

OBITUARY

ARISTIDES AGRAMONTE

The death of Aristides Agramonte on August 17, 1931, removed from the rolls of the Association one of its most distinguished names. Though he had devoted little attention to leprosy, his breadth of interest in tropical diseases led him to enroll at the first invitation.

Of several obituary notices that have been seen the following, supplied by an official of the Rockefeller Foundation, is reproduced here.

“Dr. Aristides Agramonte, noted Cuban-American authority on yellow fever and last survivor of the famous United States Army Commission which in 1901 established the relationship between yellow fever and the *Stegomyia* mosquito, died of heart disease, in New Orleans, Louisiana, on August 17, 1931, at the age sixty-two. Dr. Agramonte had come to New Orleans early in July to serve as head of the new School of Tropical Diseases of the Louisiana State University Medical School.

“Dr. Agramonte was born in Cuba in 1869. When still a small child, he was brought to New York. He was educated in the New York City public schools and in the College of the City of New York. He then attended the College of Physicians and Surgeons at Columbia University, receiving the M.D. degree in 1892. In 1899 he was granted the degree of M.B. at Havana University, and a year later the degree of M.D. Fourteen years later he returned to Columbia University and took the degree of Sc.D.

“Dr. Agramonte divided his time largely between New York and Cuba. From 1898 to 1902 he was assistant surgeon in the United States Army. In 1901 he was appointed a member of a committee of four, sent by the United States Government to Cuba to investigate the epidemic of yellow fever raging there. The other members of the committee were Major Walter Reed, Dr. James Carroll, and Dr. Jesse Lazear. These four investigators were able to establish definitely the fact that had been suggested a short time previously by Dr. Carlos Finlay of Havana, that yellow fever is transmitted by the *Stegomyia* mosquito.

“In 1901 Dr. Agramonte was made a member of the Board of Health of the Republic of Cuba and chairman of the board of infectious diseases. In addition, he was appointed professor of bacteriology and experimental pathology at the University of Havana, a post which he held for many years.

“Dr. Agramonte was a member of a large number of American and foreign scientific societies, among them the American Academy of Sciences, the Society of Clinical Studies, and the Laureate Institute of France, from which he received the Bréant prize. At the time of his death he was serving as president of the Pan-American Medical Association. He was also a member of the Spanish-American War Veterans, having served for a time as Commander of the Havana Post.

“In 1929, the Congress of the United States granted him, for his services to the government, the Congressional Merit of Honor Medal and a monthly pension of \$125 a month. During the administration of President Zayas of Cuba, Dr. Agramonte was made secretary of sanitation. In 1932 he was to have been chairman of the Pan-American Medical Congress which will convene in New Orleans. He had received this appointment only two weeks before his death.

“Dr. Agramonte's publications include more than a hundred monographs and articles on hygiene and tropical therapeutics. He was considered one of the foremost authorities in these fields.”