

OPENING REMARKS

Dr. Robertson: Dr. Reed, ladies and gentlemen: I do not want to hold you back from the very interesting program which Dr. Kiser and his colleagues have prepared for you, but I would like to say a few words of welcome.

In the circumstances of the morning, perhaps I should thank you all for bringing such beautiful, sunny, clear weather which has made it so easy for you all who are not staying in the hotel to get here. This, however, I suppose you were no more responsible for than we were, and we are sorry we do not have the Indian summer that New York sometimes offers at this time of year.

At this conference I would like particularly to welcome those of your colleagues who are here from Latin America.

It is a particular pleasure to the staff of the Fund to welcome those of you who come from those countries which will be the subject of our deliberations today and tomorrow. There are three reasons for this special pleasure.

First of all this provides Dr. Badgley, Dr. Kiser, and myself with a very pleasant opportunity to renew our acquaintance with those of you whom we have met in our various travels and to try to return in some degree that fabulous hospitality which all foreigners always receive on your continent.

Secondly, *you* are indeed the experts in the subjects which we hope to review.

Thirdly, we know very well, although no one knows it better than you yourselves, that the problems of health and welfare of your countries must be solved *by* you. We from other countries are proud to be your colleagues . . . but the solutions must be your solutions.

It is not unusual for there to be a sizable number of people from other countries at a Milbank Conference. What is perhaps unusual is that out of about 60 people invited, approximately one third are from Latin America. That is as it should be because all the problems we shall be discussing are problems which ultimately will have to be solved by them and not by us.

Many of you here have been highly valued participants in these conferences through many years, not to say, Dr. Kiser, decades. The Proceedings of those of the conferences which have related to demography constitute, I am told, quite important source books for students in the field. One of the reasons that they do so is in part because over the years the topics chosen by Dr. Kiser and his colleagues have been so apt and so topical.

This year, at a time when all of us in the Americas are so exercised to make the Alliance for Progress a success, when the problems of Latin America in both the fields that we are concerned with here today are so pressing, I believe that he has again selected a most important subject.

I am particularly happy that we have here this year representatives not only of both South and North America, but also representatives of both demography and public health.

Few things are more important in our planning for the future health of the Americas than that those who are concerned with the measurement of population should be in communication and in understanding with those who are responsible for the design and organization of the health services which serve those populations.

Your attention will be drawn today and tomorrow to many pressing problems and to many diverse ways of studying them. You will, I hope, become embroiled in some controversy . . . for in Bacon's words, "Where there is new knowledge, there is much argument." And you will, all of you, suffer, I am sure, from frustration over unsolved problems. I hope that you will enjoy the experience, and I am sure that the public, who will benefit from your wisdom about their health, will be rewarded.

Dr. Reed, to introduce you to a Milbank Conference would be pre-
sumptuous indeed.

For over 40 years the leadership which you have given to the Johns Hopkins University, to its School of Hygiene, and to public health in all the Americas has been unique, and I choose that word with great care. There can surely be no country in all the hemisphere where your students have not become among the leaders of the public health.

The Fund, as some of you may not realize, has treasured Dr. Reed's services for just about as long as I have been alive . . . and to those who do not know the reasons why, I now propose to present an opportunity to find out.

Dr. Reed, will you please take over the Chair for another Milbank Conference.

Dr. Lowell J. Reed: Thank you, Dr. Robertson.

You have had a greeting and a welcome to this conference from Dr. Robertson, and I should like to add my welcome to the group, but more particularly I should like to say that I am very happy myself to be here, and I think you people probably will be when you get through.

Those who have been at these conferences in the past know that I waste little time at the beginning of the conference in telling you what is going to happen. We have a good many papers ahead of us, and we should get to them in fairness to the speakers.

I do want to do one or two things by way of preparation. I do not need to tell the older people that we try to limit our papers and our initial formal discussions sufficiently to allow a free and open discussion by the members of the conference. I think it is that open discussion period that in many ways is the most valuable part of it. To those who are new, I should like to urge that you feel perfectly at home in raising any questions or discussing any issue that interests you.