

## PAN AMERICAN HEALTH DAY

For almost four decades the American Republics have cooperated systematically in international public health work. This cooperation has become still more active and effective during the last two decades.

Now the representatives of the Departments of Health of the American countries have chosen December 2nd as the most appropriate date for the annual commemoration of this cooperation and the benefits which have resulted from it, as well as those which may yet result. This Day will also serve as an occasion for pointing the way to new goals, and for drawing public attention to the most pressing health problems. It will likewise afford an opportunity for explaining to the public the manner in which it may and should assist in public health work, for experience shows that without a prepared public opinion behind it, public health work fails to render its fullest and most lasting results. Pan American Health Day furthermore serves to emphasize the fact that all our peoples have contributions of their own from which the others might benefit. There is no room for national egotism in the field of health and science.

One need but glance at the following messages to visualize the unanimity of opinion with which all the health authorities of our Republics contemplate the subject, and to realize how well all of them understand the importance of public health work and the necessity of inter-American cooperation for its success; the problem is truly hemispheric in scope.

In other fields there may exist diverse ideologies and opinions, but in that of public health, be it said with pride and pleasure, we think alike: we all agree that, as an indispensable element of progress and civilization, health is a blessing which all our people should assiduously cultivate if we are going to fulfill all the possibilities to which our privileged location entitles us.

Let us, then, celebrate December 2nd with faith and confidence in our destinies; let us constantly emphasize the importance of public health and the wise attention which all, high and low, the rulers and the governed, should devote to it; and let us ever remember the need for maintaining inter-American cooperation in public health, inviolate and unbroken, for the benefit of all our peoples. Amidst the shadows and storms of the present, there is something inspiring and uplifting in the thought that all the American Republics join on the same day in reaffirming their faith in the great truths that have led and must lead mankind onward.

Peace and Health to all America—now and forever!—DR. HUGH S. CUMMING,  
*Director, Pan American Sanitary Bureau.*

### ARGENTINA

*. . . the wealth of our peoples is not in the soil, but in the men who work the soil. . . .*

“Safeguarding the life, health, and vigor of its citizens is the most important task of a good government. Without a healthy, strong and intelligent population capable of utilizing them, natural resources are worthless. Fortunately, many of the Governments of this continent, and even a large part of the people in general in some countries, understand this . . . but the task is still unfinished . . .”

—PROF. GREGORIO ARÁOZ ALFARO, *former President of the National Department of Health of Argentina; President of the IX Pan American Sanitary Conference (1934).*

## BOLIVIA

. . . *to live in health is the only true ambition. . . .*

"Like a great hurricane, the collective madness of the peoples of the 'civilized' West threatens the shores of free America. . . . We who have man's health in our care must face this danger. . . . To live in health, to live through productive work, to live in harmonious and humane cooperation, is the only true ambition, justifying the Universe."—DR. CÉSAR ADRIÁZOLA, *Director General of Health of Bolivia.*



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## BRAZIL

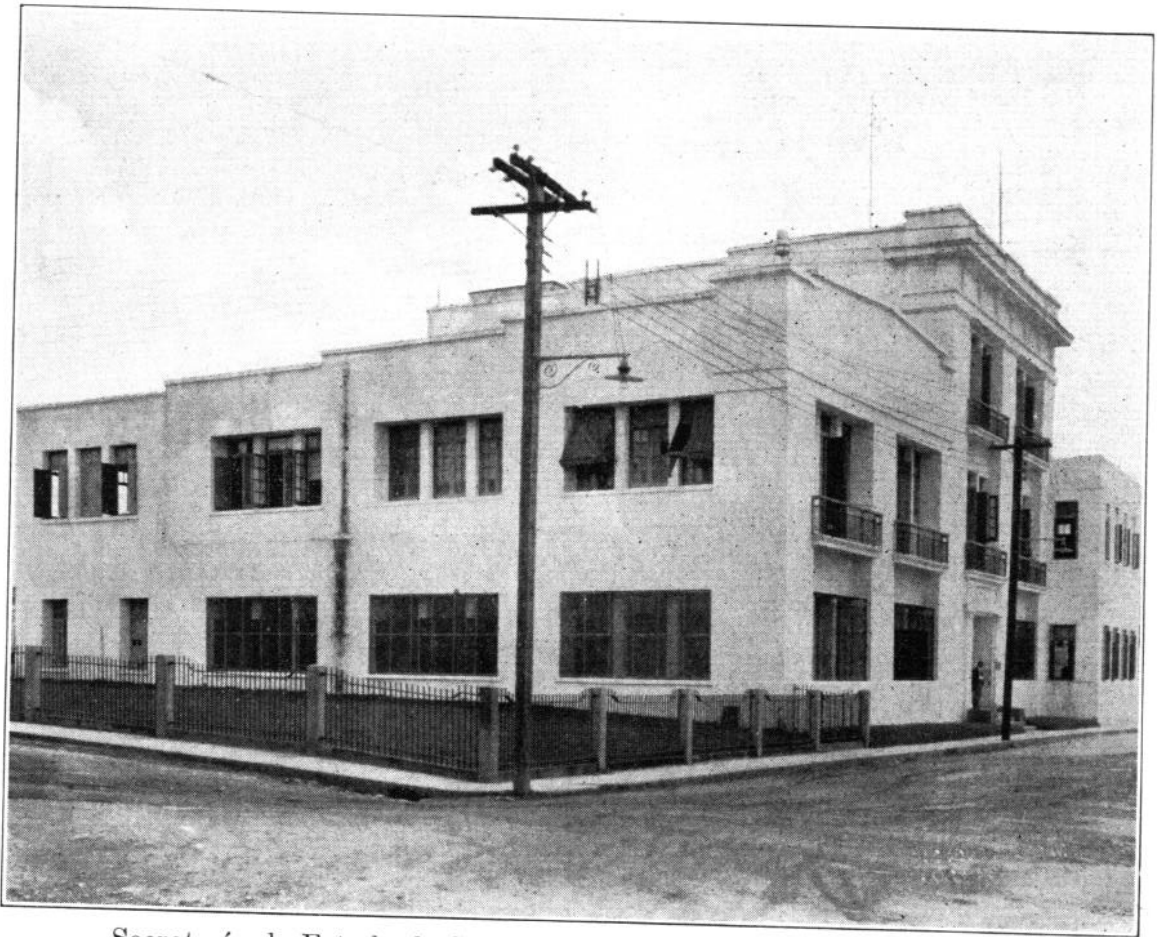
. . . *Brazil is forming a public health conscience. . . .*

"Brazil . . . honors the great American benefactors of health. . . . Brazil is gradually but steadily solving her various health problems . . . she is forming a public health conscience in keeping with the ideals for which the Pan American Sanitary Bureau has always stood."—DR. SAMUEL LIBANIO, *Director General (interim) of the National Department of Health of Brazil.*

## CHILE

. . . *The primary duty of Governments and of Social Medicine is to assure the complete and harmonious development of man. . . .*

. . . "In recent years the American countries, meeting in medical and public health conferences, have undertaken a broad social policy of international cooperation in the struggle against the evils which most deeply affect our society. . . . Chile hopes that the American Governments, with the always effective and enthusiastic cooperation of the Pan American Sanitary Bureau, will continue in this direction, to make our continent the example of the world in public health and social medicine."—DR. SALVADOR ALLENDE, *Minister of Public Health, Welfare, and Social Assistance of Chile.*



Secretaría de Estado de Sanidad y Beneficencia, Ciudad Trujillo,  
Rep. Dominicana  
(Ministry of Health and Public Assistance, Ciudad Trujillo, Dominican Republic)



Hospital Internacional, Ciudad Trujillo, Rep. Dominicana  
(International Hospital, Ciudad Trujillo, Dominican Republic)

## COLOMBIA

... *Liberty cannot exist where health is not.* ...

"If the loss of liberty is slavery and tyranny, the loss of health is the loss of the human personality. . . . Liberty itself cannot exist where health is not. . . . Aside from the school, the physician has been the decisive factor in American health . . . we should reflect this day on the part which he has played in our Democracy."—PROF. JORGE BEJARANO, of Colombia, *Honorary President of the Pan American Sanitary Bureau.*

## COSTA RICA

... *Much of present day civilization is due to the work of the hygienist and the physician.* ...

"The American democracies . . . are demonstrating an exemplary cooperation in public health, the benefits of which extend throughout the hemisphere and penetrate to every corner of each country. . . . Much of present-day civilization is due to the work of the hygienist and the physician. The Pan American Sanitary Bureau, as a continental body, has coordinated modern ideas and experiences, consolidating the future ideal of an authentic 'American' man."—DR. MARIO LUJÁN FERNÁNDEZ, *Secretary of Public Health and Social Welfare of Costa Rica.*

... *Health should signify more in the public mind than the antithesis of disease.* ...

"Pan American Health Day is the indispensable corollary of the social improvement and cultural advance of our American peoples, which are daily devoting more attention to public health problems and increasing public health budgets, confident that health is the most profitable of human investments. . . . Health should signify more in the popular mind than merely the antithesis of disease and of human suffering."—DR. A. PEÑA CHAVARRÍA, of Costa Rica, *Counselor of the Pan American Sanitary Bureau.*

## CUBA

... *Health is a very important basis of the defense of the Americas.* ...

"Pan American public health constitutes one of the oldest international sanitary organizations. . . . Among its phases may be mentioned eugenics and homiculture, rural hygiene, and the relation of health to the economics and defense of the continent. . . . Health is a very important basis of the economics, and above all, of the defense of the Americas."—DR. DOMINGO F. RAMOS, *Minister of National Defense of Cuba.*

## DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

... *The Pan American Sanitary Bureau has no national boundaries.* ...

"The celebration of Pan American Health Day will be an eloquent expression of solidarity and perhaps the firmest and most human of the bonds created by the 'Good Neighbor Policy' and by general and commercial interests. . . . It is my earnest conviction that no institution has labored better or more effectively than the Pan American Sanitary Bureau to strengthen the ties between our countries. . . . Its benevolent philosophy has no national boundaries or any restrictions whatsoever; its interests are those of the whole Western hemisphere."—DR. WENCESLAO MEDRANO HIJO, *Secretary of State for Public Health and Welfare, Dominican Republic.*

## ECUADOR

... *The citizens of America form the reserve of Humanity.* . . .

"In the face of the whirlwind now devastating cities and civilizations, America, with anguish and anxiety in her heart, rises to praise the triumph of Life. . . . The Citizens of America, dwelling under favorable conditions, form the reserve of humanity. . . . May the Pan American ideal . . . contribute to the formation of the men of the new America, idealistic in spirit and healthy and perfect in body."—DR. LEOPOLDO IZQUIETA PÉREZ, *Director General of Health of Ecuador.*

## EL SALVADOR

... *Health, the foundation of the happiness of the people.* . . .

"Pan American Health Day . . . represents the noble aspiration . . . of those who work for public health in America. We have always earnestly desired a closer unity, a deeper understanding among the soldiers of Health, so that our union will result in even better fruits of our constant labor. . . . All hail to health, the foundation of the happiness of the people!"—DR. VÍCTOR A. SUTTER, *Director General of Health of El Salvador.*

## GUATEMALA

... *Pan American Health represents a consecration.* . . .

"We who graduated in medicine at the end of the last century have been privileged to witness an uninterrupted succession of improvements in the field of medicine, each contributing to the preservation of the health of our people. . . . Pan American Health Day represents a consecration, a unification of wills for the task of improving the conditions of life of the inhabitants of America."—DR. LUIS GAITÁN, *Sub-Director of Health of Guatemala.*

## HAITI

... *Without health, a nation may not expect to receive the admiration and respect of the world.* . . .

"Pan American Health Day offers an occasion to pay tribute to the heroes and servants of public health . . . to the societies and foundations, such as the Rockefeller, which have done so much for humanity . . . to the efforts of governments and their health services . . . to the Pan American Sanitary Bureau. . . . Without health, a nation may not have strong and robust citizens; it may not be prosperous; and it may not expect to receive the admiration and respect of the world."—DR. RULX LÉON, *Under-Secretary of State in Charge of Public Health, Public Assistance, and Social Work, Haiti.*

## HONDURAS

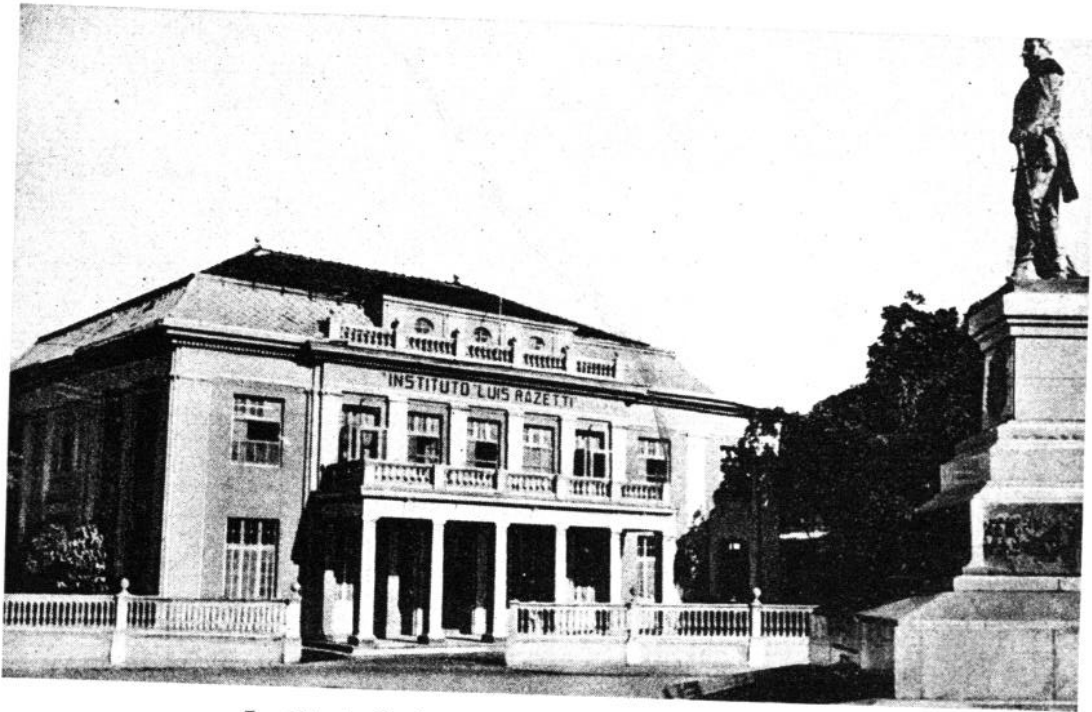
... *A real public health conscience has been formed in all countries of America.* . . .

"Thanks to the work of the Pan American Sanitary Bureau, there has been formed a real public health conscience in all the countries of America; there is no corner of the Continent, however remote, in which the rôle of health in the progress of a people is not known."—DR. PEDRO H. ORDÓÑEZ DÍAZ, *Director General of Health of Honduras.*

## MEXICO

... *Continental health is a basic problem . . . facilitating the interchange of inhabitants.* . . .

"Pan American Health Day will serve to emphasize that not only is there peace and the firm desire to continue it, among us, but also that we all wish to make our homeland a healthy one, so that our brothers visiting us may find everything [propitious] to the preservation of their health, and a welcome for



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the good things which a man may bring to other peoples through his ideas, his culture, his virtues, and his action. . . .”—GEN. JOSÉ STUROS, M.D., *Chief of the Department of Health of Mexico.*

. . . *Pan American Health Day symbolizes the desire of all the American peoples for the betterment of all. . . .*

“ . . . The consecration of one day each year as Pan American Health Day symbolizes . . . the continental aspiration toward the betterment of all the peoples of America through the improvement of health conditions. . . . The increasing attention devoted by governments to their respective health services, the improvement in scientific training of health workers, and intelligent and frank cooperation among health administrations have produced splendid results. . . .”—DR. MANUEL MARTÍNEZ BÁEZ, *of Mexico, Member of the Pan American Sanitary Bureau.*

#### PANAMA

. . . *in a not-too-distant future, the torch of Pan American health will light the way for a new humanity. . . .*

“In commemorating Pan American Health Day we gladly express our admiration and praise for each and all of the Pan American countries that have fought so devotedly for public health. . . . The existence of diseases typical of tropical areas in our countries has retarded the material and moral progress of our people. . . . efforts displayed by the public health institutions of our sister countries have succeeded in reducing, if not eliminating, the sinister influence of epidemic and endemic diseases. . . .”—DR. JUAN A. BERNAL, *Director of Public Health of Panama.*

#### PARAGUAY

. . . *The Pan American Sanitary Code unites us. . . .*

“The nations of the New World strive to render ever more sincere and loyal their brotherly relations. . . . Above all other means of bringing about closer understanding there exists the Pan American Sanitary Code which unites us in the unanimous desire to defend our peoples from contagious disease without prejudice to free transit and commerce.”—DR. RICARDO ODRIOSOLA, *Minister of Public Health of Paraguay.*

#### PERU

. . . *Working for continental health we have seen an astounding advance in public hygiene. . . .*

We who have worked for years for the progress of continental health . . . have seen the astounding development of applied hygiene. . . . The “Americanization,” . . . of public health policy . . . has been the guiding thought which in the last four decades has given inspiration, development, and its own characteristics to the evolution of public health, or of social medicine, in the New World.—DR. CARLOS ENRIQUE PAZ SOLDÁN, *of Peru, Honorary Member of the Pan American Sanitary Bureau.*

#### UNITED STATES

. . . *the germs of disease know no political boundaries. . . .*

On this Pan American Health Day I wish to convey warm greetings and salutations to my confreres, the Directors of Health of our twenty sister Republics of

this Hemisphere. I do this both on behalf of the United States Public Health Service and our forty-eight state health organizations.

The work which all of us are doing, correlated under the guidance of our joint office, the Pan American Sanitary Bureau, is being grooved to fit the emergency requirements of present world conditions. For the most part we have common problems—tuberculosis, malaria, syphilis, unsafe water and milk supplies and other health hazards that confront all of us. The germs of disease know no political boundaries. Only through free interchange of thought and experience and a mutual understanding of common problems can we progress to a joint solution of them. Through the Pan American Sanitary Bureau we have an organization for hemispheric health defense. As fellow workers in this human cause, I salute you.—DR. THOMAS PARRAN, *Surgeon General of the United States Public Health Service.*

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. . . all the nations in the American hemisphere will unite in recalling the permanent blessings of peace and health. . . .

Amid the troubles of this distracted world, all the nations in the American hemisphere, from the St. Lawrence River to Cape Horn, will unite in recalling the permanent blessings of peace and health. For this purpose international cooperation and understanding are essential. The physicians of the United States, who have always encouraged this movement for closer scientific relations among the American nations, will be pleased to join again in approval of this activity.—*Editorial, Journal of the American Medical Association, Nov. 23, 1940, p. 1804.*

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. . . The Pan American Sanitary Bureau has done much towards the stimulation of better hospitals and health conditions wherever its organization has extended. . . .

I am advised that the *Boletín de la Oficina Sanitaria Panamericana*, the organ of the Pan American Sanitary Bureau, will devote its next issue to Pan American Health Day to be held for the first time on the second day of December, nineteen hundred and forty.

I appreciate the opportunity to send a message expressing my interest in the health of the Americas, and particularly with reference to the new spirit of Pan American cooperation, evidenced by the closer relationship existing between the various countries in the Western Hemisphere. The American Hospital Association for many years has endeavored to serve the hospitals of the North American continent as best it might in the interest of better care to the patients who may be confined in these institutions. More recently there has been much encouragement given us as we have attempted to evaluate the advances in the various fields of human activity and at the same time extend our influence to accomplish these purposes.

The Pan American Sanitary Bureau has done much toward the stimulation of better hospitals and health conditions wherever its organization has extended. There has been a marked development in this connection during the past decade as the leaders in that great organization have noted the changes in the disease picture in their own countries as well as the United States and have assisted in the development of the health program to aid in accomplishing better conditions.

Just at this time there is in process in the great field of medical education the development of an institute to be held for hospital administrators with the assistance and help of our Association. Not only are we concerned with advancement in clinical sciences related to the practice of medicine but we are also committed to the thesis that hospitals are better operated when in charge of trained administrators. It is with this in mind that an Institute soon will be held in Puerto Rico to render assistance to administrators who will be in attendance.—BENJAMIN W. BLACK, M.D., *President of the American Hospital Association.*



*. . . Since my visit to many of our South American neighbors, my enthusiasm for closer contact in the health field has been very keen. . . .*

The information which has just reached me regarding the establishment of a Pan American Health Day is welcomed with the greatest satisfaction. Ever since my delightful visit five years ago to many of our South American neighbors, my enthusiasm for closer contact in the health field has been very keen. I learned so much of the admirable work being done in South America and realized for the first time how much we in the States are missing by not being more closely in touch with their splendid progress in public health and scientific medicine.

The National Tuberculosis Association directs me to express in the warmest terms its sympathy with the establishment of a Pan American Health Day. If there is any manner in which our Association can be of assistance in promoting the success of so desirable a plan, it is our hope that you will feel at liberty to call upon us with the utmost freedom.

The National Tuberculosis Association presents its salutations to all those participating in Pan American Health Day, and this assurance of its hearty sympathy with and cooperation in so desirable an undertaking.—KENDALL EMERSON, *Managing Director, National Tuberculosis Association.*

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*. . . The splendid achievements in medicine and surgery in Central and South America are greatly admired in the United States. . . .*

It is an honor and a pleasure to send the greetings of the American College of Surgeons on the occasion of the Pan American Health Day. The splendid achievements in all fields of medicine and surgery in Central and South America are greatly admired by all those in the United States who are acquainted with modern scientific medicine. Ever since its organization the American College of Surgeons has emphasized the solidarity of the Americas and it has been proud to number among its most distinguished members some of the surgeons of Central and South America. It is hoped that in the future this mutual respect among all of the surgeons of the Americas will show itself in greater intercourse. I am sure that I can speak for all the surgeons of the United States and Canada in saying that our friends to the south will always be welcome at our clinics and our meetings.—DR. EVARTS A. GRAHAM, *President, American College of Surgeons.*

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*. . . The closest possible relations between Latin-American countries and the United States should exist. . . .*

It gives me pleasure to express, as President of the American Public Health Association, sincere interest in the success of your program for Pan American Health Day, which will be observed for the first time December 2, 1940. The closest possible relations between Latin-American countries and the United States should exist not only in public health matters but in all of the relations which give security and strength to the people of the Americas. There is much to be gained by this objective and unless this principle is maintained in our relationship cordial friendship and unity of purpose cannot prevail.—W. S. LEATHERS, *President, American Public Health Association.*

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*. . . Recent evidence has made us aware of our shortcomings in appreciating and understanding the problems of our friends of South and Central America. . . .*

I wish to convey to the Pan American Sanitary Bureau the hearty congratulations of the American Society for the Control of Cancer on Pan American Health

Day, which will shortly be held for the first time. Recent evidence has made those of us in North America aware of our shortcomings in appreciating and understanding the problems of our good friends of South and Central America. We welcome, therefore, this new example of Pan American cooperation and wish it every success.—DR. C. C. LITTLE, *Managing Director, The American Society for the Control of Cancer.*

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... *The American Foundation for Tropical Medicine aids research projects in the American Republics.* . . .

The American Foundation for Tropical Medicine, Inc., was organized to implement the activities and objectives of the American Society for Tropical Medicine and the American Academy of Tropical Medicine, supporting the following specific objectives: (1) Award of fellowships in Tropical Medicine in the United States to graduate physicians in other American Republics; (2) Interchange of faculty members and research workers with universities in other American Republics; (3) Aid research projects in the American Republics; and (4) Ultimate organization of an Inter-American Conference on Tropical Medicine.—DR. THOMAS T. MACKIE, *President, American Foundation for Tropical Medicine, Inc.*

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... *any part the American Dental Association can play in the program of sanitation in the Americas will have our whole hearted support.* . . .

I assure you any part the American Dental Association can play in the great program of sanitation in the Americas will have our whole hearted support.

It has been my pleasure to meet with some of the men of the medical and dental professions of the various Latin American countries and I have always found them keen and alert to the problems of sanitation. It is the interest shown and the fine work that your Bureau is doing that will eventually lead to the solution of the sanitary problems in the Latin American Countries.

Dentistry has always welcomed the men of the health professions from these countries. We are pleased to note an increasing number of the men engaged in our profession visiting the United States. May I assure you that they are always welcome and that if I can lend anything to the furtherance of the program, it would please me no end.

My congratulations to you and to your colleagues, and may the next issue of the Boletín de la Oficina Sanitaria Panamericana which will be dedicated to Pan American Health be most successful.—DR. WILFRED H. ROBINSON, *President, American Dental Association.*

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... *The Western Hemisphere has a common interest in preventive medicine.* . . .

Certainly the whole Western Hemisphere has a profound and common interest in every phase of preventive medicine. Closer relationship between organizations in Latin America and similar ones in the United States is most desirable and most important.—DR. R. L. WILBUR, *President of The American Social Hygiene Association.*

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... *the nurses of North America crave closer contacts with the nurses of Latin America.* . . .

December 2, Pan American Health Day, may well provide in years to come a base line from which successive generations will measure progress in the most fundamental of all international efforts: the protection and promotion of health.

The American Nurses' Association is aware of the long history of the hospitals in the countries to the south of us, and of the more recent but rapid development of health centers. The nurses of North America crave closer contacts with the nurses of Latin America and a wider knowledge of the development of nursing education and nursing service in those countries. I hope, in celebrating Pan American Health Day, a way may be found for American nurses of the North and of the South to pool their knowledge and so to grow in service to the people of all the Americas. May I felicitate you, and those who have worked with you on the promotion of the concept of a day dedicated to health in America.—JULIA C. STIMSON, *President, American Nurses' Association.*

## URUGUAY

... to make healthful is to govern well. . . .

"The virgin territory of America has received the seeds from all quarters of the earth; its population has been drawn from all races; its culture has absorbed all civilizations, to form from these ancient elements a new race and a new culture, thirsting for progress and for liberty. . . . The motto of our century should be 'To make healthful is to govern well.' There is no conquest higher, more noble, more humanitarian, nor more enduring than that which assures the public health."—DR. RAFAEL SCHIAFFINO, *Chief of the Division of Hygiene of the Ministry of Public Health of Uruguay.*

... Pan American health has always been an expressive factor of progress. . . .

"Pan American Health has always been and now is an expressive factor in progress. . . . The Pan American Sanitary Bureau, coordinating center for this type of activity, has furnished valuable and effective aid whenever it has been requested. . . . Public health has everywhere been stimulated . . . by the Pan American Sanitary Conferences, by the Conferences of National Directors of Health, and by the cooperation established between countries."—DR. JUSTO F. GONZÁLEZ, *of Uruguay, Honorary Member of the Pan American Sanitary Bureau.*

... The public health policy is the most economical and productive of public goals. . . .

"The public health index of a people is the most expressive indication of their foresight, culture, intelligence, and social justice, in short, of their true civilization. The public health policy is the most economical and productive of public goals, for it concerns the care and improvement of the human machine; it is the only force which never conspires against progress. It is not made of form and material alone, but embodies a soul, a fruitful spirit which creates and achieves."—DR. ROBERTO BERRO, *of Uruguay, Director of the International American Institute of Child Welfare.*

## VENEZUELA

... Modern hygiene constitutes one of the most effective measures for human unity. . . .

"Modern practices of hygiene . . . constitute one of the most effective measures for human unity. . . . Venezuela's contribution to the Pan-American ideal is the creation of healthy men so that they may have healthy minds . . . in the confidence that these healthy minds can never become infected with the theories evolved by sick ones—theories incompatible with the Pan American ideal of liberty and progress through self-government and community action, previously debated and freely consented to."—DR. JULIO GARCÍA ALVAREZ, *Minister of Health and Social Welfare of Venezuela.*