

PAN AMERICAN HEALTH DAY

Pan American Health Day on December 2, 1944 was commemorated throughout the Americas with greater enthusiasm than ever before as may be gathered below. Highlight of the celebration in the United States was the meeting called by the Pan American Sanitary Bureau, at 11 A. M., December 2, 1944, in the Hall of the Americas, Pan American Union Building. The attendance included members of the diplomatic corps of the American Republics in Washington, and prominent representatives of various Government Agencies, especially the Public Health Service, Office of the Coordinator of Inter-American Affairs, the medical corps of the Army and Navy, the Office of Education, the Office of Indian Affairs, the District of Columbia Health Department, and the Pan American Union, as well as the Medical Schools in Washington and neighboring cities.

The speakers included Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt, the Ambassador of Honduras, Dr. Julian R. Cáceres; the Ambassador of Perú, Mr. Pedro Beltrán; the Director General of the Pan American Union, Dr. Leo S. Rowe; the Deputy Chairman of the War Manpower Commission of the United States, Judge Charles M. Hay¹; the Surgeon General of the U. S. Public Health Service, Dr. Thomas Parran, and the Acting Director of the Pan American Sanitary Bureau, Dr. Aristides A. Moll.²

The outstanding feature, perhaps, of the occasion was the awarding of prizes to 24 young people of various Latin American countries, winners in an essay contest promoted by the Pan American Sanitary Bureau. These prizes were generously given by the Lily-Tulip Cup Corporation and were delivered to the diplomatic representatives of the respective countries of the winners.

In Argentine arrangements for the commemoration were made by the Argentine Institute of Population with speeches by prominent personalities; one of the most important acts in Brazil was the opening of the Magalhães Barata School for Nurses, at Belém, Pará; in Costa Rica the anti-venereal campaign was emphasized by prominent health officials; in Cuba festivities were joined to those in honor of Finlay; in the Dominican Republic a high mass in the capital city attended by all high governmental officials and health officers, and two official gatherings commemorated the event; in Ecuador the occasion was largely devoted to honoring the former Director of Public Health, Dr. Leopoldo Izquieta Pérez, by naming after him the National Institute of Health; in El Salvador cordial greetings were sent to all other American Republics, and public health meetings were held; in Haiti health and sanitation exercises were held in public places, with visits by school children to health centers, a special session in the Nursing School, and publicity by newspapers, radio and movies; in Mexico the most significant demonstration was organized by the Department of Health and Social Welfare in the Palace of Fine Arts; besides sending formal greetings to her sister republics; Nicaragua arranged a program at the public health headquarters, and initiated the seventh child health contest; in Peru prizes were given out to the winners in the child health contest, and a pilgrimage was made to the cemetery to pay homage to the founders of the national department of health, the II Inter-American Hospital Institute being opened immediately afterwards; in Venezuela a program planned by the National Department of Health and Social Welfare included school festivities which dramatized health subjects, awarding of prizes for health essays, opening of an anti-tuberculosis dispensary, commencement exercises at the School of Malariology in Maracay, and awarding of prizes to newspapermen for the best papers on the anti-tuberculosis campaign.

¹ Substituting for the Hon. Paul V. McNutt, Federal Security Administrator.

² Their speeches appear elsewhere in this issue.