

Education in Atomics Urged in Latin America

By LILLIAN LEVY
Science Service Writer

German town, Md. (Science Service) - Latin America is being encouraged to give advanced education in atomic development for peaceful uses through courses at the U.S. Atomic Energy Commission's Puerto Rico Nuclear Center at Mayaguez.

Specialists from 18 Latin American countries have been taking graduate-level courses in nuclear science and technology being taught in the Center in the Spanish language, it was reported today (Tuesday) at the AEC's first seminar to discuss ways to increase the Center's effectiveness in this part of the world.

Support Urged
Dr. John C. Bugher, the Center's director, formerly with the Rockefeller Foundation, urged increased private and public support for student maintenance. The facilities and teaching materials, still under construction, are part of a \$3,500,000 building program designed to make the latest in training and research available to students from all the American nations.

The heart of the Center is the ten-watt water-boiler type reactor built by Atomics International, a division of North American Aviation. A larger pool-type reactor will be completed next year and will greatly increase the research and teaching services of the Center. This will bring the number of U.S. AEC operating reactors in Latin America to four, Venezuela and Brazil each have an AEC reactor. This is two-thirds the number of such operating reactors in the world, although the AEC currently has 14 more under construction in Europe, Asia and Africa.

Virtually every country in Latin America, including Cuba, has had visits from U.S. atomic specialists. Atomic fuel for medical use and research also has been made available to these countries and others in the world by the AEC through the International Atomic Energy Commission.

Through these aids, the AEC hopes to develop skilled and trained personnel in all areas of nuclear science and technology, particularly in the area of radiobiological health which becomes more vital as atomic development grows throughout the world.



PISTOL PACKER—Pistol Packing Martha M. Smith, San Francisco, finally called it quits with the San Francisco Redevelopment Agency Tuesday and moved herself and her belongings off to a new residence "around the corner," after popping off at a few interested parties with a cap pistol. Miss Smith had been given 30 days to move instead of the usual three, but took it upon herself to stay another six, prompting the law to move in and Miss Smith out. (UPI Telephoto)

Housewife Regarded As Greatest Threat

New York - Asked whether traditional laundries were worried about the rising number of do-it-yourself laundromats springing up in England, W. T. Simms of the Institute of British Launderers replied: "We have always regarded our greatest competitor as the housewife herself."

After Hours Customer Donates to Burglar

Tucson, Ariz. - A female burglar entered a store just after closing time. A woman passerby saw the thief, thought the store was open and entered. The quick-thinking burglar waited on the customer, sold her \$4 in costume jewelry, pocketed the cash along with the other loot and escaped.

The Sacred Heart Story Reports Vary on Limit of Present Operations at SH

(Continued From Page 1)
A Hamilton Associates survey, conducted at the request of the hospital, predicted that five years would be the limit of the hospital's present operations.

Earlier, however, a Stanford Research Institute report said "the building is spacious and well built and can continue serving the community for many years to come."

A Hill-Burton report said the institution already has a number of "unacceptable beds." Sister John explained that the word "unacceptable" in this case does not mean what it would appear to mean. It means, in hospital terms, that the beds will have to be, or should be replaced in a few years. She said emphatically, the beds are "not condemned, not dangerous and not harmful."

Free From Hazards
The state fire marshal this year found the building free from fire hazards and issued "no recommendations."

In any case, Sister John said the Sisters of Providence are working toward construction of a new hospital in five years.

The hospital has had a building fund for many years, but it has remained largely empty and inactive. However, when Mother Judith, provincial superior of the Order of Sisters of Providence, announced last month from Seattle that the hospital was to remain open, she said the fund would now be reactivated and would receive contributions on a regular basis.

Business Manager Jack Stormberg was asked just how much of an operating deficit the hospital had from year to year.

Difficult to Determine
Stormberg said it would be difficult to determine this because there are two kinds of budgets relating to operation of the hospital. They are the cash budget and the operating budget.

The hospital has no deficit in its cash budget, he said, as it receives about as much money as it spends. This amounted to \$900,000 last year. But, the hospital does have an operating budget deficit. The operating budget takes into account an allowance for depreciation of such things as buildings and equipment. Although there is a depreciation allowance on the hospital's books, it receives little, if any, funds, because the money must be spent for more immediate needs.

Depreciation Allowance
Stormberg explained that the depreciation allowance would normally be used to replace worn out equipment and old buildings. But, such replacements now have to come out of the hospital's current budget, if they are to be replaced at all.

The hospital can and does afford new equipment, Stormberg said, and he called it a "well-equipped institution." Expenditures for new equipment vary from year to year, he said, depending on the need.

In 1959, for instance, the hospital spent \$23,000 for new equipment; this included a \$15,000 expenditure for a new x-ray machine. But, in 1960 only \$3,300 was allocated for new equipment.

Does Have Debt
The hospital does have a debt amounting to more than \$285,000, which has been accumulated over the years. Of this debt, approximately \$100,000 dates from construction of the hospital in 1911. The never-wealthy institution has never been able to retire the full amount of the original debt.

The greatest bulk of the hospital's income comes from patients. Some donations are received, although these have dwindled in recent years, and the order of the Sisters of Providence itself contributes. The hospital receives no financial support as such from the Catholic church. And, the church receives no income from the hospital. Profits - if any - go to the order, to help further its charitable works elsewhere.

Sister John said the only connection that the church has with the order and its activities "is to see that we remain good Catholics." But then again, she said, "it really doesn't make much difference who operates (the hospital) as long as it's serving the community as it should be served."

Immediate Need
One of the hospital's most immediate needs right now is space. Sister John said there is enough space for the patients but not for the hospital services. Noting that the maternity department and a fourth floor medical-surgical ward have been recently closed by the hospital is an economy move, she said it is possible that some of this space could be used for expanding services.

One particularly disturbing problem at Sacred Heart is the increasing number of bad debts. Stormberg said these debts cost the hospital \$55,000 last year alone. Most of them are attributed to persons who simply cannot pay their hospital bills.

These bad debts are borne solely by the hospital, except for some relatively small assistance from the county. The state pays 75 per cent of hospital bills accumulated by persons on welfare - which in itself is not enough - but pays nothing for persons considered to be "medically indigent." These are persons who can otherwise support themselves, but are unable to pay expensive hospital costs.

Hopes For Change
Sister John said she hopes this policy of the states will be changed. Even if a person who is already in the hospital applies for welfare and his application is accepted, the state will pay only that part of the bill accumulated after the person is declared to be on welfare. The hospital pays the rest.

Another factor which has contributed to the financial problems of all hospitals, not just Sacred Heart, is a decline in the duration of the average patients stay in the hospital.

In 1940 the average patient stayed 14 days in the hospital - now he stays only six days. This can be attributed to the many recent advances in the field of medicine and the growth of doctors' clinics which can now perform many of the simple operations that used to require hospitalization.

Sacred Heart hospital has a 75-bed capacity. Any hospital is considered full when 80 per cent of its beds are full, leaving 20 per cent for unexpected situations. Sacred Heart last year averaged 67 per cent capacity, Stormberg pointed out, however, that many times during the year the hospital was filled to above 80 per cent capacity.

In-Patients Admitted
Last year there were 3,872 in-patients admitted to the hospital and an additional 2,782 out-patients who were treated at the hospital.

Sister John said many persons do not seem to realize just what the apparent high cost of hospitalization represents. There are approximately 150 employees at the hospital which means there are more than two employees per hospital bed. Sixty-five per cent of the hospital's budget goes for salaries.

Sister John sincerely believes that people would not be so reluctant to pay their hospital bill if they knew exactly what they were paying for.

The future of the hospital looks brighter now than it did six months ago, according to Sister John, but there is still a long way to go. "If all goes well," she said, "the hospital should celebrate its golden jubilee here on May 27, 1961."

In any event, Sister John said: "If the community wants the hospital, they will have to get behind it." And stay behind it.

It is as simple as that.

Trip To Gather Mistletoe Fatal

Lebanon - (UPI) - A 20-year-old Sweet Home youth gathering mistletoe for Christmas, Bobby Ray Fowler, was electrocuted near here Wednesday when he came into contact with a power line.

Authorities said Fowler was climbing down from an oak tree when he accidentally touched the line. He plunged 25 feet to the ground.

Fowler and a companion, Larry Camden, were gathering the mistletoe for Maude Nursery, Sweet Home, intending to sell it in Portland.

The accident occurred on the Sweet Home-Brownsville road, four miles east of Brownsville.

A new chemical for the purification of swimming pools is said to be effective, but tasteless.

FORMER CLERK DIES
Compton, Calif. - (UPI) - Funeral services will be held Friday for Hugh R. Brown, 61, who as chief clerk of the U.S. Senate Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs con-

ducted statehood hearings in Alaska and Hawaii in the late 1940s. Brown, who died Monday, was publisher of the Compton Daily News in 1940-41 and formerly published a Moorhead, Minn., newspaper.

POUNDS AWAY
Austin, Tex. - (UPI) - Mary T. Gates has lost 1,373 pounds in the last six months. The weight came off Air Force men at Bergstrom Air Force

Base where she is dietitian. The best example of her menus for overweight airmen was M/Sgt. Arthur E. Geffs, who whittled his waist down from 44 to 36 and dropped from 237 to 178 pounds.

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