

ENGLISH SECTION

Translations of papers submitted by outstanding Pan American Health Authorities on the occasion of the Second Pan American Health Day.

PAN AMERICAN HEALTH DAY

An excellent proof that the creation of Pan American Health Day in 1940 was a prudent and wise initiative, was its wide celebration in all the American Republics, with the cordial and effective participation of both Governments and people.

A glimpse at the activities which took place on this day last year, as well as at those already planned for this, show how united all our countries are in their faith in Public Health as an instrument for the protective strengthening of our people. The celebration this year takes on added importance in view of the crisis through which the world is passing, a crisis which threatens ever more closely our own countries. In these moments of unrest and alarm, when National Defense is no longer a theory, but an inevitable necessity, we must strive more earnestly than ever to strengthen the biologic factor: Man himself, since on him will depend the final success of our efforts in the struggles which lie ahead.

Let us therefore make December 2 an occasion not only for rendering tribute to the pioneers of the past and for emphasizing, as we have done before, the importance of public health work, but also, and above all, for stressing the fact that it is only through Health and Science that the future may be confronted with security, and a humanity created and maintained which may fearlessly defy the risks which menace us.

Health, the treasure of the rich, the happiness of the poor, and the necessity of all, stands today as the greatest asset available to men in their defense of the right to Liberty and to Life. Pan American Health Day indeed takes on new significance and value in this momentous year.—
HUGH S. CUMMING, *Director of the Pan American Sanitary Bureau.*