

# SCIENTIFIC INSTITUTIONS IN LATIN AMERICA

## INSTITUTE OF PUBLIC HEALTH AND TROPICAL DISEASES\*

(INSTITUTO DE SALUBRIDAD Y ENFERMEDADES TROPICALES)

*Mexico, D. F.*

Director: Dr. Manuel Martínez Báez

The Institute of Public Health and Tropical Diseases of the Department of Health of Mexico was inaugurated March 18, 1939, fulfilling the provisions of the 1934-40 Six Year Plan which had called for its creation in response to a long-felt need for a specialized research center in public health and tropical disease problems. It is also expected that the Institute's laboratories and library will be of service to national and foreign scientists in its field, in this sense complying with a recommendation of the Pan American Sanitary Conferences. It will also come to have, in its collections, excellent teaching material, and as one of its most important functions, furnish specialized training for public health personnel.

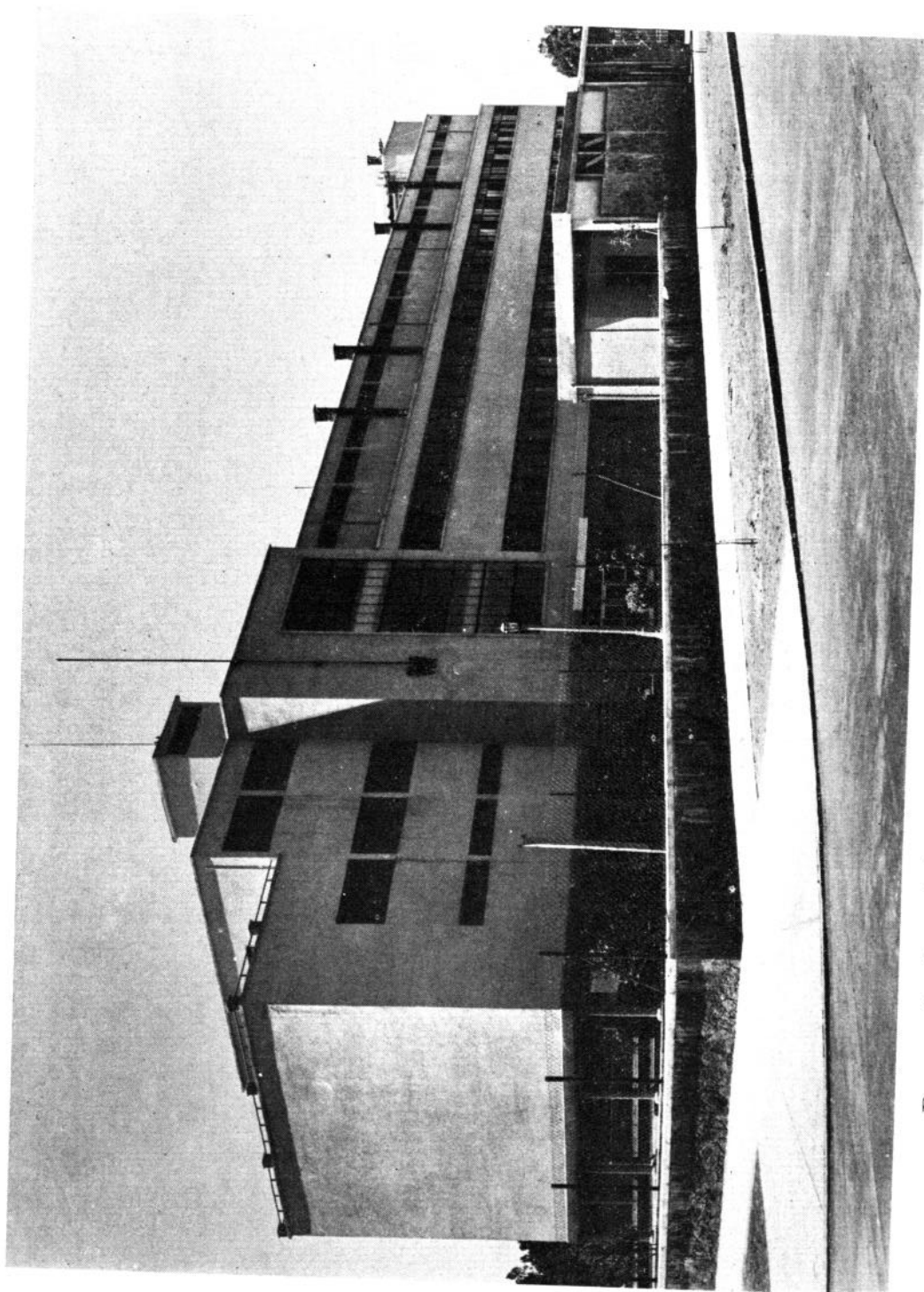
The Institute is housed in a main building of three floors, and several annexes including an animal farm, insect house and greenhouse, located on the old hacienda of San Jacinto in the center of a park, the land having been donated by the Federal District. It is governed by a Directing Council composed of the Chiefs of Laboratories and of the Clinical Department, and presided over by the Director, who is also Chief of a Laboratory.

The various laboratories include those of Epidemiology and Vital Statistics, Bacteriology and Immunology, Protozoology, Helminthology, Entomology, Mycology, Pharmacology and Experimental Medicine, Chemistry, and Pathologic Anatomy, all with leading men in charge. There are also the Clinical Section, with accommodations for 38 patients, the Library, and a Microphotography division.

One floor of the Institute is devoted to the School of Hygiene and Public Health, under the direction of Dr. Angel de la Garza Brito.

Since its inauguration, the Institute has already undertaken a number of studies, including those on typhus, pinto, pneumonia, Chagas' disease, blood parasites of birds, onchocerciasis, and other parasitoses, mosquitoes, phlebotomus, ticks, spiders, the poisonous plant *tullidora*, and the reputedly anti-malaria plant *copalchi*, the nutritive value of certain foods, a new quinine compound, fungi, and epidemiological and statistical surveys.

\* One of a series of papers describing the principal scientific institutions in Latin America.



Panoramic view of the Institute of Public Health and Tropical Diseases

Reports on some of these studies have recently appeared in the *Revista del Instituto de Salubridad y Enfermedades Tropicales*, official organ of the Institute.

The Institute has already opened its doors to foreign scientists, and a number are now engaged in studies there.



Hall of the School of Hygiene and Public Health



Solarium of the Experimental Hospital