

SECOND PAN AMERICAN HEALTH DAY

In these critical and anxious days, it is encouraging to see that the American peoples, in spite of the preoccupations resulting from the world situation, celebrated Pan American Health Day even more brilliantly than in 1940, giving once more a demonstration of the growing solidarity among the democracies of the new world. Although complete information has not been received from all the Republics, the following summary of the ceremonies which took place offers an idea of the enthusiasm aroused by this Pan American holiday.

Pan American Sanitary Bureau.—The Pan American Sanitary Bureau distributed educational material among the health authorities of the American Republics and particularly in the schools both in the United States and the rest of the Continent; it sent special messages to the health authorities of Latin America; sponsored a radio broadcast; and dedicated a special number of the Bulletin to the commemoration of this occasion which is as altruistic as it is noble in inspiration.

Argentina.—All branches of the National Department of Health held a simple celebration with appropriate addresses; there were radio broadcasts; the inauguration of the General Rodríguez Leprosario and of the hall for the exhibition of public health films of the Health Education Division; and the actual showing of such films.

Brazil.—Unusual ceremonies were held in commemoration of the II Pan American Health Day which, by governmental decree, was celebrated throughout the country. The Ministry of Foreign Relations gave a banquet in honor of Prof. Juan C. Mussio Fournier, Minister of Public Health of Uruguay. Other ceremonies included scientific debates in colleges, radio speeches, exhibition of educational films stressing basic health facts, and pilgrimages to the tombs of eminent hygienists. Among those taking active part in this celebration were: Drs. Mario Pinotti, Assistant Director of the National Department of Health; Jesuino Albuquerque, Secretary of Health and Welfare of the Prefecture of the Federal District; Clementino Fraga, Ex-Director of the National Department of Health and Ex-Secretary of Health and Welfare of the Prefecture of the Federal District; Raul de Almeida Magalhães, Ex-Director of the National Department of Health; Antônio Cardoso Fontes, Director of the Oswaldo Cruz Institute; Waldemar Antunes, Director of the National Yellow Fever Service; Ernani Agricola, Director of the National Leprosy Service; Samuel Libanio, Director of the National Tuberculosis Service; Abel Vargas, Director of the National Malaria Service of the National Department of Health; Teofilo Almeida, Director of the Division of Hospital Organization, National Department of Health; Fabio Carneiro de Mendonça, Health Director of Ports; and Raul Godinho, Executive Secretary of the XIth Panamerican Sanitary Conference.

Colombia.—A solemn session of the National Academy of Medicine, attended by the Chief Executive, was held, at which silver medals were given to public health nurses with more than ten years of service; the "Serpentina" Tuberculosis Sanatorium was inaugurated and the corner stone was laid for the San Carlos Hospital; the body of Dr. Pablo García Medina was moved to a special tomb; an exposition of milk hygiene was held; and commemorative stamps were issued.

Cuba.—The Cuban celebration included a meeting in the auditorium of the Ministry of Public Health and Social Assistance; the presentation of scientific articles by Drs. Domingo F. Ramos and Horacio Abascal, with a summary by Dr. Sergio García Marruz, Minister of Public Health and Social Assistance; and corresponding ceremonies in all the local health offices.

Dominican Republic.—A meeting of health authorities was held in the Secretariat of Public Health and Welfare; messages were sent to the Pan American

Sanitary Bureau and to the directors of health of the Americas; talks were given in public schools; health films were shown and a visit was made to the Tuberculosis Hospital and the Dominican Medical Association was formally installed.

Ecuador.—A Pan American Health Committee was appointed in Quito, presided over by the Minister of Social Welfare and Public Health; and there were also a special session of the School of Medicine, articles in the press, radio broadcasts, special programs in schools and theaters, a child health contest sponsored by the Red Cross, and the awarding of a prize to the school showing the best health conditions. In Guayaquil, the celebration included sport festivals, the placing of wreaths on the tombs of distinguished hygienists, a school health essay contest, radio broadcasts and the placing of a commemorative plaque on the house in which Dr. Michael O. Connor of the Rockefeller Foundation, who contributed to the eradication of yellow fever in Guayaquil, once lived.

El Salvador.—Issuing of a legislative decree establishing Pan American Health Day and of commemorative stamps; extraordinary session of the Directing Council of the *Pro Patria* National Party, during which the President of the Republic spoke on health, referring to eminent hygienists; radio speeches; newspaper articles; pilgrimages to the tombs of the public health founders; special programs in various institutions.

United States.—School children wrote essays on Pan American Health Day and institutions in which there were Latin American students held special ceremonies.

Guatemala.—There were public meetings of the Department of Health and of all the departmental regional health officers; a public health proclamation was read in all the schools of the Republic; and there were articles in the press and radio broadcasts.

Haiti.—The celebrations in Haiti included a special meeting in the School of Medicine, inauguration of the Office of Scientific Research, visits to the laboratories of the School of Medicine and to hospital centers, a reception at the home of a Director of Health, the showing of films and radio broadcasts.

Mexico.—Pan American Health Day celebrations were anticipated by a special conference against disease, held November 24th to 30th in the Fine Arts Palace, with the participation of distinguished health experts. The December 2nd celebration was marked by a message from Dr. Victor Fernández Manero, Chief of the Department of Public Health and by a talk by Dr. José Manuel Carbonell, the Cuban Ambassador.

Paraguay.—The Paraguayan commemoration of Pan American Health Day included a visit by the Chief Executive to the various departments of the Ministry of Public Health, special lectures in all rural units, health centers, regional hospitals, sanitary posts and industrial medical services, articles in the press and radio broadcasts.

Peru.—A special meeting was held in the Ministry of Public Health, Labor and Social Welfare, attended by the diplomatic representatives of the 21 American Republics and by the members of the Legislative and Judicial bodies. The advances obtained in public health since December 2nd, 1940 were reported and plans for the future were presented. The School Health League examined all the teachers in the Republic and the members of the Juvenile Red Cross held special ceremonies.

Uruguay.—A special meeting was held in the Ministry of Public Health with the participation of health and education authorities, and there was an essay contest among Montevideo school children.

Venezuela.—All health units, offices and dispensaries were opened to the public for visiting; there were radio broadcasts, and lectures in school health centers, articles in the press, and greetings to the health officers of the various American countries.