

DEDICATION OF NEW LEPROSARIUM NEAR BUENOS AIRES, ARGENTINA

On November 22nd, 1941, a very important event occurred in the campaign against leprosy in the Argentine. At General Rodriguez, 70 kilometres from Buenos Aires, a new leprosarium with a capacity for 650 patients was inaugurated. This is the fourth leprosarium which has been constructed by the Argentine Government, the other three being Cerrito and Posadas in the east and San Francisco del Chañar in Córdoba. Another is under construction in Diamante (Entre Ríos) and a sixth is projected for the Province of Santa Fé. These institutions are so distributed as to provide regional centers in those parts of the Republic where they are most needed.

The new leprosarium is for patients from the City and Province of Buenos Aires. No expense was spared in construction; the cost was 4,306,981 pesos or nearly a million United States dollars. The entire property comprises 275 hectares (679 acres), of which 30 (75 acres) are reserved for buildings and gardens; the remainder are devoted to agriculture.

The buildings are divided into three sections. The first, or uncontaminated, includes the porter's lodge, Director's house, cottages for the administrative staff, Sisters of Charity, and chaplain, quarters for minor employees, a crèche for healthy children born of patients, power house, workshops and garage.

The second or intermediate part includes the locutorium (one for men and the other for women), the chapel and the theatre. Each of these buildings has divisions for patients and for healthy persons. The largest part of the institution is of course allotted to the patients. There are nine wards each with 56 beds distributed in cubicles, a recreation hall, wardrobe department, bathrooms, toilets and other utilities; eight small pavilions, each containing two complete houses for families, surrounded by a garden; pavilions for general clinics, library, laboratories, autopsy ward, dressing rooms, etc.

The contaminated and uncontaminated sections have separate kitchens, laundries, stores and incinerators.

There are ten doctors on the staff, including the Director and his assistant. In addition to the chaplain, dentist, chemist and Sisters of Charity there are 110 general service employees.

The annual budget is 951,000 Argentine pesos or approximately \$237,000.

The new institution is the nearest to Buenos Aires and will become a center for scientific investigation. Its construction is the result of the enthusiastic efforts of dermatologists and hygienists intensely interested in the campaign against leprosy and of the interest of Dr. Roberto Ortiz, President of the Republic.

The inauguration ceremonies were presided over by Governmental officials and the large attendance indicates great popular interest. — G. BASOMBRIO



PLATE 1

View of the new leprosarium at General Rodriguez, near Buenos Aires, Argentina. The small houses in the background are for the patients.