

**Solemn Session for the Unveiling Finlay Bust and the  
Conferring of Honoris Causa" Degrees by the Jefferson Medical  
College of Philadelphia**

At 11 a. m. there was a gathering of all the special guests and the Faculty of Professors with their respective gowns and the march was started through the ample halls of the College up to the presidential rostrum of the Main Lecture Hall.

The ceremony commenced with a prayer by Rev. McCormick and immediately followed the opening of the session by Vice- Admiral James L. Kauffman, with the usual words-

The Dean, Dr. George Allen Bennet then made his presentation of the Delegation from Cuba.

This was followed by a brief address by Dr. Felix Hurtado, Ambassador from Cuba to the International Sanitary Organizations.

Honorable Trustees,

Mr. Chairman,

Members of the Faculty of Jefferson Medical College,

Ladies and Gentlemen:

Difficult though it may be for me to accomplish the task assigned to me by the Minister of Public Health of Cuba, Professor Alberto Recio, the honor done me and the tribute paid my country by this morning's ceremony are so great that I am encouraged to ask your kind indulgence while I say a few words.

Gentlemen, exactly a century ago, on a bright morning in this historic city of Philadelphia, a young Cuban, Carlos J. Finlay, received his doctorate in medicine from Jefferson Medical College. The tradition and scholastic standards of his **Alma Mater** led this new graduate to pursue the noble profession of medicine, according to the highest ethics and the best scientific techniques of the time, which were to enable him to master the art of healing,

whenever possible to heal, but always to alleviate pain, not with drugs alone but also by consoling and uplifting the spirit of the patient with hope.

However, Gentlemen, this was not the total extent of the brilliant career of our compatriot whose memory we honor today. Beyond this noble objective, the genius of that Jefferson graduate was to lead him to even greater heights. As Napoleon once said "Any soldier may carry a marshal's baton in his knapsack"; so Finlay had genius in his soul, as he was to show later in discovering the role of the mosquito in the transmission of yellow fever, a theory based on the soundest observation and tested under the strictest laws of pure research. His finding was not a mere chance discovery. One should not forget that Finlay named the specific mosquito vector and, like a true entomologist, made an exhaustive study of it. He delved deeply into the disease, and it was he who described it best, being its most accomplished pathologist. He compiled the most complete data on its etiology, pathogenesis, symptomatology and clinical forms.

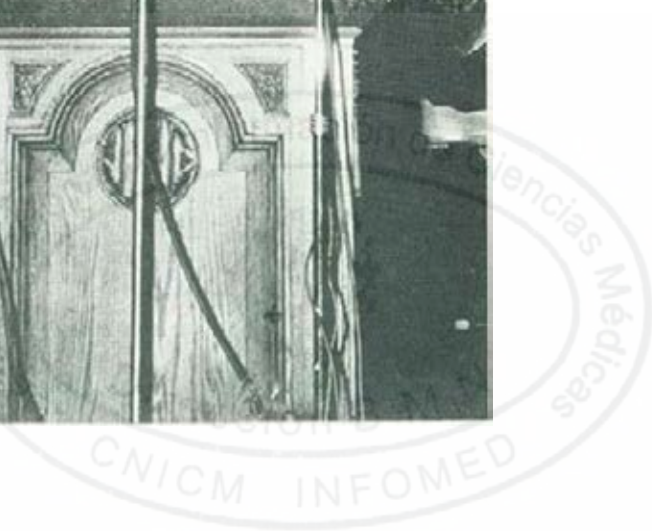
Finlay conceived a means of preventing yellow fever by inoculations with the mosquito, attempting to reproduce the disease in man in a non-lethal form so as to give lasting immunity. There is no doubt that Finlay was, to a certain extent, a pioneer in yellow fever vaccination.

Finally, Gentlemen, he made such a thorough study of the disease that, at the last Congress in Rome, we were moved to speak of yellow fever as Finlay's Disease.

This would more than suffice to show Finlay's encyclopedic knowledge as a clinician and a pathologist; he proved, in addition, a great public health doctor, defining methods for community sanitation, an undertaking then successfully carried out by Major Gorgas, his most brilliant interpreter.

It is evident that Finlay, in this time, and all of Cuba, today and forever, are indebted to the so-called "American Commission", presided over by Major Walter Reed. This Commission earned the entire glory of proving Finlay's theory, for its positive findings confirmed the assertions of the scientist.

Gentlemen, the Government of Cuba, headed by General Fulgencio Batista, expresses, through the Minister of Public Health, Professor Alberto Recio, the Undersecretary of the Ministry, Dr. Carlos Salas, The Secretary of the Academy of Sciences of Cuba, Dr. H. Abascal and the distinguished journalist Mr. Cesar Rodriguez as official Delegates, the members of Finlay's family and the entire Cuban group present here at the kind invitation of Jefferson Medical College, its most sincere appreciat-



DR, CARLOS SALAS HUMARA

President of the Cuban Delegation, expressing in the name of the Government and people of Cuba, its gratitude for Finlay's homage. ion to that noble institution for the magnificent homage paid by this Alma Mater to one of her most illustrious sons, and at the same time points out that it was this distinguished school of medicine, which kindled in its eminent disciple the light that guided hsi genius on the path of discovery.

Now, Mr. Dean, may I introduce to you the Undersecretary of Public Health of Cuba, Dr. Carlos Salas, who on behalf of the President Batista, will present to the Jefferson Medical College this marble bust of Finlay, as a real expression of the strongest link of friendship between the Cuban people and the people of the United States of America.

Then, in representation of the Government of Cuba, Dr. Carlos Salas Humara, with the following words:

Mr. President, Mr. Dean and Members of the Medical Faculty of The Jefferson Medical College of Philadelphia.

Ladies and Gentlemen:

In behalf of the Minister of Health and Social Assistance of Cuba, Dr. Alberto Recio, who in turn represents the Government of the Republic of Cuba, which is presided by Major General Fulgencio Batista y Zaldivar, I wish to express our appreciation of this touching and solemn obeisance, rendered today by the Jefferson Medical College, commemorating the work and the glory of our own Carlos J. Finlay, upon the hundredth anniversary of his graduation as a doctor in medicine.

It was in Jefferson Medical College: it was at this very same educational institution that Finlay's medical personality took shape. The date which is commemorated today marks the start of a Cuban "medico's" career, which culminated, after years of study, of numerous investigations and patient observation, in one of the greatest scientific discoveries which freed humanity from the deadliest scourge, the Yellow Jack-

The Jefferson Medical College of Philadelphia is doing a beautiful thing; great, inspiring and fair. It is remembering the student of yore, the young student who inbibed all his wisdom in these classrooms, under the guidance of great teachers, paragons of science, such as S. Wier Mitchell, who modeled his future career and the doctor who was shortly to become a patient investigator and finally a great discoverer, whose work has awarded him the title of Genius.

At this collegiate nursery Finlay acquired the basic principles of investigation, as well as his real professional orientation, which beyond all doubt was the foundation of his courage to the grave problem of yellow fever, which took him trough various routes

until he found the real trajectory to decipher the enigma which worried and perplexed his contemporary scientists, who had failed after the greatest efforts to control the disease which was taking yearly heavy tolls.

"Finlay's experimental genius and his strict discipline in scientific investigation, said Dr. Octavio Montoro, are evident in all his works", which is conclusive proof of his having acquired his professional framework from the teachings of Jefferson where he was initiated as a medical student and turned out as a physician. The roots of all his scientific equipment as an investigator, which enabled him to find unknown diseases are to be found in the classrooms where his mentality was cultivated, his spirit directed and his vocation guided.

Today, the effigy symbolized in that marble bust, shortly to be unveiled by one of Finlay's grandsons, will remain in this hall, where, a hundred years ago the Cuban youth, quiet in demeanor but not restless in his mind and his vocation, his thirst for knowledge and his desire to dig for the mysteries of science, as an emotional souvenir to his Alma Mater, of the Cuban youth who a hundred years ago was a mere student and is today one of the world's scientific high lights.

"Dr. Carlos J. Finlay, according to his biographer, Cesar Ro« driguez Exposito, was predestinated". He belonged to that class of men who come to the world with a task to accomplish; whose mission on earth is bound to be finished in spite of any obstacles, sufferings, disappointments and even threats that may oppose him. Finlay completed his task to perfection in the face of the opposition which men always raise against human successes.

Our gratitude towards Jefferson Medical College of Philadelphia is extraordinary. The homage which you offer to Carlos J. Finlay has a profound importance, being the culmination of the fullest recognition of his achievement.

And it is with great pride that Jefferson Medical College of Philadelphia celebrates this centennial of Finlay's graduation. He was a student who was an honor to his college; he was a pupil who raised the quality of the schoolrooms where he was developed as a physician; a student who fully appreciated the great teachings of his mentors and all the work as a physician, through his work as an investigator, through his great discovery, honored his professional cradle, Jefferson Medical College of Philadelphia.

Carlyle said that "When a good and noble man has lived in our midst, he is never taken from us entirely", and in this case, Finlay is still alive and shall continue to live in the soul and the spirit of Jefferson Medical College of Philadelphia-



President Kauffman confers the degree of Doctor of Science on Ho'racio Abascal, Secretary of the Science Academy of Havana.



Dr. Felix Hurtado, Ambassador, has just received the degree of Doctor of Science. Left to right, seated: Major-General Alexander J. O'renstein, Most Reverend J. Carroll McCormick; standing: Dr. Andrew J. Ramsay, Dr. Peter A. Herbut, Dr. Hurtado. President Kauffman.



Cuba cannot fail to recognize the educational and scientific achievement of Jefferson Medical College of Philadelphia as a producer of men who are useful to humanity and in well earned recognition, confers upon Jefferson highest scientific national decoration, namely the Great Cross of the National Order of Merit "Carlos J. Finlay", which represents a stimulus and a homage rendered to this educational collegiate institution.

Neither can Cuba ignore the Faculty of Professors of the College and therefore grants the National Order of Merit "Carlos J. Finday" to its illustrious Dean, Dr. George A. Bennet as Grand Officer of the order.

Mr. President, Mr. Dean and Honorable Professors: Cuba's gratitude for this event shall be eternal; for this testimonial homage to Carlos J. Finlay, who with Marti shares the honor of being the highest figures in Cuba.

In thank you.

This was followed immediately by the unveiling of the bust of Charles J. Finlay by his grandson Alfredo, who was accompanied by his brother Enrique Finlay and the President of Jefferson Medical College, Vice Admira! J. L. Kauffman and the President of the Cuban Delegation, Dr. Carlos Salas Humara.

The next step was the conferring of the "Honoris Causa" degrees by Jefferson Medical College.

—To Dr. Alberto Recio y Forns, Minister of Sanitation and Social Assistance of the Republic of Cuba, Doctor in Sciences (The degree was received by Dr- Carlos Salas Humara, in lieu of Dr. Recio).

—To Fred L. Soper, Director of the Panamerican Office of Sanitation of Washington, Doctor in Sciences.

:—To Major General Alexander J. Orenstein of the Union of South Africa, Doctor in Sciences.

—Dr. Felix Hurtado, Cuban Ambassador to the International Sanitary Organizations, Doctor in Sciences.

--To Dr. Horacio Abascal, Secretary to the Academy of Sciences of Havana and President of the Cuban Society of the History of Medicine, Doctor in Sciences.

—Dr. Joseph E. Smadel of Washington, Doctor in Sciences.

After the conferring of degrees was over, Dr. Carlos Salas Humara, Vice Grand Chancellor of the National Order of Merit "Carlos J. Finlay", accompanied by members of the same Council,



Dean Dr. George A. Bennett imposing Major General Fulgencio Batista y Zaldívar, Hon. President of Cuba, the degree of "Doctor Honoris Causa" in Humanities of The Jefferson Medical College of Philadelphia, meanwhile Vice-Admiral James L. Knaflitz, President of the University, gives the Diploma to the Cuban President. Although in this picture Dr. Alberto Recio (recently deceased Health Minister) and Dr. Jorge García Montes, Premier of the Cuban Government.



Dr. Horacio Abascal and Mr. Cesar Rodriguez Exposito and the Ambassador, Dr. Felix Hurtado, proceeded to impose the National Order of Merit "Carlos J- Finlay" in the rank of Grand Cross ("Gran Cruz"), on the Jefferson Medical College of Philadelphia, in the person of its President, Vice Admiral James L. Kauffman.

The order of Carlos J. Finlay was then imposed, in the rank of "Gran Oficial" on Dean Dr. George A. Bennett, of Jefferson Medical College.

The ceremony then wound up with brilliant addresses by Dr. Joseph E. Smadel on "the glory of united efforts in a great crusade" and by Major General Alexander J. Orenstein, entitled Carlos J. Finlay, Physician and Prophet".

ACT TO CONFERRAL TO MAYOR GENERAL FULGENCIO BATISTA Y  
ZALDIVAR. WITH THE DEGREE OF "DOCTOR HONORIS CAUSA IN  
HUMANITIES"  
BY THE JEFFERSON MEDICAL COLLEGE OF PHILADELPHIA

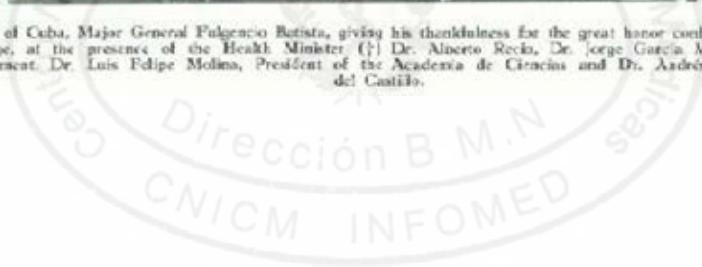
On December 3rd, 1955 Carlos J. Finlay's Birthday was commemorated with the celebration of the "Day of American Medicine" and "Doctor's Day", by a solemn session in which the life work and the glory of the Cuban genius, was exalted by a regular academician, Dr. Carlos A. Criner and homage was also paid to the memory of another great American scientist, Dr. Carlos Chagas, the speech haven been entrusted to Dr. Guillermo Lage.

The session was presided by the First Magistrate of the Nation, Major General Fulgencio Batista y Zaldivar with Primer Minister Dr- Jorge García Montes, The Minister of Sanitation and Social Assistance, Dr. Alberto Recio; the delegate for the president and the Secretary of the Academy of Sciences, Drs. Luis Felipe Rodriguez Molina and Horacio Abascal respectively, the president of the Senate, Dr. Anselmo Alliegro, the secretary of the Supreme Council of the National Order of Merit "Carlos J. Finlay" Dr. Carlos M. Pineiro y del Cueto, the Sub-secretary of State Dr. Gonzalo Guell, the sub-secretaries of Sanitation and Social Assistance, Drs. Carlos Salas Humara and Felix Fernandez Toriza, the Ambassador for Cuba before the International Sanitary Organizations, Dr. Felix Hurtado, the Director General of the Finlay Institute Dr. Enrique Saladrigas y Zayas, the Mayor of Havana Dr. Justo Luis del Pozo, the Ministers for Defense Dr. Santiago Verdeja and for Communications Mr. Ramon Vascon- celos and without a portfolio Dr. Jose Pardo Jimenez and others.

This act was attended by the President and the Dean of "Jefferson Medical College" of Philadelphia, Vice Admiral James L. Kauffman and Dr. George A. Bennet respectively, who came



Hon. President of Cuba, Major General Fulgencio Batista, giving his thankfulness for the great honor conferred by The Jefferson Medical College, at the presence of the Health Minister (†) Dr. Alberto Recio, Dr. Jorge García Montes, Premier of the Cuban Government, Dr. Luis Felipe Molina, President of the Academia de Ciencias and Dr. Andrés Domínguez y Morales del Castillo.





Dr. Carlos Salas Humara, Great Chancellor of the Supreme Council of the National Merit Order, Carlos J. Finlay, hands over to Vice-Admiral James L. Kauffman, President of the Jefferson Medical College, the Great Cross of the Order. With Dr. Salas Humara, Drs. Félix Hurtado and Horacio Abascal.



Dr. Carlos Salas Humara, President of the Cuban Delegation join together with Sr. Félix Hurtado, Dr. Horacio Abascal and César Rodríguez Expósito, imposing the decoration of the Merit Order Carlos J. Finlay, in the Great Officer Degree, to Dr. George A. Bennett, Dean of the Jefferson Medical College.

to Havana expressly to confer the Degree of "Doctor Honoris Causa" in Humanities upon Major General Fulgencio Batista y Zaldivar, Honorable President of the Republic as a reward for his great and meritorious work in medical sanitation, creating hospitals, services of Social Assistance and stimulating protection of the infants, women and the aged as well as encouraging the establishment of preventive medicine activities in all the national territory, specially in rural districts-

Vice Admiral Kauffman and Dr. Bennett, wearing the reglam-entary cape and gowns in accordance with the Jefferson rituals, proceeded to impose the title of Doctor Honoris Causa upon General Batista, as well as the corresponding sashes in accordance to the resolution passed by the Medical Faculty of the College.

Vice-Admiral Kauffman pronounced a brief speech explaining the reasons which caused the decision of Jefferson Medical College for the conferring of the honorary degree upon the illustrious President of the Republic of Cuba, General Batista and the pleasure he had in carrying out the resolution.

Major General Fulgencio Batista, in a brief address, expressed his gratitude for the honor conferred by such a renowned Medical College, which had been Dr. Finlay's Alma Mater, saying:

"The honor bestowed upon me I appreciate profoundly, but it "rightfully belongs to Cuba and her Government".

The next step was the imposition of the Order of Merit Carlos J. Finlay, beginning with the Great Cross in posthumous homage to the illustrious Siia Weir Mitchell, who guided Finlay's first steps, up to his graduation in the same Jefferson Medical College. The title was accepted by the Dean, Dr. Bennett who would place it in the most appropriate place in the Jefferson Halls.

This was immediately followed by the imposition of the degree of Grand Officer of the Order of Merit Carlos J. Finlay, by the President of the Republic of Cuba upon vice Admiral James L. Kauffman.

After this, the condecorations were imposed upon other national and foreign personalities.



At Dr. Bennett's table were seated (from left to right) Dr. Jeffrey Edsall, Dr. Félix Hurtado, Dr. Carlos Salas Humara, Wayne, Mr. Luis Mena-Solorzano and Dr. Roberto Villa.





In another table, Dr. Pedro Noguera, Maricao's Health Unit Director, departs with Drs. Jonathan Rhoades and Lewis C. Schellcy.



Another table of the banquet where were seated Doctores Concha Venegas, César Rodríguez Expósito, Cuban Health Department Historian, Samuel Radbill and others-