TRIBUTE TO DR. HUGH S. CUMMING

Commemorating His 25th Anniversary as Director of the Pan American Sanitary Bureau

Wise and Prudent Preceptor . . . .

The name of Doctor Hugh S. Cumming will always be connected with the Pan American Sanitary Bureau whose first steps he guided endowing it with the seal of his strong scientific and moral personality. The ideals which brought about its foundation and which seemed like dreams, have become facts largely through the Bureau presided over by Dr. Cumming with an ever increasing rhythm throughout the years until the present time when the awakened consciousness of the Americas about their health interests and the necessity of mutual plans and methods for a better and more adequate solution. . . . To him credit is due for the splendid achievement of an important role. He gave wise and prudent encouragement. He knew how to clear the way of formidable obstacles which divided our countries not only geographically, but morally and spiritually, and these differences were indeed great at the beginning of his health work. It is man himself who finally demonstrates the real efficiency of a principle, idea or religion, and in this respect, the peoples of the Americas have been very fortunate in matters regarding health. In Dr. Cumming they found the man they needed. He has everything necessary to make a success of this undertaking. He has the temperament and qualifications to work spiritually in Latin America. His physique, his natural elegance, radiate benevolence placing his relations with others on a basis of mutual cordiality. His simplicity, without vulgarity, lends to his conversation a friendliness which makes discussions of the most difficult problems which present themselves, easy. His complete knowledge of the public health questions which affects us, acquired through long years of real experience by visiting these countries, has made Dr. Cumming an indisputable authority on health matters pertaining to these countries. Today when all the Americas celebrate the twenty-fifth anniversary of his assuming the position of Director of the Pan American Sanitary Bureau, I add these brief lines to the merited homage to this eminent sanitarian, whose noble and fruitful life has been devoted wholly to the promotion of health among the peoples of the Americas.

Miguel Sussini
Buenos Aires, Argentina

ADMIRATION AND APPRECIATION . . . .

Upon completing twenty-five years of intense and meritorious service to the Pan American Sanitary Bureau, I wish to express to you the admiration and appreciation which all of us feel for the valuable work which you have accomplished during this period of time. Under your able and tactful direction and with the help of efficient coworkers, the Pan American Sanitary Bureau has achieved extraordinary work for the betterment of health among the peoples of the Americas.

Bernardo A. Houssay
Buenos Aires, Argentina

GREETINGS . . . .

I wish to convey to Dr. Hugh S. Cumming my happiness at greeting him on his “silver anniversary” with the Pan American Sanitary Bureau, my warm praises for his magnificent work achieved with such wisdom, unselfishness and
efficiency and my fervent hopes that he may continue presiding with the same enthusiasm over the destinies of the great Institution until he reaches his "golden wedding."

Mariano R. Castex
Buenos Aires, Argentina

A GREAT FIGURE IN HEALTH IN THE AMERICAS . . . .

During the same month of December in which Pan American Health Day is commemorated, the whole Continent venerates its glorious names and is reminded of the deeds of its great sanitarians of the past, who preached the good doctrine, faced dangers, made regions healthful, conquered disease and controlled sicknesses. In this same month, a just homage for the many years completed at a useful work at the head of the Pan American Sanitary Bureau, the whole Continent also praises the person and the work of a prominent personality of the present time, Hugh S. Cumming, as a leader of American Sanitary Science. He is applauded and admired by Government heads as well as public health experts who continually receive direct, insistent and unselfish stimulus from this great Apostle of Good. Everyone knows that, thanks to his serene and persistent work, a Continental Health Conscientiousness is being created in the Americas and a unity of thought is being developed in regard to the common health problems. Under Dr. Cumming’s supreme command, in which a keenness of policy has been closely tied to technical objectives, the Pan American Sanitary Bureau became an active and valuable center of collaboration, interchange and coordination of activities for the national health organizations of the various countries. May this day of just homage to an eminent pioneer be also, for the sanitarian of the Americas, a day of pledges: that efforts may be joined for the purpose of making still more perfect, more forceful and more fertile the Pan American achievements of Hugh S. Cumming!

João de Barros Barreto
Rio de Janeiro, Brazil

BASIS FOR UNDERSTANDING . . . .

Peace and Health to all Americas—now and forever! I do not believe that any other greeting to Dr. Hugh S. Cumming could be so dear to him as the above lines, which are his words spoken in 1940, when December 2nd was first devoted to American cooperation in international health activities. These words faithfully reflect the spirit of the man to whom we now pay tribute. He wanted no more, during his public life, than that there be peace and health for the peoples of the Americas, united under the same ideals and principles which guide international friendship, ideals and principles which, as a whole, are only found in the field of health, as a basis of progress, perfection, and therefore, of peace. In other fields, Dr. Cumming has said, there may be varied ideologies and opinions; in the field of health, however, it may be said without discussion, that everyone thinks likewise. And, he would continue: health is a gift which our countries should cultivate intensely, if they wish to achieve progress. We, the sanitarians of the Americas, should always keep these words sounding in our ears, ever striving to pay heed to Health, which as shown by Dr. Cumming, not only through these words but by his whole busy life, is the real basis of international understanding, and therefore, of peace and progress. May the torch of health with which the Pan American Sanitary Bureau lights the way for all the countries of the Americas, and which has been shining for 25 years in the hands of Hugh S. Cumming, still continue to burn on and on for many, many years!

Francisco Borges Vieira
São Paulo, Brazil
APOSTLESHIP IN HEALTH . . .

It was certainly President Franklin Roosevelt who first created a true policy based not on the selfish interests of each nation, but on friendship. The magic word, good neighbor, expresses well this entirely sentimental movement of sincere approach which makes the American continent one nation and one family. It has been proved that economic and national factors, of themselves, are incapable of creating peace and liberty which are necessary for the progress of civilization. Above all else, friendship must exist, the most pure and mystic friendship, in good and bad times, a religious sentiment of friendship which will overcome misunderstandings, personal or transitory, and conciliate the various peoples of the Americas. American humanitarianism, or better, the friendship between men of different tongues and traditions, is the conception which President Franklin Roosevelt so well applied to his Pan American policy. The pioneers of this movement were the physicians, for they struggled together in fighting both suffering and death without any individual or national prejudices. Long before the vague dream of a political unity in the continent, they had brought about health unity. Truly, sickness has this impressive aspect, as in a tragic way, it brings men together. Frontiers and childish disagreements generated by pride, disappear. All patients are on an equal level. And in the face of illness, physicians are brought together, touched by the same sentiment of human fraternity. The work of Finlay in Habana is taken over by Oswaldo Cruz in Rio de Janeiro, that of Carlos Chagas was important to the vast South American hinterland. Each physician, wherever he may be, has the knowledge and the experience of all to fall back upon in his sacred mission. Economic conditions change, but the friendship of man to man which constitutes the spiritual basis of medicine, does not change. Among the pioneers of good-neighborliness, Dr. Hugh S. Cumming, Director of the Pan American Sanitary Bureau, stands out. He knows our continent, having traversed it from north to south during a long and busy life, he has seen at close quarters the obscure suffering of populations attacked by endemics and epidemics; wherever he was needed, he was. His 25 years of work represent a true apostolate of friendship, of perfect friendship which does not measure sacrifices, nor demands any rewards. Now, at the jubilee of his career, this great apostle of continental health must recall the most touching moments of his life. There are glorious vistas, human faces which show suffering, and also hope. And why not? The new generation clearly envisions the happiness of the future! In its untiring heart the American bespeaks. But friendship is only repaid by friendship. May he listen at this moment to the many voices of his distant friends who send him a message of gratitude: "Muchas gracias, muito obrigado, Dr. Cumming!"

Manoel de Abreu
Rio de Janeiro, Brazil

DEVOTION TO CAUSE OF HEALTH . . .

The 25th anniversary of the administration of Dr. Hugh S. Cumming as Director of the Pan American Sanitary Bureau is an occurrence of great significance, as it crowns a life nobly consecrated to the cause of health and the tightening of health bonds in the Americas.

Almér de Castro
Rio de Janeiro, Brazil

GRATITUDE . . .

Dr. Hugh S. Cumming, by devoting himself for 25 years to the throbbing problems of Public Health, among which Yellow Fever stands out, became en-
titled to the gratitude of all the nations of the Western Hemisphere for the wonderful work which through the Pan American Sanitary Bureau he has achieved for the Americas.

Waldemar S. Sé Antunes
Rio de Janeiro, Brazil

SANITARIAN EMERITUS .

To Dr. Hugh S. Cumming, Pan American sanitarian emeritus, wholly devoted to the Pan American Sanitary Bureau, specializing in public health matters, the Director of the National Department of Health Cources, Brazil, with a feeling of joy joins in paying tribute on the date on the completion of a quarter of a century consecrated to the cultural interchange of preventive medicine between the American Republics.

José Bonifácio Paranhos da Costa
Rio de Janeiro, Brazil

GREAT SANITARIAN .

On this very significant date for the sister republics of the Americas, united in defending the health of the people, the admirable figure of that great sanitarian, Dr. Hugh S. Cumming, stands out prominently, and he is respected and beloved by all Brazilian sanitarians.

Eder Jansen de Mello
Rio de Janeiro, Brazil

EFFICIENT PERFORMANCE .

In December of this year, Dr. Hugh S. Cumming will complete 25 years of valuable services as Director of the Pan American Sanitary Bureau. All the health services of the Americas know of his efficient work in the various posts he has occupied and of his inestimable cooperation in guiding health campaigns undertaken in the American republics. Our pleasure therefore, is justified, in the commemoration of this event, in which we present to Dr. Hugh S. Cumming our congratulations and our appreciation for his inestimable services to mankind.

Roberval Cordeiro de Farias
Rio de Janeiro, Brazil

DEVOTION TO HUMAN WELFARE .

If there is a reason which can elevate and ennoble a life, it is to have devoted it entirely to the welfare of humanity. The life of Dr. Hugh S. Cumming shines with the great deed of having always given the best of his cultured mind and vast capacity for action, his utmost to improve health conditions in the United States, and spreading the experience acquired to benefit mankind in other countries. The high esteem in which he is held both in his own country and abroad is well deserved because of his unselfish work as Director of the Pan American Sanitary Bureau for the last 25 years.

Henrique de Beaurepaire Aragão
Rio de Janeiro, Brazil

THANKS .

The Director of the Butantan Institute has had multiple occasions to appreciate the gentlemanliness and the efficiency of Dr. Hugh S. Cumming, of the Pan American Sanitary Bureau, through which the Institute is provided with standard antitoxins and toxins necessary to control its immunotherapeutic products.
The same and invariable cordiality, along with quick action and correct decisions, through the intervention of Dr. Cumming, have constituted for the Management of our Institute a guarantee for the supplies mentioned, relieving it from any worry about such an important matter.

Now that Dr. Cumming has completed 25 years of glorious service with the Pan American Sanitary Bureau, this Institute takes pleasure in sending him, in the names of all the workers of the Institution, their most cordial thanks for the excellent services rendered to the Butantan Institute.

Otto Bier
São Paulo, Brazil

UNSELFISH SCIENTIST . . . .

Dr. Hugh S. Cumming without doubt is one of the most outstanding figures in Pan American medicine. To prove this statement it should be enough to cite some of his titles and commissions. Besides his wide knowledge and devotion to medical and social problems in his country, which justify his many honors, he has also brought the scientists of the continents together, and for his achievements he has received the title of "Citizen of the Americas."

For 25 years, Cumming has been the Director of the Pan American Sanitary Bureau, which post he has filled with special brilliance. The Bulletin published by the Bureau is replete with teachings, especially on the pathology of communicable diseases. Among such diseases, the problem of tuberculosis has been taken up as this is one which impresses all physicians, sanitarians, sociologists and humanity in general.

A selfless scientist like Hugh S. Cumming certainly merits the appreciation and the applause of all those interested in medico-social problems. Now that he has completed 25 years as Director of the Pan American Sanitary Bureau, to which service he has devoted his greatest interest, The National Tuberculosis Service of the National Department of Health of Brazil renders to him its most just and respectful tribute.

Samuel Libânio
Rio de Janeiro, Brazil

A CAVALIER . . . .

Dr. Hugh S. Cumming's "Silver Wedding" with Pan American Health, which for many reasons should be called Pan American Medicine, have caused his disciples, to render homage to the Master, bringing into focus his twenty-five-year effort.

This labor has many facets, the success of which benefits the peoples and governments of the Americas: scientific, administrative, and political . . . keeping in mind also that Dr. Cumming has not directed Pan American Health but has cooperated actively and profitably with the International Office of Public Health of Paris.

Companions of mine in the Cumming School will elaborate on the facets named and many others. I wish to take to myself the most intimate: Cumming as a friend, as a gentleman. From his figure and good breeding to his gentle courtesy with which he knows how to implant an opinion or impose his ideas as a Chief, he shows his impeccable traits as a cavalier from Virginia, his native state. There never existed a cavalier without his lady. And if he is a great gentleman, Mrs. Cumming is a great lady, and both constitute the most genuine representatives of the best in American family life.

We, the sanitarians of the Americas, know and have profited by the high
principles and exquisite courtesy which "The General" and "The Lady" show in all their acts.

Domingo F. Ramos
Habana, Cuba

RELEVANT PERSONALITY . . .

The silver anniversary of Dr. Hugh S. Cumming, as Director of the Pan American Sanitary Bureau, a position he has held with honor since 1920, offers an excellent occasion to exalt his relevant personality and to render our cordial and sincere homage.

A man of altruistic mien and a mentality nourished in scientific sources, the long public life of Dr. Cumming shows a succession of dignified successes in the field of humanitarian services. At this stage of his career, he stands out as a Pan Americanist who devoted his laborious life to the study of difficult health problems and to coordinating the international measures agreed upon for a vast system of continental health.

For such reasons, to Dr. Cumming has been granted, among other medals signifying universal acknowledgement of his merits, the decoration of the Order of Juan Pablo Duarte, the highest honor conferred by the Dominican Republic.

Having been honored with an intimate relationship with this distinguished and revered friend, I know that his notable services reflect the intellectual and moral gifts which make his respectable person so attractive, namely understanding, his friendliness, and the kind nobleness of a placid personality.

L. F. Tomen
Dominican Republic

DEFENDER OF HEALTH . . .

Among scientific personalities in the Americas, Dr. Hugh S. Cumming, worthy Director of the Pan American Sanitary Bureau, occupies a unique place. Dr. Cumming has been the Director of the Bureau for the last 25 years, which office he held with unblemished zeal and profound unselfishness, carrying on his work with wide and real benefits for all the peoples of the Continent. His well-known name is connected with all the achievements of real value which, insofar as health is concerned, have been carried on by the American peoples during these last decades. His scientific capacity, his experience, his very life, are consecrated to the health work of the Americas. And it is for this reason that his name figures among those who have dedicated themselves, because of their great devotion to Humanity and Science, to the immense task of Defending the Health of Mankind.

With the advent of Peace to the World, the bloody episode with the most devastating consequences the World has known, has come to an end. After this destructive stage in which so many peoples and civilizations were ruined, and in which youth and hopes were mowed down, a new constructive cycle of creation must arise in order to improve the conditions in the life of mankind. Only by means of Health and Science may Humanity attain better days, as understood and demonstrated by Hugh S. Cumming. As the tribute to his 25 years of useful work, let us be men of action in order that all suffering, weeping and despairing mankind may attain happiness.

L. Izquieta Pérez
Guayaquil, Ecuador

WORK ACHIEVED . . .

Upon the completion of 25 years in the service of the Bureau which he has so ably directed for the good of humanity in the Americas and in other continents,
I have the honor of sending expressive and very sincere congratulations to Dr. Hugh S. Cumming. It must be a great satisfaction to rest on the wayside of a busy life and contemplate the work achieved with much labor, indeed, but with the greatest of successes. On this date we are with him in spirit, participating as friends and admirers, in his triumphs.

_Luis Gaitán_
Guatemala, Guatemala

**CHAMPION OF COOPERATION . . . .**

I met Dr. Cumming in 1924 when, as Secretary General of the Department of Health, I took part, as Delegate from Mexico, in the VII Pan American Sanitary Conference which met at Habana, in November of that year. Since then I have had the pleasure to follow closely though from afar the important work achieved by him as Director of the Pan American Sanitary Bureau. Under his able and amiable direction the Bureau has progressed in accordance with the needs of the times. In Mexico we are very fond of Dr. Cumming for his qualities, a few of them somewhat Latin, which enrich his attractive and strong personality, and above all, for his amiable disposition towards Mexican professionals who have visited Washington; for his affability towards those who have requested counsel, orientation or help in their work; for his constant spirit of cooperation with our health authorities and for his friendly interest in the progress in health matters in Mexico. This well deserved opinion about a great sanitarian has been shown, first by his appointment in 1930 as Honorary Member of our National Academy of Medicine and later by the granting to him, by the President of our Republic in 1944, the Eduardo Licéaga Medal. Now upon the completion of 25 years of service in Pan American, as well as of the world, health activities, I wish to join cordially in acknowledging this great work and render sincere and respectful homage to one of the most resolute champions of international health cooperation and of Inter-American friendship.

_Alfonso Pruneda_
Mexico, D. F.

**HEALTH APOSTLE . . . .**

When the Pan American Sanitary Bureau was created in Washington, I saw in it a new sanctuary for Health in our Americas. The only thing lacking was a man in whom the sister republics could place their confidence in the keeping of this temple.

Then Dr. Hugh S. Cumming appeared: His faith in the noble ideal of continental health organization, as Director of the Pan American Sanitary Bureau, his constancy and his patience at the hard and continuous work of aiding in the improvement of the health of the peoples of the Americas, along with his willingness to be only a collaborator for public good with no craving for renown or monetary remuneration, made me see an Apostle of Health in this nobleman who thus spent his life for the benefit of the Inter-American health and brotherhood.

Hence my respect and constant devotion for Dr. Hugh S. Cumming, whom, long years of personal acquaintance have permitted me to know well and to whom the peoples of all the Americas in just acknowledgement now, through their Health Institutions show the fond affection he has won through 25 years of struggle as a pioneer sanitarian. The American Continent consecrates Dr. Hugh S. Cumming as a Health Apostle of the Americas.

_Luis Manuel Debayle_
Managua, Nicaragua
When on December 20, 1920, I officially voted in the name of Peru for Dr. Hugh S. Cumming, as Director of the Pan American Sanitary Bureau in Washington, at the VI Pan American Sanitary Conference held in Montevideo, I confess that I did so in homage to the United States. The name of the then Surgeon General of the U.S. Public Health Service had been suggested by Dr. Joseph H. White, Chairman of the United States Delegation to the Conference.

The vote was unanimous. Dr. White was the subject of general admiration. He was the "Doctor Volcano" as he was called in Central America because his pipe was ever smoking in his lips. His joviality and the support of Gregorio Guiteras, his fine and courteous companion in the American Delegation, transformed the election not only into a symbolic act of solidarity, but also into a hemispheric consecration of Dr. Cumming.

Four years later, in November 1924, I met Dr. Cumming in Habana, during the VII Pan American Sanitary Conference, at which we were both delegates. Everyone at the meetings was immediately attracted to him. His fine personality, his delicate tactfulness and cordiality, the wise counsel and advice during discussions which at times were anything but calm during the adoption of the Sanitary Code, were decisive "imponderables" which influenced the decisions reached. His figure was respected by the participants, a miracle which has followed Dr. Cumming wherever he has acted.

From the unforgettable days in Habana, my deep friendship for Dr. Hugh S. Cumming dates. Since this first personal contact, I have felt the radiance emanating from this man and inspiring respect. When he was reelected by acclamation as Director of the Bureau on November 14, 1924, I was fortunate enough to share with him the continental representation on the Pan American Sanitary Bureau. I counted this participation, Cumming's eminent, very modest mien, as one of the highest honors of my life as Professor of Hygiene. Twenty-one years have passed since this meeting. Since then I have taken part in all the events of importance in Continental Health: Pan American and National Director of Health Conferences, and others. Innumerable times have I, publicly, in frequent letters, applauded Cumming, with constant fidelity to his work inspired more than by Science, by the supreme Conscience which gives Cumming the wisdom with which has led the international life of Continental Hygiene.

Lima, Washington, Buenos Aires, Rio, Bogotá were places where my reverent friendship and admiration for Cumming's singular virtues increased, and I became more reverent, because of his excellence and manners of a great gentleman, because of his safe judgement in planning free cooperation in keeping with the equality of our peoples in their progress towards Health.

I may say it as an authorized personal witness, he has been and still is the respected artisan of the crusade for medico-social progress in the Americas. When with the passing of years, the countries of the Americas, once completed their revolutionary evolution, take stock of the good achieved and the generous and prudent contributions of those who opened up the horizons of pacific fraternity of our Republics are judged, the name of Hugh S. Cumming will stand out among the lamps of pure light, as even today he is seen by all those who know him with the aura of the whiteness of his hair, as a benefactor of the Americas, . . . .

He achieved such a miracle—and this should be remembered—because in his profound faith in human progress, he did not conform his action to the hallucinations of Aladdin and of his lamp, but to the wisdom expressed in the Book of Proverbs.

C. E. Paz Soldán
Lima, Peru
PATRIARCH OF HEALTH . . . .

The development of Pan Americanism, secure in the whole continent today, through President Roosevelt’s actions, may also be evaluated through the important work done by the Pan American Union and the Pan American Sanitary Bureau.

The periodical conferences held every four years in the different Capital Cities, the meetings of the National Directors of Health, the monthly Bulletin, the study and publication of sanitary legislation, the institution of Pan American Health Day, have played their roles in bringing together the most distant regions in the Hemisphere spreading everywhere both knowledge and the spirit of cooperation which united men and ideas of the continent and cleared and opened the way for the triumphant passage of Pan Americanism.

Today, on Pan American Health Day, let us salute the pioneer of this progressive work of the Pan American Sanitary Bureau, Dr. Hugh S. Cumming, who for a quarter of a century has used in his work, his indisputable technical training, high standards which have been the center of attraction, well pondered spiritual balance and fine and exquisite diplomacy. His personality throughout time stands out among all those we have known as a sanitarian-patriarch, around whom all the peoples of the new world have gathered.

On this day, we sent him our most cordial felicitations.

Rafael Schiaffino
Montevideo, Uruguay

Terminología de mortalidad.—Ante la necesidad de organizar la lucha contra la mortalidad sobre una base racional y científica, urgen cifras estadísticas fidedignas. Por elementales razones metodológicas hay que respetar la actual Nomenclatura Internacional de Causas de Muerte, así como la definición de “nacido muerto” dado por el Instituto Internacional de Estadísticas. Es necesario unificar conceptos acerca de “mortalidad fetoinfantil” y “mortalidad perinatal.” Conviene hacer amplia divulgación de la terminología aceptada entre médicos y parteras, así como también entre todo el personal que maneja estadísticas de mortalidad. Debe prepararse con suficiente anterioridad el criterio que sostendrá la Obstetricia en la próxima renovación de la Nomenclatura de Causas de Muerte en lo que se refiere a las enfermedades que le corresponden. Hay que bregar por perfeccionar el correcto registro de nacimientos, así como procurar la autopsia de los nacidos muertos para aclarar la verdadera causa de su defunción. Es imprescindible el Servicio Social no sólo para establecer la etiología de muchos nacidos muertos, sino para hacer una profilaxis eficaz de la mortalidad.—FRANCISCO J. MENCHACA: Rev. Soc. Puer. Buenos Aires, 14, eno.-jun. 1946.

Consumo de medicinas en los Estados Unidos.—Según cálculos de la División Química de la Comisión de Tarifa de Estados Unidos, en el país consumieronse en 1945 unos 20 millones de kg de medicinas. Encabeza la lista la aspirina, con unos 2 millones de kg, viniendo después las drogas sulfita, con unos 2,500,000 kg. y las vitaminas con 1,400,000. De penicilina se consumieron por valor de 45 millones de dólares. Casi todas esas medicinas fueron productos sintéticos. Al mismo tiempo se fabricaron más de 8 millones de kg de perfumes y sustancias aromáticas sin contar los extraídos directamente de las flores.