

reported that 97 out of the 219 inhabitants of an area of 42 km² (Los Leones, Department of Cruz del Eje) showed allergic reactions indicating present or past infection; 42 of these had specific antibodies in their blood, 29 revealed clinical manifestations and 4 had to be hospitalized, with 3 fatalities. Some of the supposedly recovered patients continued to have evening fever and exhibited agglutination reactions of more than 1×100 ; two-thirds of the population (excluding children) had suffered clinical or subclinical attacks, mostly the chronic form.

In approximately half of the herds of goats, positive agglutination reactions of from 60 to 100% were obtained; although 102 blood samples from kids (3-6 months old) were all negative. Sheep reacted badly to Bang's antigen; of 8 with a negative Huddleson's reaction in the blood and milk, 61 presented positive intradermoreactions to melitin. In 70 blood and milk samples from native cows the agglutination reactions were all negative, nor was there any history of epizootic abortion; while out of 80 blood samples of cows of mixed breeds 26 proved positive. Heart blood extracted from two fetuses of cows slaughtered at Cruz del Eje, failed to agglutinate Bang's antigen although the mother's sera had high agglutinin titers. These results suggest the possible existence of a certain racial immunity. Huddleson's reaction was negative in the blood of pigs, birds, mules and rabbits, and positive in two goat-herding dogs. Results indicate that allergy test with melitin seems to be the best, as Wright's reaction is apparently inadequate to rule out brucellosis.

Arata in 1934 found that 12% of the cows in two dairies supplying the city of Cordoba were infected, and five of the owners also showed specific antibodies in their blood. There are various isolated foci of human and bovine brucellosis in eastern and southern Cordoba, and the spread of the disease has been shown by abortion in the cattle and a steadily increasing number of human cases. In view of the seriousness of the problem a provincial Brucellosis Control Conference was called at the end of 1941. The meeting recognized the presence of *B. melitensis* in an extremely virulent form in three Departments (human incidence sometimes as high as 40%); and recommended intensified regional study, effective control measures; an educational campaign; and experiments with vaccines. An Executive Committee was appointed to obtain the cooperation of public agencies, draft legislation, and estimate the financial contribution needed from the Government of the Province for the campaign; it is to hold regional meetings at various foci, and prepare a national conference with a view to coordinating brucellosis control work.

A SAÚDE DOS POVOS É LEI SUPREMA*

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Feliz a idéia de instituir-se o "Dia Panamericano de Saúde."

Nesse dia, devemos concentrar-nos, para bem impregnar todo o nosso ser do mesmo e sincero desejo de amar a todos os países das Américas, como uma única nação, e desejar aos povos irmãos, o mesmo progresso, felicidade e saúde, que desejamos a nós mesmos.

O "Dia Panamericano de Saúde" deve ser um dia de meditação profunda. Nêle devemos balancear o que fizemos pela saúde do

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próximo, se tal oportunidade se nos ofereceu e, também, o que fizemos para proteger a nossa própria.

Deve ser o dia de traçarem-se novas diretrizes, de acôrdo com o progresso e a experiência do 'ano decorrido. Em que aproveitaremos, para agradecer aos homens de ciência, os seus estudos e, aos de Govêrno, as suas medidas em prol da saúde dos povos.

Estabelecer normas higiênicas de trabalho; limitar horários; distribuir tarefas, de acôrdo com a idade e capacidade; captar poeiras; proteger gestantes; iluminar as máquinas; amparar a criança; proteger engrenagens, lâminas, polias e transformadores; obrigar o descanso; criar colônias de férias; arejar e refrigerar oficinas; impedir a união de tarados; imunizar; isolar doentes; ensinar a comer e facilitar a aquisição de alimentos, tudo isto é trabalhar pela saúde.

Atualmente, ninguém se avanta ao Brasil, em realizações desta natureza. Compreenderam os seus dirigentes, que não há melhor emprego de capital, do que no saneamento e assistência médico-social. Quanto mais sadio e robusto é um povo, mais produz e rende e menos é levado aos hospitais, manicômios e prisões.

Cabe-me, atualmente, dirigir o setor que impede a entrada de epidemias, atravez dos mares e dos ares e proteger a raça, interceptando a entrada de degenerados físicos e mentais.

A legislação foi, em parte, estabelecida em Convênio Panamericano. O Brasil demonstra, permanentemente, a sua solidariedade, no cumprimento rigoroso de todas as suas cláusulas, as quais têm, por finalidade, a proteção da saúde dos povos americanos.

PUBLIC HEALTH—THE SUPREME LAW

Summary.—On Pan American Health Day special thought should be given to what has been done and what remains to be done to improve the general health, taking into consideration such measures as regulations on working hours; distribution of work according to age and capacity; maternity protection; rest periods; proper ventilation, and air conditioning of offices and factories; safety devices in industry; vacation camps; immunization and isolation of diseased persons; prevention of marriage of the unfit; and proper nutrition. Brazil has already accomplished much along these lines, as her leaders fully understand the importance of a healthy nation, and she is doing her part in the carrying out of Pan American agreements for the health protection of American peoples.

Grupos sanguíneos en la República Dominicana.—En el primer estudio (2,100 casos) de la distribución de los grupos sanguíneos en la República Dominicana, Ponce Pinedo (*Cruz Roja Dom.*, dbre. 1941, p. 15), señala que el grupo O es mayor y el grupo A menor que en los países latino-europeos. El índice bio-racial, es semejante al de la población europea en general. No hay datos comparables para los países ibero-americanos con excepción de la Isla de Cuba (estudios de Recio, de Basnuevo y colaboradores): Grupo O; cubanos, 49%; dominicanos, 52.9%; grupo A, 36 y 28.2%; grupo B, 13.0 y 15.7%; grupo AB, 2.0 y 3.2%.