed in Ponce also at a cost of \$100,000. Although both hospitals, according to law, are under the control of the Department of Health, nevertheless, the San Juan District Hospital, due to its location and taking into consideration, clinical facilities available, will be used by the School of Tropical Medicine for clinical material and for teaching purposes. The two remaining district hospitals have not yet been constructed.

The Commissioner of Health of Porto Rico, in studying the best location for this new hospital in the northern district, selected the best site, taking into consideration its proximity to the School of Tropical Medicine and the mutual advantage which could be derived from this association.

One of the first obstacles met before the district hospital could be started was the impossibility of the municipality of San Juan to transfer the Municipal Jail and the fire engine station from an old building, which was on the lot where the hospital was going to be erected. Nevertheless, after repeated attempts, the Attorney General granted a temporary lot on the east side of the Insular Penitentiary and a frame building was constructed for the jail. Immediately the old building was demolished. In this way, the School of Tropical

Medicine and the San Juan District Hospital have made a unit and one central patio is common to both institutions. In this central patio an animal house and a garage that can accommodate ten cars have been constructed. The surroundings have been graded down and beautiful lawns with ornamental plants have converted this place into one of the most attractive spots of San Juan. Although the San Juan District Hospital is a government institution which according to law is under the control of the Department of Health, nevertheless, the organization has been made and plans have been adopted through mutual agreement between the Director of the School of Tropical Medicine and the Commissioner of Health of Porto Rico, as follows:

Dr. Pedro N. Ortiz, *Commissioner of Health.*  
 Dr. Earl B. McKinley, *Director of Tropical Medicine.*  
 Dr. Juan A. Pons, *Resident Physician.*  
 Dr. David E. García, *Interne.*

#### Visiting Physicians

Bailey K. Ashford.....*Medicine.*  
 José S. Belaval.....*Pediatrics and Chief of Visiting Staff.*  
 Pedro N. Ortiz.....*Communicable Diseases.*  
 Antonio Fernós Isern.....*Communicable Diseases of Children.*  
 Martín O. de la Rosa.....*Communicable Diseases.*  
 Ramón M. Suárez.....*Medicine.*  
 Jenaro Suárez.....*Medicine.*  
 Jorge del Toro.....*Surgery.*

#### Laboratory Staff

Enrique Koppisch.....*Pathology.*  
 Pablo Morales Otero.....*Bacteriology.*  
 Luis Hernández.....*Chemistry (Clinical).*

#### Consultants

George W. Bachman.....*Parasitology.*  
 Arturo L. Carrión.....*Dermatology.*  
 D. H. Cook.....*Chemistry.*  
 José C. Ferrer.....*Urology.*  
 M. Díaz García.....*Surgery.*  
 William R. Galbreath.....*Tropical Medicine.*  
 Walter A. Glines.....*Medicine and Urology.*  
 Francisco J. Hernández.....*Clinical Pathology.*  
 W. A. Hoffman.....*Parasitology.*  
 Mario Juliá.....*Neurology.*  
 Antonio Mayoral.....*Radiology.*  
 N. Quiñones Jiménez.....*Oto-rhino-laryngology.*  
 Hans Smetana.....*Pathology.*  
 William R. Torgerson.....*Tropical Surgery.*

The hospital, which is being speedily equipped, will be ready for inauguration in the early part of September of the present year. It is to be expected that the general business and scientific organization of this institution will be a standard, as the most modern methods and ideas have been adopted. In order to establish the methods of admission of patients to the District Hospitals of the Insular Government, two of which have already been constructed, the following law is in force at the present time:

“TO ESTABLISH THE METHOD OF ADMISSION OF PATIENTS TO DISTRICT HOSPITALS OF THE INSULAR GOVERNMENT, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

“*Be it enacted by the Legislature of Porto Rico:*

“Section 1.—The number of beds in district hospitals shall be apportioned proportionately to the number of inhabitants of each municipality of the island, and the number of beds corresponding to each municipality shall be occupied by patients from the said municipalities on petition of the municipal authorities and upon their certificate as to the conditions of insolvency and residence of the patient; *Provided*, That the Commissioner of Health may reserve in any of the district hospitals out of the quotas hereinbefore fixed, a number of beds not to exceed twenty-five per cent for the admission of cases of special scientific interest or of special interest for the public health.

“Section 2.—The admission and discharge of patients shall be governed by the rules and regulations that may be made by the Commissioner of Health and by direction of the medical authorities of the Hospital, to whom shall be transmitted, in the manner directed by the Commissioner of Health, the petition for admission pursuant to Section 1 hereof. The Hospital shall attend such cases as may be satisfactorily benefited by reason of its facilities for diagnosis and treatment at its disposal, but cases of mental diseases or cases that affect the good operation of the hospital shall not be admitted; *Provided*, That quotas from pay-patients shall be covered into a special fund for general expenses of the hospital.

“Section 3.—Expenses for the transportation of patients shall be a charge on the municipalities.

“Section 4.—All laws or parts of laws in conflict herewith are hereby repealed.

“Section 5.—It is hereby declared that an emergency exists which requires that this Aet shall take effect immediately after its approval.

“*Approved, April 30, 1928.*”