

provides the best facilities for the care and treatment of the sick.

A new library building is nearing completion. A recent grant of \$13,500 from the Carnegie Corporation of New York has been made for equipment. The total cost of construction and equipment approximated \$310,482. On the third floor are comfortable quarters for resident physicians and professors visiting the school. The library is affiliated with the American Medical Library Association, the Medical Library of Columbia University and several private agencies. Journals of medicine and of the allied sciences currently on file total 274. Accessions are in excess of 5,000.

Another new unit, the Physiology Building, affords additional facilities for training and research. Foremost among the cooperative projects with agencies within and outside the island is the continuation of the study on the nutritive values of forage crops, financed with funds released through the Bankhead-Jones Act and sponsored by the Agricultural Experiment Station at Rio Piedras.

The Department of Bacteriology is working jointly with the Agricultural Extension Service of the University of Puerto Rico on problems dealing with the supply of milk and the incidence of infection caused by the intestinal bacteria *Brucella* on the island. The cooperative project on glandular tuberculosis has been continued with the Department of Health. The study on the incidence of syphilis in Puerto Rico, conducted in collaboration with the biological laboratory of the Department of Health, has been completed.

Steady progress can be reported in the work of measuring the daily variation in solar radiation, supervised by the department of physics of the university. The epidemiological survey of St. Thomas and St. Croix, initiated last year under the auspices of the American Leprosy Association, in which the Department of Bacteriology has taken an active part, is now nearing completion.

A large series of strains of beta-hemolytic streptococci, isolated in Puerto Rico, were under study during the year. Study of the biology of pneumococci isolated in Puerto Rico was continued and showed that pneumococci are found in a high percentage of normal throats of apparently healthy persons, especially during the months of February, March and April.

Another study dealt with the physical impairments of adult life among agricultural workers.

Concluding his report, which discussed nearly fifty research projects, Dr. Bachman declared that new sources of income must be found to meet the demands of ever-widening interests. For long-time planning and to take care of a permanent annual operating

budget of \$450,000, an endowment from other sources is needed.

The special board of trustees of the school includes Dr. Jose M. Gallardo, Commissioner of Education of Puerto Rico, *chairman*; Isidoro Colon, Commissioner of Agriculture and Commerce; Dr. Jose F. Capo, member of the board of trustees of the University of Puerto Rico; Dr. Willard C. Rappleye, dean of the Columbia University School of Medicine and Commissioner of Hospitals of the City of New York, and Dr. Bachman. Mr. Colon succeeded Francisco Lopez Dominguez on the board.

Members of the special committee of Columbia University are Dr. Rappleye, Dr. Harry S. Mustard, director of the DeLamar Institute, and Professors James W. Jobling, Allen O. Whipple, A. Raymond Dochez, Gary N. Calkins, Earl T. Engle and Magnus I. Gregersen.

#### THE AMERICAN HEALTH UNIT IN GREAT BRITAIN

THE *London Times* of February 6 gives the following particulars in regard to the public health unit set up in Great Britain under the auspices of Harvard University and the American Red Cross, an announcement of which has already appeared in *SCIENCE*. The *Times* writes:

With the consent of the president of Harvard University, Dr. J. E. Gordon, Charles Wilder professor of preventive medicine and epidemiology, has accepted Malcolm MacDonald's invitation to act as United States Liaison Officer with the Ministry of Health.

Shortly after the outbreak of war Harvard University appointed a committee to consider how the university could contribute material or professional help to a cause closely concerned with its interests. The possible nature of this help was conceived in the broadest terms, with the suggestion that it might be in the fields of economics, medicine, sociology, public health, law, and perhaps other fields. Through an exchange of opinion between authorities of the university and colleagues in Great Britain, it later became evident that help in the fields of public health and medicine was most clearly in point.

As a consequence Harvard University made a formal offer in June, 1940, to the Minister of Health, which Mr. Malcolm MacDonald gratefully accepted, to equip and maintain in Great Britain a public health unit for the study and control of communicable disease. The purposes of the unit were defined as: To lend material aid to a friendly nation; to investigate communicable disease under unusual military and civil conditions, and to obtain medical information of value to the national defense of America.

The unit as originally conceived was to include a group of workers concerned with field studies in epidemiology, and a laboratory for the study of associated problems. British authorities early pointed out the desirability of

adding to this basic unit a well-equipped hospital for the clinical care and study of communicable disease. This addition became possible through the active cooperation of the American Red Cross, who agreed to build and transport to Great Britain a pre-fabricated hospital of one hundred and twenty-five beds. The final plans for the unit were evolved from discussions between Professor Gordon and the authorities of the Ministry of Health in London during August and September. Facilities and staff are provided for the study of communicable disease in the field, in the laboratory and at the bedside.

Professor Gordon returned to America in the latter part of September to assemble staff, order equipment and lay plans for the hospital. He left in London Dr. John R. Mote, assistant in epidemiology in the department of preventive medicine, Harvard University, now acting as medical adviser to the American Red Cross Committee in London, to continue and complete local arrangements. Dr. Gordon has now returned to London, and the first shipments of buildings and equipment are expected to arrive from America shortly. The headquarters of the unit will be in southwest England, with provision for a mobile team to serve more widely as need may arise.

As United States Liaison Officer with the Ministry of Health, Dr. Gordon has an office in the ministry and is taken freely into the confidence of the minister and the staff of the department. He will keep in close touch with the ministry, which will afford him all the assistance he requires.

#### THE NEW CANCER HOSPITAL AND CLINIC OF NEW YORK CITY

MAYOR F. H. LA GUARDIA announced on March 1 that architectural studies are nearly completed for the new cancer hospital and clinic to be built by the city at Washington Heights, adjacent to the Medical Center, and for the first time the mayor made public plans for the institution, to be known as the Nightingale Hospital, which will place the city in a leading position in cancer research.

The structure, to be built at the cost of \$2,650,000, will be conducted by the Department of Hospitals in conjunction with the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Columbia University. It will provide research facilities to a degree unprecedented in the rest of the city hospital system. There will be 315 beds, and about twenty per cent. of the building will be given over to laboratory space, where there will be conducted the normal laboratory work of a modern hospital, as well as original research. The hospital will also have an outpatient department.

The site will be acquired by the city for the nominal sum of one dollar, under an agreement between the city, Columbia University and the Presbyterian Hospital, which owns the land. In behalf of the city, the mayor has affixed his signature to this agreement, following unanimous approval by the Board of Estimate.

Completion of the hospital is expected toward the end of 1942, or the early part of 1943.

According to a statement made by the mayor the Nightingale Hospital will be a pioneer in one of the greatest fields of medicine. He said:

The choice of the name was not accidental. It is my hope that the new hospital will help to raise the science of cancer to a new level, just as Florence Nightingale raised the profession of nursing to a new level. This great woman pioneered not only in nursing, but also in methods of providing proper medical care, at a time when such work on a scientific basis was relatively unknown.

Commenting on the progress that has been made in research on cancer, Commissioner Rappleye pointed out:

It is estimated that more than a third of all cancer patients can be cured if their condition is recognized early and treated properly. In the present state of medical knowledge on the subject of cancer, timely diagnosis transcends all other factors in importance, and the Nightingale Hospital, by training young doctors, dentists and nurses, as well as physicians now engaged in general practice, in the diagnosis of cancer, will play an important part in the efforts to eliminate the fatal character of this malady.

The plan for the hospital was inaugurated by Dr. S. S. Goldwater, formerly hospital commissioner, early last year. In October, Dr. Goldwater was succeeded by Dr. Willard Rappleye, who has continued the work. The hospital will be located at 163rd Street and Fort Washington Avenue, on a site overlooking the Hudson River, and it will conform with the general architectural scheme of the other buildings at the Medical Center. The main building, which will be six stories in height, will be supplemented by a five-story wing. Provisions are being made for future expansion, if desired.

The Nightingale Hospital will replace two existing units of the department, these being the old Cancer Institute on Welfare Island and the Cancer Clinic at 124 East 59th Street. Both these structures will be demolished. The "radium plant" of the department will be moved to the new hospital.

Under the agreement, the Nightingale Hospital will be staffed jointly by the city and Columbia University, and the cost of construction and maintenance will be borne by the city. It will be used for teaching as well as for research.

The agreement between the city, Columbia University and the Presbyterian Hospital, by which the city will acquire the site for the nominal consideration of one dollar, provides that the hospital shall be used for the following purposes:

For the purposes and the services necessary to provide