THIRD
PAN AMERICAN CONFERENCE
OF NATIONAL DIRECTORS
OF HEALTH

SUMMARY OF PROCEEDINGS

WASHINGTON, D. C.
U. S. A.
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OF THE
PAN AMERICAN SANITARY BUREAU

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Ex-president of the National Department of Health, Buenos Aires

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DR. HUGH S. CUMMING
Surgeon General (Ret.), U. S. Public Health Service

ASSISTANT TO DIRECTOR
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U. S. Public Health Service

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Professor of Hygiene in the School of Medicine, Lima, Perú
Alternate: Dr. Carlos Monge

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Professor of Hygiene in the School of Medicine, Montevideo, Uruguay
Alternate: Dr. Rafael Schiaffino

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Ex-Chief of the Section of Foreign Relations, Department of Public Health, México
Alternate: Dr. Miguel Bustamante

DR. CARLOS DIEZ DEL CIERVO
Ex-Director of Public Health, Caracas
Alternate: Dr. Jesús Rafael Rísquez

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Alternate: Dr. Victor Grossi

PROVISIONAL PRESIDENT OF THE TENTH PAN AMERICAN SANITARY CONFERENCE
DR. JORGE BEJARANO
Professor of Hygiene in the School of Medicine, Bogotá

TRAVELING REPRESENTATIVES
DR. JOHN D. LONG
DR. M. A. ROE
DR. HENRY HANSON
U. S. Public Health Service

SCIENTIFIC EDITOR AND CHIEF TRANSLATOR
DR. ARÍSTIDES A. MOLL
THIRD PAN AMERICAN CONFERENCE OF NATIONAL DIRECTORS OF HEALTH

Held in Washington, April 4-15, 1936, Under the Auspices of the Pan American Sanitary Bureau

The First International Conference of American States (republics) met in Washington in 1889 and effected permanent organization by establishing the Bureau of American Republics, now the Pan American Union, as the executive organ of that conference and of succeeding conferences. There have been seven such conferences. In 1902, in Mexico City, the Second International Conference of American States authorized the creation of a separate, autonomous entity, the International (now the Pan American) Sanitary Conferences. The First Pan American Sanitary Conference met in Washington in 1902. There have been eight subsequent meetings, in various republics. These conferences, meeting from time to time, elected at each meeting a Directing Council, the Pan American Sanitary Bureau, but this body did not function until the Bureau was reorganized in 1920 by the Sixth Pan American Sanitary Conference, which met in Montevideo, Uruguay. Since that time the work of the Pan American Sanitary Bureau has grown rapidly and steadily, and its influence has each year become more extended.

The Fifth International Conference of American States, which met in Santiago, Chile, in 1923, provided that the Director of the Pan American Sanitary Bureau should call together in conference in Washington once in 5 years all of the directing heads of the Departments of Health of the various American Republics. These meetings, it was directed, should be held in the intervals between the meetings of the Pan American Sanitary Conferences, the next of which (the tenth) is scheduled to meet in Bogotá, Colombia, probably in 1938.

Following is the Acta Final of the Third Pan American Conference of National Directors of Health:

The Third Pan American Conference of National Directors of Health began its sessions in the City of Washington, at 10 a. m., April 6, 1936, in a meeting presided over by the Director General of the Pan American Union, Dr. Leo S. Rowe. Addresses of welcome were made by Hon. William Phillips, Under-Secretary of State of the United States, Dr. Leo S. Rowe, and Dr. Hugh S. Cumming in his capacity of Director of the Pan American Sanitary Bureau; responses were made by General José Siurob, M. D., on behalf of the delegates of the republics represented, and by Dr. Carlos Enrique Paz Soldán, on behalf of the Directing Council of the Pan American Sanitary Bureau. These addresses appear in the General Transactions.
The first plenary session of the conference was held in the afternoon of April 6, under the provisional presidency of Dr. Hugh S. Cumming, Director of the Pan American Sanitary Bureau. Credentials of delegates were approved as follows:

Argentina, Dr. Miguel Sussini; Brazil, Dr. João Barros Barreto; Chile, Dr. Víctor Grossi; Colombia, Dr. Enrique Torres; Costa Rica, Dr. Solón Núñez, Dr. Mariano Rodríguez Alvarado; Cuba, Dr. Domingo Ramos; Dominican Republic, Dr. Rafael Espaillat de la Mota; Guatemala, Lic. Enrique López Herrarte; Haiti, Dr. Rulx Léon; Mexico, General José Siurob, M. D., Dr. Ernesto Cervera, Dr. Gerardo Varela; Nicaragua, Dr. Emigdio Lola; Peru, Dr. Carlos Monge; United States, Dr. Hugh S. Cumming, Dr. Thomas Parran, Dr. F. A. Carmelia, Dr. W. L. Treadway, Dr. R. C. Williams, Dr. John D. Long, Dr. Bolívar J. Lloyd, Dr. George W. McCoy, Dr. J. P. Leake, Dr. C. L. Williams, Dr. L. L. Williams, Dr. J. W. Mountain; Uruguay, Dr. Justo F. González; Venezuela, Dr. Arnaldo Gabaldon.

There were admitted to the conference as ex officio members Drs. C. E. Paz Soldán, Lima, Peru, Vice-Director of the Pan American Sanitary Bureau; Waldemar E. Coutts, Santiago, Chile, member, and Miguel E. Bustamante, Mexico, D. F., alternate member of the Directing Council; and Arístides A. Moll, Scientific Editor of the Bulletin of the Pan American Sanitary Bureau.

The following officers of the conference were elected, by acclamation:

President, Dr. Hugh S. Cumming.
Vice presidents: Dr. Miguel Sussini, General José Siurob, M. D., Dr. Solón Núñez, and Dr. Emigdio Lola.
General secretary, Dr. João Barros Barreto.
Executive secretary, Dr. Arístides A. Moll.

The following committees were named:

Credentials: Dr. Miguel Sussini, Dr. João Barros Barreto, and Dr. Waldemar E. Coutts.

Regulations: Dr. Solón Núñez, Dr. Emigdio Lola, and Dr. Domingo Ramos.

Program: Dr. José Siurob, Dr. Víctor Grossi, and Dr. Carlos Monge.

Resolutions: Dr. John D. Long, Dr. Rulx Léon, Dr. João Barros Barreto, Dr. Carlos Enrique Paz Soldán, and Dr. Arístides A. Moll.

Committee to study and report on the topics for consideration by the Tenth Pan American Sanitary Conference: Dr. Bolívar J. Lloyd, Dr. Justo F. González, Dr. Waldemar E. Coutts, Dr. Miguel Bustamante.

Committees to study and present recommendations on the unfinished business of the Ninth Pan American Sanitary Conference:

1. Sanitary regulation of aerial navigation: Yellow fever, Malaria, Plague:

   Dr. F. A. Carmelia.
   Dr. Ernesto Cervera.
   Dr. Emigdio Lola.
   Dr. João Barros Barreto.
   Dr. Arnaldo Gabaldon.
2. Demography: Graded promotions in health organizations; Pan American scientific institutions; Narcotic control:
   General José Siurob, M. D.
   Dr. Sólon Núñez F.
   Dr. Domingo Ramos.
   Dr. Víctor Grossi.
   Dr. Miguel Bustamante.

3. Campaign against tuberculosis; Campaign against the venereal diseases; Brucellosis; Snake-bite:
   Dr. Miguel Sussini.
   Dr. Rafael Espaillat de la Mota.
   Dr. Carlos Monge.

4. Regulation of the preparation, manufacture, and sale of foods and drugs; Milk as a public health problem;
   Nutrition:
   Dr. Justo F. González.
   Dr. Carlos Monge.
   Dr. Gerardo Varela.
   Dr. Enrique López Herrarte.
   Dr. Enrique Torres Herrera.

The meetings held in the morning and afternoon of each day from April 6 to 13, 1936, offered, as is recorded in the General Transactions, a splendid opportunity for an exchange of impressions concerning the many, diverse, and important problems which confront the health authorities of the various republics.

The following motions, resolutions, and votes were discussed and unanimously approved:

VOTES AND RESOLUTIONS

MODERN TRENDS IN PUBLIC HEALTH

The Third Pan American Conference of National Directors of Health, after hearing the reports which have been submitted upon modern tendencies in public health, agrees to recommend, as a factor conducive to success in the development of the health activities of the State, the establishment of scientific services (departments) specially charged with the study of the problems of public health, which departments shall be distinct from those devoted to health administration, properly speaking, but subordinate to the higher health authority; it likewise recommends the continuance of the trend toward the technical unification of health work, aiming at the administrative coordination of health programs; and also the creation or increase of health centers and rural and urban health units with a definite program and a trained personnel dedicating full time to health work, in those countries which do not already have them.

The Third Pan American Conference of National Directors of Health congratulates the delegations which have reported on the topic Modern Trends in Public Health, on the thoroughness which their reports exhibited, and recommends to the Governments of the various American countries the preparation of similar reports for the Tenth Pan American Sanitary Conference.
THE PAN AMERICAN UNION

APPROPRIATIONS FOR HEALTH WORK

The Third Pan American Conference of National Directors of Health deems it advisable, in those countries in which the cities maintain health services and set aside a percentage of their funds for these functions, that, whenever compatible with the form of Government, such services be subordinated administratively to the national health services.

The conference further suggests the advisability of the governments setting aside for the health activities, properly speaking, sums which should be increased as needed, and recommends as a proper criterion for the present, the basis of $1 per capita per year, or its equivalent in the national currency of each country, for the support of the respective services.

SPECIAL HEALTH CAMPAIGNS

The Third Pan American Conference of National Directors of Health deems it advisable that, for special health campaigns, the funds which are appropriated for such ends should be in lump sums, in sufficient quantities, and that their allocation (hiring of personnel, etc.) should be left completely to the discretion of the health authorities.

RURAL SANITATION

The Third Pan American Conference of National Directors of Health, in the interests of rural sanitation, recommends the study in each country of the most appropriate methods of treatment of sewage, and in particular the adoption of economical and practical toilets and septic tanks, installation of which should be obligatory in keeping with sanitary aims.

INDUSTRIAL HYGIENE

The Third Pan American Conference of National Directors of Health recommends to the countries of America:

(1) That campaigns for the prevention of industrial accidents be initiated or intensified; (2) that investigations be made to determine the prevalence of occupational diseases; and (3) that such measures be improved and amplified as tend to (a) better the conditions of factories and offices, particularly in regard to illumination, ventilation, sanitary equipment, personal cleanliness, and water supplies; (b) better the standards of work, especially for women and children; and (c) assure workers a good state of health, controlled through periodical medical examinations and founded upon adequate nutrition both qualitatively and quantitatively speaking, and also sanitary dwelling places.

Also there is recommended the study of pneumoconiosis and the degrees of physical incapacity which it causes, in relation to the climatic conditions of each country.

PRENATAL CARE

The Third Pan American Conference of National Directors of Health recommends, as a means of maternal and infant protection, the extension of free maternity centers.
CONFERENCE OF NATIONAL DIRECTORS OF HEALTH

EDUCATION OF WOMEN

The Third Pan American Conference of National Directors of Health, in the interest of the progress of hygiene on the continent, urges that special attention be accorded the specialized education of women in health matters in the countries of America.

LIFE IN HIGH ALTITUDES

The Third Pan American Conference of National Directors of Health, taking into account the exposition of the delegate of Peru on the health problems created by life in high altitudes, recommends to the countries with inhabited high altitudes the organization of institutes to study the subject, and that reports on these studies be made at the Tenth Pan American Sanitary Conference.

NUTRITION AND ALIMENTATION

The Third Pan American Conference of National Directors of Health, in recognition of the fact that various countries of America have incorporated, in separate organizations or institutions, activities which relate to correct nutrition and alimentation along health lines, recommends:

I. To the countries which have not yet begun this type of work, that they do so as soon as possible;

II. That public education in good nutrition practices forms part of the local health duties, the organization of a trained personnel being advisable for this purpose;

III. That suitable propaganda be instituted to spread knowledge of the correct and varied use of foods, under the scientific supervision of authoritative organizations; and, likewise, that the new knowledge concerning amino-acids, mineral salts, and vitamins be applied to better general nutrition.

IV. That when the existence of deficiency diseases is verified, proper research be made and correct alimentation be instituted according to modern scientific knowledge.

V. That statistics regarding the consumption of the principal foods be published, in order to facilitate comparative studies among the countries of America.

VI. That close cooperation be established between health organizations and agencies charged with the control and distribution of food products, in order to subordinate whenever possible the economic aspects of nutrition to the biological requirements.

VII. That scientific investigations be made of the food products of each country of America, and their nutritive value.

VIII. That infant feeding be supervised, most especially in the first months of life; that when breast feeding is not feasible, modified milk be used; that the employment of wet-nurses should be carefully supervised, considering also the interests of the wet-nurse’s child; and that the establishment of mothers’ milk stations be considered.

IX. That the study of the alimentation of man in America, in its various phases, as a subject of great importance for the future of the population of the continent, be chosen as a topic for the Tenth Pan American Sanitary Conference.
X. And, finally, that the Pan American Sanitary Bureau should appoint a Committee on Alimentation, as proposed by the Seventh International Conference of American States at Montevideo, in order to comply with the resolutions of previous conferences on this subject.

NARCOTICS

The Third Pan American Conference of National Directors of Health recommends (1) an active campaign against drug addiction in its various manifestations, chiefly through treatment of addicts, suitable isolation, and by a thorough and persistent educational campaign;

(2) That control over the traffic in habit-forming drugs be improved.

(3) Careful investigation of the results obtained by the enforcement of international agreements which subject commerce in drugs to severe restrictions; and, considering the special situation in which American coca-producing countries find themselves, and the effects already produced in them by international pacts, it recommends that the suggestion formerly made again be studied, namely, the possible Americanization of the supply of this drug, by means of direct agreements between the governments of the producing and of the consuming countries, as a step in the development of industrial relations in the pharmaceutical field.

AMEBIASIS

The Third Pan American Conference of National Directors of Health deems advisable the continuance of investigations with the aim of determining, by means of new diagnostic methods, the spread of amebiasis in the Americas, and recommends that the results be reported to the Tenth Pan American Sanitary Conference.

LEPROSY

The Third Pan American Conference of National Directors of Health has seen with satisfaction the progress achieved in the control and care of leprosy, in the countries where this disease is prevalent, and trusts that the work will continue and be amplified, to reduce the dangers and spread of this malady, until its disappearance, as a health problem, from America.

POLIOMYELITIS

The Third Pan American Conference of National Directors of Health recommends to the countries of America the adoption of the measures against infantile paralysis described in Publication No. 90 of the Pan American Sanitary Bureau, with the modifications already or hereafter suggested by experience, without prejudice to the continuance of investigations of this disease.

TRACHOMA

The Third Pan American Conference of National Directors of Health, recognizing the fact that trachoma is contracted principally in infancy, recommends the health education of mothers as an important preventive measure.
The Third Pan American Conference of National Directors of Health advises that in the fight against the venereal diseases, the epidemiologic aspects be considered, in each case, the source of the infection being studied in order to prevent possible new contagions.

MALARIÀ

The Third Pan American Conference of National Directors of Health, considering the magnitude of the problem of malaria in the greater part of the countries of America, firmly recommends that it be given foremost attention in all programs and plans of health work.

TERCENTENARY OF THE DISCOVERY OF CINCHONA

The Third Pan American Conference of National Directors of Health, considering that the year 1938 marks the third century of medical recognition of the value of cinchona bark, and that in this same year the Tenth Pan American Sanitary Conference will be held in Bogotá, recommends that in the said conference a special program be set aside to commemorate this event, which should preferably include a complete survey of the problem of malaria in America.

CARRIERS OF DISEASE

The Third Pan American Conference of National Directors of Health recommends the study of the problem of carriers in communicable diseases and advises, especially, the determination of the prevalence and the duration of the carrier state, registration of carriers, and practical means of rendering carriers harmless.

VACCINES

The Third Pan American Conference of National Directors of Health recommends to the scientific institutions of American countries that they continue the study of methods of obtaining antismallpox vaccine in the highest condition of efficiency and purity, and that the results be reported to the Tenth Pan American Sanitary Conference.

The Third Pan American Conference of National Directors of Health, believing that antityphoid and antidysenteric vaccines are useful as supplementary means of prophylaxis, recommends that investigations of the oral administration of these vaccines be continued, and that the results obtained be reported to the Tenth Pan American Sanitary Conference.

The Third Pan American Conference of National Directors of Health, after taking into account data and experiences submitted on the use of BCG in some American countries, recommends that the study of this preventive measure be continued with the same care and that the results be considered in the Tenth Pan American Sanitary Conference.

VITAL STATISTICS

The Third Pan American Conference of National Directors of Health recognizes that the securing of complete reports regarding the communicable diseases is a basic requirement for successful public
health work, that the problem varies in different localities and in the several countries, and that while it is one that may never be entirely solved, it merits constant thought and consideration by public health officers throughout the world, in order that continual improvement in reporting may be achieved.

EXECUTION OF THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE NINTH PAN AMERICAN SANITARY CONFERENCE

The Third Pan American Conference of National Directors of Health has heard with pleasure the report relative to the manner in which the Department of Public Health of Uruguay has tried to carry out the recommendations made by the Ninth Pan American Sanitary Conference, and with this in view, recommends:

That similar reports be presented at future conferences of directors of health, by the health departments of the American countries.

PROGRAM OF THE TENTH PAN AMERICAN SANITARY CONFERENCE

After considering the report of the Committee on Program for the Tenth Pan American Sanitary Conference, the Third Pan American Conference of National Directors of Health recommends that the following subjects, having received the most votes among the delegates consulted, be included in the program of said conference:

(1) Tuberculosis: Results of the campaign in each country; vaccination with BCG; coordination of activities.
(2) Anti-plague campaigns.
(3) Anti-malaria campaigns.
(4) Modern trends in the campaign against venereal diseases.
(5) Typhus fever and related diseases.
(6) Diseases produced by viruses.
(7) The problem of carriers in epidemiology.
(8) Rural sanitation, water supplies, disposal of refuse and sewage, dwellings.
(9) Regional diseases.
(10) Preventive and curative vaccines and sera.
(11) Training, selection, promotion, and guaranty of tenure of office for national health officials.
(12) Necessity for the coordination of health work under the national public health services.
(13) Human alimentation and nutrition.
(14) Social security.
(15) Maritime and aerial quarantine measures.
(16) Prenatal and infant hygiene.
(17) Leprosy.

ROCKEFELLER FOUNDATION

The Third Pan American Conference of National Directors of Health lauds the work of the International Board of Health of the Rockefeller Foundation and its cooperation in the sanitary activities of various countries in America, and expresses a wish for its extension to all American countries.
CONFERENCE OF NATIONAL DIRECTORS OF HEALTH

WORK OF THE PAN AMERICAN SANITARY BUREAU

The Third Pan American Conference of National Directors of Health, after hearing the report of the cooperative work performed by the Pan American Sanitary Bureau, expresses its approval and records a vote of applause for this truly Pan American work.

BULLETIN OF THE PAN AMERICAN SANITARY BUREAU

The Third Pan American Conference of National Directors of Health, after considering the policy of the Pan American Sanitary Bureau of distributing to all communities, even the smallest, in America, the Bulletin which it publishes monthly, and the high standing reached by this organ for the spread of American health doctrines, in its appearance, as well as in the quality and arrangement of the scientific material published;

Resolves to grant a vote of applause and encouragement to the Pan American Sanitary Bureau for this work and this progress, and to urge it to continue the publication of its official organ along the same lines.

VOTES OF APPLAUSE

The Third Pan American Conference of National Directors of Health awards a special vote of gratitude and applause to Dr. Hugh S. Cumming for the impartial and far-seeing manner in which he has directed its deliberations and organized its work, and extends to him in his retirement as Surgeon General of the United States Public Health Service, best wishes, placing on record a testimonial to the services which he has rendered to the cause of Pan American cooperation in public health.

Likewise it applauds the labor of Dr. Bolivar J. Lloyd for his cooperation, through the Pan American Sanitary Bureau, in the work of obtaining closer relations in health work among the nations of the New World;

And records its approval of the manner in which the Scientific Editor of the Bulletin, Dr. Aristides A. Moll, Executive Secretary of the Conference, discharges his duties, which contribute so much to the spread of health knowledge in American countries.

The Third Pan American Conference of National Directors of Health attests its gratitude to Dr. Leo S. Rowe for the most gracious manner in which he has extended his hospitality to the members, and for the use of the facilities in the Building of the Pan American Union.

The Third Pan American Conference of National Directors of Health records its praise of the Secretary General of the Assembly, Dr. João de Barros Barreto, for the manner in which he has contributed to the success of the conference;

Likewise it extends its thanks to Drs. Miguel Sussini, José Siurob, Solón Núñez and Emigdio Lola, vice presidents, for the direction of the sessions over which they have presided.

The Third Pan American Conference of National Directors of Health extends a vote of applause for his valuable work to the Traveling Representative of the Pan American Sanitary Bureau, Dr. John D. Long.
The closing session took place Saturday, April 11, 1936, at 10 a.m.; with Dr. Hugh S. Cumming, presiding. On this occasion, addresses were made by Dr. Domingo Ramos, in the name of the visiting delegates; Dr. Justo F. González, in the name of the Directing Council of the Pan American Sanitary Bureau, and by Dr. Hugh S. Cumming. The various addresses were incorporated in the General Transactions of the Conference.

Signed in the city of Washington on the 11th day of April 1936, it having been agreed that a copy of this Act shall be sent to each of the delegations, and furthermore, that a copy shall be sent to each of the American Governments (republics) through diplomatic channels, and finally, that the original shall be kept in the office of the Pan American Sanitary Bureau.

Signed:

HUGH S. CUMMING, President

MIGUEL SUSSINI, Vice President (Argentina).
Solón Núñez, Vice President (Costa Rica).
João Barros Barreto, General Secretary (Brazil).
Mariano Rodríguez Alvarado (Costa Rica).
Víctor Grossi (Chile).
F. A. Carmelia (United States).
R. C. Williams (United States).
Bolívar J. Lloyd (United States).
J. P. Leake (United States).
L. L. Williams (United States).
Enrique López Herrera (Guatemala).
Ernesto Cervera (Mexico).
Rafael Espaillat de la Mota (Dominican Republic).
Justo F. González (Uruguay).
C. E. Paz Soldán (ex officio), (Peru).
Miguel E. Bustamante (ex officio), (Mexico).

José Siurob, Vice President (Mexico).
Emigdio Lola, Vice President (Nicaragua).
Enrique Torres (Colombia).
Domingo Ramos (Cuba).
Thomas Parran (United States).
W. L. Treadway (United States).
John D. Long (United States).
George W. McCoy (United States).
C. L. Williams (United States).
J. W. Mountin (United States).
Rulx Léon (Haití).
Gerardo Varela (Mexico).
Carlos Monge (Peru).
Arnoldo Gabaldon (Venezuela).
Waldemar E. Coutts (ex officio), (Chile).
Aristides A. Moll (ex officio), Executive Secretary (United States).