

SCIENTIFIC INSTITUTIONS IN LATIN AMERICA

THE FEDERICO LLERAS INSTITUTE OF MEDICAL RESEARCH*

(INSTITUTO FEDERICO LLERAS DE INVESTIGACIÓN MÉDICA)

Bogotá, Colombia

Director: Dr. Luis Patiño Camargo

The Federico Lleras Institute of Medical Research had its beginning in the Central Laboratory of Leprosy Investigation (Laboratorio Central de Investigación de Lepra) founded in 1934 with the late Professor Federico Lleras Acosta as its Director. After his death the Institute was renamed in his honor.

The work of the Institute is carried on through several divisions: Bacteriology, Serology, Biologic Chemistry, Anatomy-Pathology, Clinic, Therapeutics, Administration. While founded primarily to carry on research in leprosy, it is open to other studies, as, for instance, the work now being done with regard to bartonellosis. Its official duties include supervision of the investigative work to be performed by the physicians in charge of leprosy dispensaries, in accordance with legal provisions; studies of the etiology, epidemiology, pathology and therapeutics of leprosy; testing of the results of scientific investigation in this field in other countries; application and study of suggested treatments; training of personnel for leprosy control work; and consultation facilities for the Ministry of Health, Labor and Social Welfare.

At the present time the work begun by Professor Lleras on the culture and biologic study of an acid-alcohol-resistant bacillus isolated from the blood of lepers, and of the complement-fixation tests with methylic antigen prepared with the Lleras bacillus, and with antigens of strains of other acid-resistant bacilli, is being continued. Studies of treatment methods, and of the blood chemistry of lepers, as well as those relating to the preparation of an anti-leprosy serum are also carried on.

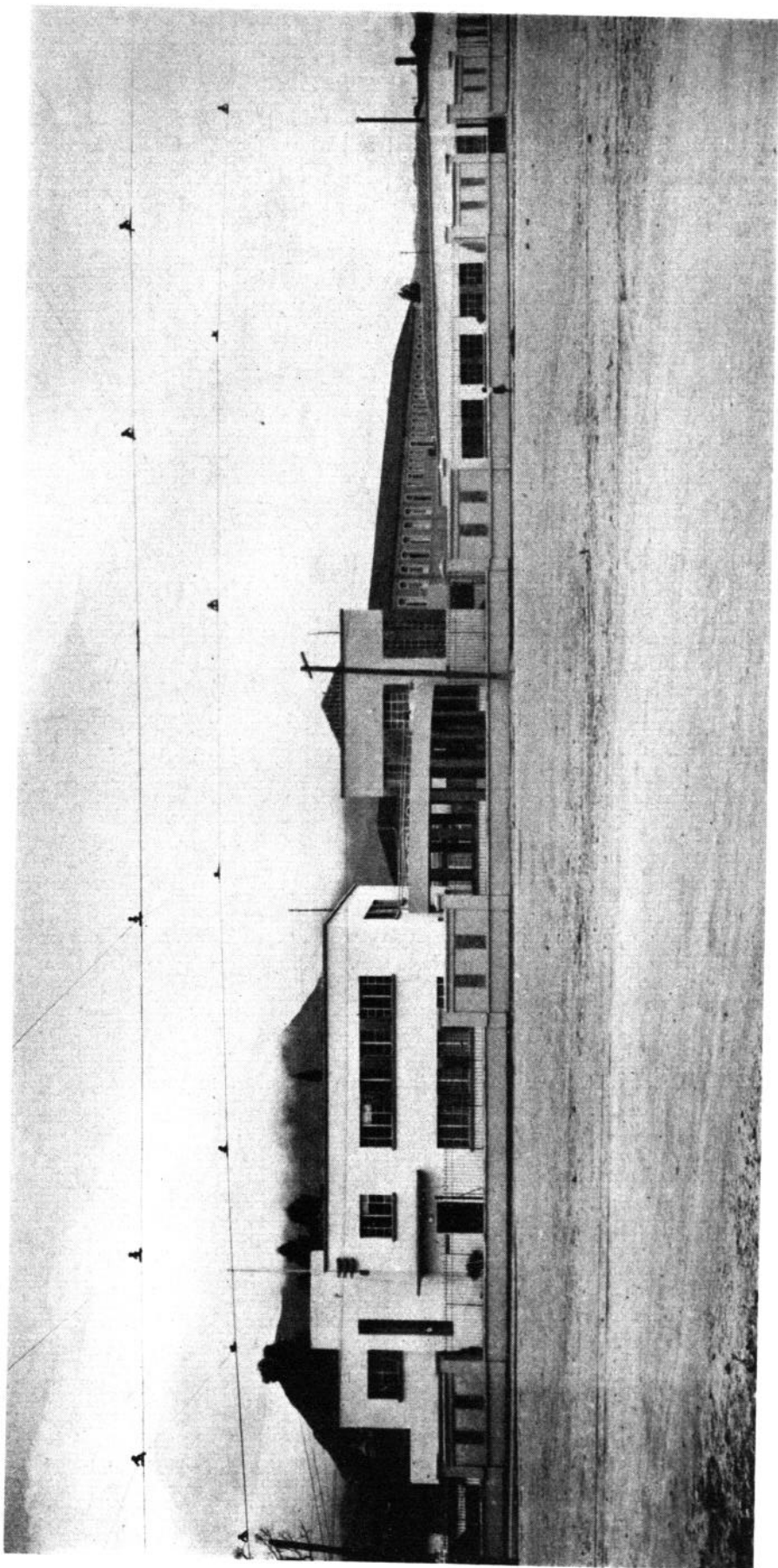
It is expected that eventually the Institute will become a center where both national and foreign physicians may pursue scientific studies, particularly those related to Leprosy.

When first established as the Laboratory, the Institute was housed in the Leprosy Dispensary at Cundinamarca, then in a building of the National Institute of Health, and later in the Santiago Samper Laboratory, Hospital San Juan de Dios, but in 1936 a special building was authorized, and is now occupied by the Institute. It consists of three

* One of a series of papers describing the principal scientific institutions in Latin America.

wings, or sections, one for Laboratories, Clinic, Administration, Library, and Museum; a second for hospitalization of patients undergoing experimental treatment, clinical observation, or observation by students; and a third for laboratory animals. The patients are provided with all modern comforts, and are attended by the Institute personnel and by Sisters of Charity. Much of the equipment for the patients' quarters and other parts of the building was furnished through the generosity of a lady of Bogotá (Srta. Dona Lucy Parga).

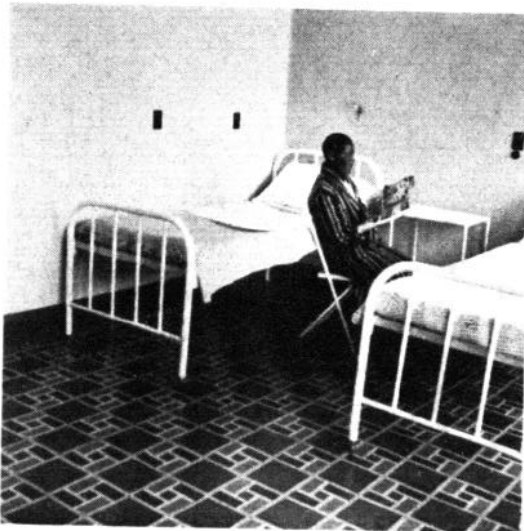
The personnel of the Institute includes a Director, Assistant director, Medical Assistant, Sisters of Mercy and others, and may be increased by the Ministry of Health, Labor and Social Welfare as the needs require. The present budget is \$30,000.00 pesos (about \$17,140.00) annually.



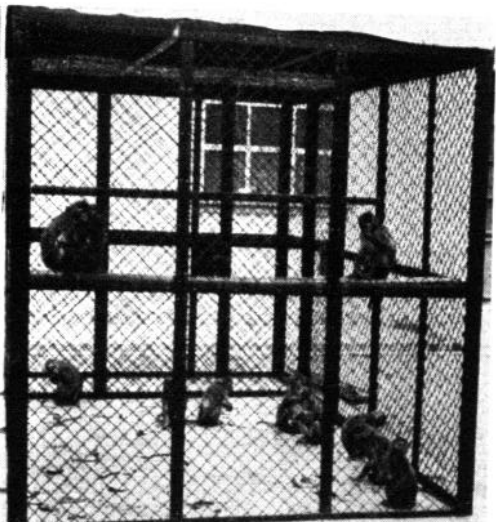
Panoramic view of the Federico Lleras Institute of Medical Research



A laboratory



Room of leprosy patient



Normal *Macacus rhesus* monkeys