

Lepers Hospital in Havana and was most interested therein. It is called "Casa Hospital de San Lazaro," and was founded in 1681, by Don Pedro Alegre. The present building and foundation dates from 1823 and although it gets grants from the Government and the City still it is chiefly supported by bequests and donations. As one goes into the front doorway one finds oneself in the portico of a large church. This part is free to the public. On entering the church one sees on each side of the chancel transepts separated from the church by a high iron railing in which the lepers sit and attend service and also at the same time can see their friends who come to the church. The women are on one side and the men on the other. The hospital, the pavilions of which are around a large court, contains 100 patients in all stages of the disease. The ones upstairs are the far advanced cases and confined to their beds, helpless, blind and maimed people, whose sad state makes one shudder to see and whose only hope is a speedy death. The corridors on the ground floor are peopled by lepers who can move about, they eat in a common dining room and seem moderately happy. I saw many of the comparatively early cases, chiefly of the anæsthetic tubercular variety. The medical head of the hospital I did not see, Dr. Manuel Alfonzo, but everything seemed in perfect order and very clean. The nursing department is in charge of a community of nuns who also look after the feeding of patients and dispensing. I was taken about by the Mother Superior and a Sister. The Sister was a charming woman, bright and talkative, and hailed from Limerick, Ireland, she told me that up to the time the Americans came she had not spoken English for 20 years, and had almost forgotten how to speak it; she had, however, preserved intact a very rich Irish brogue which was delightful to hear in Cuba. She informed me that since the nuns had charge not one of them had ever contracted leprosy nor had any of the assistants, although they had been in charge for over 75 years. In her experience several cases had been discharged cured, Chaulmugra oil being the great remedy.

I took several photographs of the lepers and they seemed rather to like it than otherwise. There was one native American patient, he had been living for years in Cuba and contracted the disease in Porto Principe. It is said the Government of General Wood in the near future intends to remove the lepers to an adjacent island. The patients themselves object because they will not be able to see their friends. At present patients cannot be compelled to go to a hospital and their entry is purely voluntary, but once they enter are not allowed to leave. There seems to be a general impression in Cuba that fish eating has something to do with the production of the disease, this is also the opinion of Mr. Johnathan Hutchison.