

DR. NORBERTO OLMOS CASTRO

With the death of Dr. Norberto Olmos Castro, which occurred in this city, the Argentinian and international scientific centers have lost a figure of outstanding merit, who in the course of many years of work and investigation made important scientific contributions through his experiences and articles which had acquired excellence in the medical science in Argentina and abroad.

This professional medical man from Tucumán had published more than a hundred papers on dermatology which had acquired their just appraisal. Since 1941 he had dedicated himself to investigations of immunity and hypersensitivity of leprosy. Given a fellowship by the Patronato de Leprosos of Argentina he assisted Professor Fernandez, of Rosario, in investigations which resulted in the preparation of the bacillary lepromin known in scientific circles as the "Fernandez-Olmos Castro bacillary lepromin." Later, his investigations resulted in his discovery of the reaction known as the "Olmos Castro phenomenon."

His early demise has prevented the dissemination of many of the experiments he had already carried out, but they will ultimately be published.

He organized in this province [Tucumán] the *Lucha Antileprosa*, he being its first director and administrator, transforming and humanizing the methods of handling patients affected with Hansen's disease (*Mal de Hansen*).

Dr. Olmos Castro attended the international Congresses of Leprosy held in Havana in 1948 and in Madrid in 1953, serving on both occasions on the Committee on Immunology, and also participated in other conferences, including the Panamerican Congress of Leprologic Investigations which was held in Rio de Janeiro. In 1961, he was appointed by the Ministry of Public Health to serve as the official relator and secretary of the First Inter-American Conference on Experimental Leprosy held that year in Buenos Aires. He served as a *catedrático* on the Faculty of Medicine of Tucumán, and recently as president of the Argentine Society of Leprosy.

Due to an inexorable irony of fate, the doctor and investigator who devoted his efforts to alleviate the pain of those affected by one of the most terrible scourges of humanity, he was struck by another incurable disease, which he suffered with admirable fortitude up to the end of his days.

In the necrological service with the body lying in state, Dr. Luis Semrik told of the example of his life, and of the valuable contributions given to medical science the world over by the outstanding man who had just died.—[From a eulogy clipped, without date, from an unnamed Tucumán newspaper.]