

Diario

ENGLISH

Daily Bulletin

Eighth International
Conference of the
International Planned
Parenthood Federation
Santiago Chile
Octava Conferencia
Mundial de la Federación
Internacional de
Planificación de la
Familia

18109

April 14, 1967

TODAY'S ARRANGEMENTS

09:00 - 13:00

General Session: Programming for Family
Planning Services.

Basic Science Session: Hypothalamic-
Hypophysial Gonadal Axis.

09:30

Professional Visits: Hospital San Borja
Hospital San Juan de Dios.

14:15 - 15:45

Films: a program featuring 'Male Motivation'
(in the Salon de Honor, University of Chile)

Professional Visits: Hospital J.J. Aguirre.
Institute of Physiology,
University of Chile.

16:00 - 19:00

Plenary Session: Effectiveness.

21:00

Farewell Banquet in the Union Club.

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CONFERENCE REPORT

General Session

Every country in Latin America except one now has a family planning association and of these 17 programmes are receiving at least some degree of government support, Dr. Luisa Pfau, President of the Western Hemisphere Region, reported to the conference yesterday. Chile remained in the forefront, she said, not only because of its "outstanding clinical programmes" but because of expanding opportunities for training Latin American doctors.

The lack of trained personnel to provide medical, educational and administrative/know-how for family planning programmes emerged as the most significant factor in progress reports from the IPPF Regions. Plans to extend training facilities are underway in every region, but a report from Southeast Asia noted that despite the aid now coming from many sources for family planning programmes in that area the shortage of skilled expertise remained acute. Mrs. Goh Kok Kee, Southeast Asia Regional Chairman of the International Planned Parenthood Federation proposed the establishment of a travelling technical advisory team of experts and the provision of technical and professional assistance to develop educational and promotional materials in local dialects in Southeast Asia.

Dr. Pfau said that in addition to Chile, associations in four Latin American countries - Honduras, Mexico, Brazil and Costa Rica - have become members of the International Planned Parenthood Federation. Although the Mexican government has no population policy it allows the use of some public health facilities for family planning and grants tax exemption to the Foundation for Population Studies (Fundación para Estudios de la Población). Costa Rica has announced a definite government policy and the establishment of a programme in the public health centres. The national organization in Brazil - Sociedade de Bem Estar Familiar no Brazil - has 14 branches in key cities. The association in Honduras - Asociación Hondureña de Planificación de la Familia - has full moral support from the government and contraceptive service is part of the maternal and child health service.

Reporting on Southeast Asia, Mrs. Goh Kok Kee said two encouraging signs: were the increasing participation of the medical profession and of the United Nations agencies and other bodies "whose activities and publications have given much added weight to arguments for the incorporation of family planning services into active social and medical government programmes. Training facilities at the IPPF Training Institute at Singapore, where 300 doctors, midwives and social workers have so far been trained, will be extended by the establishments of national centres throughout the region wherever possible.

Reporting for the Western Pacific Region Dr. Chong Chin Lee, of Korea told the conference that the Japanese Government was now willing to assist Asian countries with their programmes on request. Malaysia and Pakistan had already asked for aid. South Korea and Japan were actively pursuing family planning policies of their own as part of their development plans, and although there was no official policy in Hong Kong, the government supported the Family Planning Association both financially and with the active cooperation from various government departments. In Japan further action to replace abortion with more effective methods of contraception was needed. Intra-uterine devices and oral contraceptives were not in general use.

Conference Report (cont'd)

A new intra-uterine device -- the so called Hong Kong Triangle -- has now been approved for use in the Hong Kong clinics, he said. During trials it was noted that expulsion and pregnancy rates were lower than with other devices. Dr. Chong Chin Lee added that the drop in the Hong Kong birth rate from 34.2 per thousand to 27 per thousand in 1965 had now been attributed to the family planning programme.

Outstanding factors in Europe were the new moves to repeal restrictive legislation on contraception in Holland, France, Italy and Belgium increasing concern for the effect of strict abortion laws in increasing the number of illegal abortions, and the growing interest coming from ministries of health in countries where there was still no family planning programme.

Mrs. E.C. Fernando, Secretary of the Ceylon Family Planning Association and for the Indian Ocean Region, told the Conference that clinics had now been established in all the important health institutions throughout Ceylon, although attendance was disappointing "because education aspects have not received sufficient attention".

In India, she said, close cooperation between the government and the voluntary association existed particularly in the fields of training, education and research.

The Government of Nepal, Mrs. Fernando reported, has established clinics and set up an advisory board under the chairmanship of the Director of National Health Service, following pressure from the voluntary association.

The only country to report completion of its training programme was Pakistan. "The training needed a high degree of organization and was imparted at all levels. Audiovisual aids were the most effective means employed for training". The Pakistan programme aims at a 20 per cent reduction of the birth rate in five years and official figures for the first 18 months of the programme up to December 1966 showed that out of a projected goal of 4.5 - 5 million couples, 1.8 million couples are already practising birth control.

Basic Science Session

Progress toward development of new post-coital or "morning after" contraceptive which act to prevent implantation of a fertilized egg were discussed by scientists from India, Australia, Israel and Chile.

A promising future for such contraception - which he called "post-coital but pre-conceptive" - was foreseen by Professor M. C. Shelesnyak of Israel's Weizmann Institute of Science. He said that it should be possible to prevent implantation through various approaches - including local treatment with anti-histamines - at any one of the five basic phases of nidation. He said that at least on post-coital contraceptive, ergocornine, is already "being subjected to clinical trials to test its effectiveness in interrupting nidation in the human."

The mechanisms of action of various antioestrogens in interfering with implantation were described by Professor M. R. N. Prasad of the University of Delhi, India. Animal experiments, he said, showed six basic mechanisms of action in a group of compounds studied. These ranged from speeding the eggs through the fallopian tubes so that they have no time to be fertilized preventing proper preparation of the uterus lining for implantation of a fertilized egg.

more...

Conference report (cont(d))

Prof. C. W. Emmens of the University of Australia also discussed the effectiveness of antioestrogens in producing failure of implantation "and perhaps failure of normal tube transport" of the ovum.

Dr. Jaime Zipper, of the University of Chile Medical School reported on experiments with rats to induce changes in the endometrium so that implantation can not take place.

Dr. Peter Eckstein of Britain's Birmingham Medical School presented evidence which ~~contradicted~~ the suggestions made earlier in the conference by Dr. Luigi Mastroiani of the University of Pennsylvania that the principal mechanism of action of the IUD was to speed up action of the ovum in the fallopian tube, thus preventing fertilization. Both men based their observation on experiments with primates.

Prof. Elsimar Coutinho of Brazil's University of Bahia described experiments which, he said, imply "a new concept in uterine physiology", namely that the administration of oestrogens causes "a marked decrease in uterine activity" (it was previously throughout by many that oestrogens increased uterine activity). It was suggested by observers that if his hypothesis is correct, it might be possible to decrease the rate of IUD expulsions through administering oestrogens following insertion, thus suppressing the labor like activity of the uterus.

A report on the Catholic Church approved "rhythm method" of contraception was made by Dr. Aníbal Rodríguez, Chairman of Gynecology at the Catholic University in Santiago. He said that while of all birth control methods rhythm, or periodic abstinence, "gives less side effects and carries the least risk.../it/ is very selective and restrictive, hard to follow and needs strong motivation of the couple sustained by an experienced and competent adviser". He described a study of 1,700 lower and middle class women who had received help with this method, over more than a two year period. He said that 187 pregnancies were recorded during the study and calculated a pregnancy rate of 7.8 per 100 woman years of exposure. In two later studies, however, Dr. Rodríguez recorded a pregnancy rate of 30.1 and 68.5 per 100 woman years of exposure.

Dr. Antonio Hernández Torres of the School of Tropical Medicine in San Juan, Puerto Rico, reported on the comparative long-term effectiveness of IUDs and the oral contraceptives in a study of 1,558 women from 1962 to the beginning of this year of whom 56 per cent chose the IUD and 44 per cent chose the pill.

He said that the "proportion of withdrawals is higher for orals than for IUDs in all years under review, "and for all party groups, and that "the immense majority of withdrawals from both methods occurs during the first two years of use". He said that while separation of the spouses was the principal reason for withdrawal from the pill, expulsions caused the largest number of withdrawals from the IUD.

Of the IUD users, 2.8 per cent became pregnant with the device in place; and of these nearly a third ended in abortion (three times greater than the accepted percentage for the general population). Among the pill users there were no pregnancies.

While some 44 per cent of the women who abandoned the IUD chose another contraceptive method (mainly the Pill), only 35 per cent of those who withdrew from the Pill came back for another method, he said.

YOUTH AND SEX EDUCATION

More than 2,000 young people and their teachers turned up at the Municipal Theatre on Wednesday evening for the special session on Youth and Sex Education, far exceeding the capacity of the theatre.

Dr. Agnete Braestrup, President of The Family Planning Association of Denmark, said sex is considered dangerous in many quarters "and it is when suppressed, because then it will explode." Parents often are afraid to mention sex to their children for fear that it will arouse their sexual impulse, she said.

In schools, by contrast, teenagers ask questions about sex and they are answered calmly with neither the teacher nor the children becoming excited, despite explicit questions about the mechanics of sexual intercourse and the results therefrom.

Rector Torsten Wickbom said the sexual problems of youth are accentuated by the fact that children today reach puberty starting on the average at 13.1/2 years of age, compared with 17 years of age a century ago. Their arrival at social maturity does not occur so early, however, and "it is not surprising that young people make their social debuts earlier and earlier," he said.

Dr. Wickbom said the oral contraceptives and the intrauterine device may help solve the problems of unwed mothers, but that some authorities believe there may be a rise in the rate of venereal disease among youths as the new forms of contraceptive replace the older variety which protected against venereal infections as well as preventing conception.

Dr. Hermógenes Alvarez, Dean of the Faculty of Medicine on the National University of Uruguay, said surveys among the students in Uruguay indicate that as many as 70 per cent believe that sexual relations are desirable prior to marriage, but that only 30 per cent admitted having such relations.

Among engaged couples, he said, 80 per cent of the girls admitted having had sexual relations with their fiancés, but only about 25 per cent of men made similar admissions.

Doctor Calderone said that in the United States, premarital sex among teenagers tends to be part of an extended relationship, and that American teenagers rarely request prostitutes as do the young men in Latin countries.

The non virginity rate among college girls and the illegitimacy rates have not changed markedly in the last 25 years in the United States, she said, but it is probable that U.S. teenagers do have more sexual relations now than in the past.

The meeting took the form of a round table discussion. Other speakers were Father Hernán Larrain S. J., Dr. Thorsten Sjövall, of Sweden, Dr. Mohammed Ismail Ragab, of Egypt, and Mr. Agustín Muñoz Cautivo.

The Union Club

The Union Club was founded in 1864 in the days when the Chilean Republic was young, when Santiago's green and charming Santa Lucia hill was, according to a writer of that time, no more than an 'abrupt and sinister rock'.

Under President José Joaquín Pérez political enmities, until then fairly fierce, calmed down a little and prominent members of opposing political parties began to meet in the house of a much-travelled, liberal-minded friend of his, Don Rafael Larraín. Animated conversation and a free exchange of ideas that often had nothing to do with politics proved so entertaining that from here the idea of a club-civilized, unpolitical and purely for male relaxation - sprang into being. A house was rented and the club was given a name in accordance with the spirit that had prompted its foundation - Club de la Unión.

In its early years it was extremely exclusive and had fewer than a hundred members. Voting a membership was on the usual secret blackball system; four black balls out of twenty-one meant non-acceptance. One Club secretary, back in those days, a certain Don Ricardo Montaner, was, as rumor has it, a very amiable, tender-hearted gentleman and given secretly to substituting white balls for black. When a very peculiar occurrence, that of their being no black balls at all in one votation, aroused members to suspicion, Don Ricardo quietly changed to a line of diplomacy. After that he made sure that one single, lonely black ball appeared among the white.

The Club grew through the years in membership and luxury, changing premises as its necessities expanded, but always retaining its exclusiveness and its character as a purely masculine establishment. Balls to which ladies were admitted were rare and a great many members objected to this strongly; 1916 was a landmark for the fair sex since they were permitted, for the first time, to attend a gala banquet in the Club. Today, ladies are allowed into the main hall, the dining rooms on the second floor, to the fourth floor ballroom and drawing rooms for wedding parties and concerts and, in summer to the terrace - always, of course, accompanied by a male member of the Club. They are excluded, however, from the masculine stronghold of the third floor and the other prohibited areas downstairs such as the bar, the grillroom, and the famous Red and Green 'Salones de Tertulia' - tertulia, in Spanish means discussion or conversation.

The Club's present building dates from 1925 and owes its massive elegance to one of its presidents, Don Luis Barros Borgoño, variously Minister of State, Ambassador and Vice-President of the Republic, a man with great executive capacity and not afraid of spending to achieve the results he wanted. Designed by the architect Cruz-Montt, it occupies a solid half-block between Santiago's main artery, the Avenida Bernardo O'Higgins, and the Stock Exchange district, and cost the then astronomical figure of fourteen and a half million pesos. It is still, today, one of the most expensively constructed and furnished buildings in Santiago, with its intricately-carved stone pillars and balustrades, its beautiful floors and statues of Carrara marble. Lighted by glittering crystal chandeliers, its dozens of drawing rooms are filled with imported furniture, tapestries, objets d'art donated by wealthy members, and a valuable collection of paintings.

In many of these paintings Chilean history is reflected and brought to life. In the entrance hall are two naval combat scenes: one of the

Chilean Frigate 'Lautaro' against the Spaniards in 1818, and other of the Battle of Iquique in the Chilean-Peruvian War of 1879. In the second-floor hall are Subercaseaux' representations of Diego de Almagro, discoverer of Chile, starting out from Cuzco; and of the breaking of the historic siege of Rancagua. In the east and west anterooms of the second floor dining room are two full-length portraits by Venegas: one of Chile's national hero, Bernardo O'Higgins, a plump-cheeked, belligerent Irishman; the other of O'Higgins' opponent in the struggle for power when Spanish rule ended-arrogant, ambitious, incredibly handsome José Miguel Carrera. An aura of tragedy surrounds this young man, since the manner of his betrayal and death in Mendoza will never be fully known. Carrera is the prototype of the Chilean of good family, the 'aristocratic criollo' of the early nineteenth century, whose scions founded and maintained the Union Club.

PROFILES OF COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN

Mrs. Lina Vieira

Mrs. Lina Vieira who heads the Public Relations Committee, is a lawyer by profession, specializing in legislation for Minors.

Mrs. Vieira could be called a true Chilean; she is of mixed Spanish and French ancestry and comes from the province of Cautín in the wild, beautiful, temperate Chilean South. The most prized copihues - the Chilean national flower, bell-shaped, waxen, clear-red-come from the region around the village in which she was born, Quitratue.

Her father, a landowner, died while his family was still young, and her mother, María Antonieta Lamerein, a spirited and artistic woman, reared eight children alone with such success that they all have had brilliant professional careers.

Lina Vieira is married to Dr. Abel Vieira, a well-known gynecologist, who also works for Family Planning. They have four children; two sons, one a gynecologist, the other an agronomist, and two daughters, one a sociologist, the other still in Secondary School.

Mrs. Vieira's interests are many and varied. Professionally she works wholeheartedly for child and family welfare, and is dedicated to the betterment of women's social and legal position in present-day Chilean society. One of her published works, "Panorama of Social Welfare", is used as a text-book on this subject throughout Latin America.

Above all, she is an enthusiast and an optimist, opposed to all manifestations of cruelty and violence, living by her faith in the basic goodness of people and the eternal miracle of human progress.

GENERAL NOTES

Films

Today, Friday 14th of April all films which have been shown in the University will be at the Slides and Films Desk in the Municipal theatre in the late afternoon. They will be returned there to the persons responsible.

Proceedings of the VIII International Conference :

Anyone desiring the Proceedings of the Conference should fill in the Order Form, available at the Information Desk.

Participants are informed that copies of individual papers delivered during the conference cannot be made available in Santiago.

Exhibition of Contemporary Chilean Art :

The Art Exhibition in the Quinta Normal which many delegates were unable to visit is still open. Anyone interested in seeing the exhibition should get in touch with the Hospitality Desk where transport will be arranged.

Amateur Philatelists (or people whose children collect stamps)

The VIII IPPF Conference Commemorative Stamps, specially issued by the Chilean Postal Authorities are on sale in the Post Office in the Municipal Theatre.

Chilean Hospitality Night :

The Hospitality Committee wishes to apologise to the very few guests who could not get in touch with their hosts or vice-versa. The evening was a great success and out of 800 delegates not more than ten were, due to last minute mix-ups in hotel or transport arrangements, unable to reach their hosts.

Correspondence

There is a great deal of unclaimed correspondence at the Information Desk. Please drop by and see if there is anything for you.

Lost and Found :

At the Information Desk: various objects such as gloves, notebooks, ties, etc.