

ous active and passive immunization against diphtheria; preparation of typhus vaccine in adequate quantities and at low cost; and the preparation of an alum-precipitated typhoid-paratyphoid vaccine (T.A.B.), to be administered in a single dose.

Most important needs.—To judge by the mortality statistics, Mexico's most important health problems at present are the prevention of water-borne diseases, pneumonia, malaria, and tuberculosis.

Future program.—The program for the future must, of necessity, be based on these four problems, thus including: (1) increased efforts to prevent the transmission of water-borne diseases; (2) prevention of pneumonia; (3) intensified construction of malaria control projects; and (4) a more effective campaign against tuberculosis.

Funds.—The Federal appropriations for the Department of Public Health have increased from 165,586 pesos in 1900, to 562,900 in 1910, 2,116,981 in 1920, 8,882,576.25 in 1930, 10,480,000 in 1935, 16,500,000 in 1940, and 20,233,403.18 in 1941.

General death rate.—1900, 33.6; 1939, 22.4; 1900-1904, 32.9; 1935-1939, 22.7.

Infant death rate.—1900, 286.8; 1939, 132; 1900-1904, 292.4; 1935-1939, 131.

Causes of death.—Smallpox: 1900, 203.1; 1939, 11.5; 1900-1904, 158.3; 1935-1939, 19.8. Typhus: 1900, 33.8; 1939, 5.3; 1900-1904, 31.1; 1935-1939, 5.8. Malaria: 1922, 173.3; 1939, 130.3; 1922-1926, 32.8; 1935-1939, 27.5. Tuberculosis: 1922, 78.8; 1939, 55.6; 1922-1926, 73.2; 1935-1939, 54.4.

PAN AMERICAN HEALTH DAY

By Dr. LUIS MANUEL DEBAYLE

Director General of Health of Nicaragua

The institution of Pan American Health Day has been a most excellent action, and the selection of December 2, anniversary of the opening, in 1902, of the First Pan American Sanitary Congress, is full of symbolism.

The ideal of cooperation and mutual service which the American Continent has set up as the invariable standard for the relations among its various national components, has found its most complete realization in the field of public health. The differences which may arise in other matters as the result of special national conditions or variations in cultures, have no place in sanitation, which partakes of the universality of Science. We all seek a single, noble end: the health of American humanity, through the health of each inhabitant of our respective countries. We meet, we enter into consultation, we each place at the disposition of all the fruits of our experience, so that the measures which we take to achieve our goal may always be the most effective, the ones most certain of success; so that some day it may be said that, having the same goal, we work toward it with the same methods. We will then have indeed achieved the standardization of public health services on the American continent.

On Pan American Health Day we recall with gratitude and appreciation the pioneers of continental public health: Finlay, Gorgas, Chagas, Morquio, Liceaga, Unanue, and Wyman; and let us place beside these illustrious names that of Dr. Hugh S. Cumming, who for several decades has placed his scientific knowledge and his experience at the service of Pan American health.

How eloquent and how consoling is the fact that while in other parts of the earth death is placing its fateful seal on men and things, here in America we may join in a hymn to Health, that magic ingredient which fills hearts with the joy of living.