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Editorial

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EDITORIAL

Criminologists in a Pan-American Congress

A Latin-American Congress of Criminologists was held in Buenos Aires in 1938. It was followed in 1940 by a second Congress in Santiago. A large number of officials, students and other interested people came together on each occasion. These conventions had such a generous measure of success that those who were responsible for them determined to institute a Pan-American Congress. The first sessions were held from the eighth to the sixteenth of July of the present year in Rio de Janeiro and Sao Paulo under the auspices of the Brazilian Ministry of the Interior and Justice and the patronage of the Society of Legal Medicine and Criminology.

Among the subjects that were discussed during the sessions were: Immigration and Crime; Judicial Structure of Crime; Penal Treatment of the Partially Responsible; Prevention of Delinquency.

We hope the Pan-American Congress may become an annual event. Unfortunately distance and the expense of travel combine to defeat a meeting of large numbers of delegates from all parts of Pan-America at whatever point a conference is to be held. In the situation as it is our Pan-American communication and association could be enlarged by a systematic flow of published matter among the peoples of the Western Hemisphere such as could be effected by the reciprocal action of a committee of South American criminologists and a corresponding committee representing the north. Each group should send to the other abstracts, at least, of what it considers the most important current criminologic publications within its geographic area. Each would round out its function by doing all that is possible to publicize what it receives from the other.

A few years ago the writer, in cooperation with several South American correspondents in the area of criminology, prepared a plan along these lines. It was greeted by a generous response and was at last addressed to authorities in Washington who received it, unfortunately, on the day on which war with Japan was officially announced. The attention that the project deserves could not be had at that time. It may yet fare better.

Robert H. Gault