

# SCIENCE

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## ROLE OF TROPICAL MEDICINE IN INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS<sup>1</sup>

By Major General GEORGE C. DUNHAM, U. S. Army

PRESIDENT OF THE INSTITUTE OF INTER-AMERICAN AFFAIRS

MEDICINE plays an increasingly important role in international relations, and particularly in our interdependence with Latin America. For the countries south of the Rio Grande, the practice of tropical medicine is of major significance. Tropical medicine is not only curative medicine, diagnosis and treatment of diseases that tend to occur more frequently in the tropics, but also preventive medicine and public health for the prevention of these diseases.

Any attempt to raise the standard of living where

it is regrettably low in the great mass of the population, as in many American countries, must necessarily entail the extension of public health and care of the sick. The development of relations between the United States and the southern republics is based upon the economic progress and stability of these countries, with attendant political stability. Latin America furnishes a great market for United States products. Economic progress is essential for the development of a profitable market.

Immediately after Pearl Harbor there was a meeting of the Ministers of Foreign Affairs of all the

<sup>1</sup> Address at the annual dinner of the American Foundation for Tropical Medicine, Inc., February 5, 1945.

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