

SEVENTH MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
PAN AMERICAN SANITARY ORGANIZATION

Washington, D. C.
May 23-30, 1949

TOPIC XI. PROPOSAL TO ORGANIZE THE THIRD REGIONAL
COURSE (INSTITUTE) ON HOSPITAL ADMINIS-
TRATION AND ORGANIZATION

I. BACKGROUND

In a Convention held in Atlantic City in September 1941, a group of physicians from various American Republics decided to organize the Inter-American Hospital Association; in 1942, they sought the support of the Pan American Sanitary Bureau in order to accomplish the proposed improvement of hospitals.

The Pan American Sanitary Bureau accepted the task of aiding the new Association, which, with that help and funds from the Institute of Inter-American Affairs amounting to \$100,000 (U.S.), developed a program to awaken interest in the field of hospital administration in all the countries of Latin America. It also organized two courses, known as Regional "Institutes" on Administration and Organization of Hospitals, which were given in Mexico City and Lima.

II. REGIONAL COURSES ON HOSPITAL ADMINIS-
TRATION AND ORGANIZATION

The First Regional Institute on Hospital Administration was held in Mexico City in January 1944, under the auspices of the Department of Public Health and Welfare and the National University of Mexico, with a faculty of 26 professors from Mexico and 22 from

universities and institutions in the United States.

The Conference was attended by 219 hospital administrators and physicians in executive work in hospitals from 12 countries of the Hemisphere.

The cost of the Course in Mexico was \$32,000.00 (U.S.). The Mexican Government and its institutions provided 45% of the total amount, and the balance was supplied by the Association, the Pan American Sanitary Bureau, and other organizations.

The Second Institute was held in December 1944, in Lima, Peru, with an attendance of 309 students from 17 countries of the Hemisphere. The faculty was composed of 68 professors (24 from the United States, 6 from Mexico, 1 from Panama, 1 from Chile, and the others from Peru).

The total cost of the Course in Lima was \$40,000 (U.S.), which was met by contributions from the Government of Peru, the University of San Marcos, the Association, and the Pan American Sanitary Bureau, more or less in the same proportion as the Mexico Institute. Both institutes were organized by the Inter-American Hospital Association under the auspices of the Pan American Sanitary Bureau.

III. PRESENT STATUS

The Inter-American Hospital Association, which was incorporated in 1945 under the laws of the State of Delaware in order to acquire legal capacity to maintain a bank account, pay and receive funds, hold property, etc., is practically inactive. The

Department of the Treasury of the United States has exempted the Association from the payment of income taxes. This exemption applies also to donations made to it by individuals or agencies.

The Pan American Sanitary Bureau, which has included medical care and prevention in its program by virtue of a resolution approved by the XII Pan American Sanitary Conference in Caracas, is interested in the resumption of activities in behalf of hospitals and their administration, promoting modern hospital methods, by means of regularly-scheduled courses which would be a continuation of those held in Mexico City and Lima.

Through the efforts of the Inter-American Hospital Association, the Government of Brazil has appropriated the sum of 300,000 cruzeiros (\$15,000.00 U. S.) for the organization of the Third Regional Institute to be held in Rio de Janeiro early in 1950, and this amount has been deposited in the Bank of Brazil and made available for this purpose. However, since the Association's resources are limited, the Rio Institute cannot be held unless the Pan American Sanitary Bureau continues to aid the Association as heretofore.

Both the Pan American Sanitary Bureau and the Association deem that they should not make separate efforts and that better results can be achieved by a coordinated effort of both organizations.

IV. PROPOSAL

Taking into account the foregoing, also the fact that the budget of the Pan American Sanitary Bureau for 1949 includes \$32,500.00 for the Hospital Administration Section, and the interest

and necessity of encouraging these activities, it is recommended that this Section be organized in the near future and that it dedicate its efforts to the organization of the Third Regional Institute to be held in Rio de Janeiro early in 1950.

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