REPORT ON THE WOMEN'S AUXILIARY CONFERENCE HELD IN THE CITY OF WASHINGTON, U.S.A. IN CONNECTION WITH THE SECOND PAN AMERICAN SCIENTIFIC CONGRESS, DECEMBER 28, 1915 - JANUARY 7, 1916

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MRS. GLEN LEVIN SWIGGETT

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HELD IN THE CITY OF WASHINGTON, U. S. A.

IN CONNECTION WITH

The Second Pan American Scientific Congress

DECEMBER 28, 1915-JANUARY 7, 1916

Prepared by

MRS. GLEN LEVIN SWIGGETT ORGANIZING SECRETARY



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CONTENTS

	Page.
Foreword	6
Women in scientific congresses	7
Preliminary history of the Women's Auxiliary Conference	12
Proceedings of Conference	17
Social entertainments	62
Appendices:	
A. Women members of the Fourth Latin American Congress	64
B. Women's auxiliary committee	66
C. Delegation aids	68
.D. Program of the Women's Conference,	69
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FOREWORD.

To the Executive Committee of Organization of the Second Pan American Scientific Congress:

I have the honor to submit the following report of the Women's Auxiliary Conference of the Second Pan American Scientific Congress, held in Washington, December 28, 1915–January 7, 1916, of which his Excellency Sr. Eduardo Suarez Mujica, ambassador from Chile to the United States, was president. The report contains a statement of the aims and purposes of the conference, its organization, giving names of permanent chairman, organizing secretary, committees, presiding officers, interpreters, and place and time of meetings. It contains also the opening and closing addresses, the program as finally carried out, and abstracts of the papers and addresses given before the Conference. It is printed in English and Spanish. There is much regret that there could not be French and Portuguese editions.

An effort has been made to express somewhat the great interest shown in Pan Americanism among women at these meetings, and it is to be hoped that this report of the first Pan American Conference, arranged by women and participated in by women, may sustain and develop that interest in all of the 21 Republics.

This Conference is very deeply indebted to the chairman ex officio of the executive committee of organization and to the secretary general and the assistant secretary general of the Second Pan American Scientific Congress, for their active interest and invaluable assistance in organizing and carrying out its plans. Their official and personal interest contributed greatly to the success of the Conference.

E. B. SWIGGETT, Organizing Secretary.

Washington, U. S. A., July 1, 1916.

REPORT ON THE WOMEN'S AUXILIARY CONFERENCE.

WOMEN IN SCIENTIFIC CONGRESSES.

The Women's Auxiliary Conference of the Second Pan American Scientific Congress was proposed in the hope that an opportunity to become acquainted, to exchange views on subjects of special interest to women as well as on those dealing with Pan Americanism, might lead to a desire on the part of the women of the Americas for further friendly and harmonious cooperation in the future. It was the belief that such cooperation among women would furnish a powerful factor in developing the means "to increase the knowledge of things American," and "to disseminate and make the culture of each American country the heritage of all American Republics."

There was a vision of all that a united American womanhood might do in creating and cherishing feelings of mutual helpfulness and friendship, and of all it might contribute to a strong spiritual union of the Americas.

The Conference had much inspiration and encouragement for its undertaking in the interest and participation of Latin American women in the earlier congresses, held in South America, and in the part women were to take in the Second Pan American Scientific Congress.

The four anterior congresses, with place and date of meeting, number of papers and members, are as follows:

First Latin American Scientific Congress, Buenos Aires, Argentina, April 10-20, 1898, with 121 papers and 552 members.

Second Latin American Scientific Congress, Montevideo, Uruguay, March 20-31, 1901, with 202 papers and 839 members.

Third Latin American Scientific Congress, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, August 6-16, 1905, with 120 papers and 863 members.

Fourth Latin American Scientific Congress (First Pan American), Santiago de Chile, Chile, December 25, 1908, to January 5, 1909, with 450 papers and 2,238 members.

Representative women of the Latin American countries have been identified with these congresses since the First, in Buenos Aires in 1898, on which occasion one of the most distinguished scientific societies in the Western Hemisphere, Sociedad Científica Argentina, celebrated under governmental auspices its silver jubilee, or twenty-fifth anniversary, and inaugurated these congresses that have achieved through their contributions, recommendations, and labors in less than 20 years, work of incredible value in the scientific, economic, social, and political life of Pan America. The report of the first congress, published by the Compañia Sud-Americana de Billetes de Banco of Buenos Aires, gives the names of the following women as members of the congress:

Escalada P. Castro, physician, Buenos Aires. Petrona Eyle, physician, Buenos Aires. Cecilia Grierson, physician, Buenos Aires. Mary O. Graham, educator, La Plata. Virginia Moreno, educator, La Plata.

The third congress is particularly worthy of comment from its emphasis upon the discussion of social problems and the part taken in it by women. Sra. Constança Barbosa Rodrigues, wife and collaborator of the director of the Botanical Gardens of Rio de Janeiro, was honored with distinction as an honorary president of the congress. Her selection was received with great applause, the president congratulating the congress for having thus broken down a social projudice. The names of the following women are given as readers of papers and members of the third congress in the Relatorio Geral, Rio de Janeiro, Imprensa Nacional, 1906—

Elina Gonzales A. de Corrêa Morales, Buenos Aires, Argentina.

Amelia de Freitas Bevilacqua, Pernambuco, Brazil.

Condessa de Infreville, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.

Esther Pedreira de Mello (inspector of schools), Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.

Lavinia do Rego Leite de Oliveira, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.

Ignez Sabino Pinho Maia, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.

Thomazia de Siqueira Queiroz e Vasconcellos, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.

Constança Barbosa Rodrigues, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.

Maria Manrupe, Montevideo, Uruguay.

Anatolio Manrupe, Montevideo, Uruguay.

¹No statement can be made concerning the second congress, as it has been impossible to obtain in this country any report of it.

The Reseña General of the secretary general of the Fourth Latin American Scientific Congress (First Pan American), His Excellency Dr. Eduardo Poirier, Santiago de Chile, 1915, states that women comprised 6 per cent of the total membership 1 of this congress. Concerning the part they took in the congress Prof. W. R. Shepherd of Columbia University, an official delegate from the United States to the congress, comments as follows in his article on the scientific congress at Santiago, in the Columbia University Quarterly for June, 1909:

Women school-teachers constituted a large part of the audience at the meetings held for the discussion of educational matters. * * * And it should be said that they express their opinions, as well as their differences in opinion from those held by educators of the other sex, with a degree of freedom and frankness quite surprising to anyone who might fancy that no phase of the feminist movement had yet reached Latin America.

The Fourth Section of the Second Pan American Scientific Congress, of which the Commissioner of Education of the United States was chairman, devoted one of its 10 subsections to questions relating to the education of women. The chairman of this subsection was the dean of Simmons College, Boston, Mass., Dr. Sarah Louise Arnold. The following persons served as members of her committee:

Margaret Schallenberger, commissioner of elementary education, State department of education, Sacramento, Cal.

Marion Talbot, dean of women, University of Chicago, Chicago, Ill.

Mary E. Parker, Western Reserve University, Cleveland, Ohio.

Susan M. Kingsbury, professor, Bryn Mawr College, Pa.

The Women's Auxiliary Conference met in joint session with the subsection on education for women, Friday morning, December 31, in Memorial Continental Hall. Dean Arnold presided on this occasion. The following program was presented:

Well Being of Children as Determined by the Education of Women, by Helen Putnam, Providence, R. I.

Final Aim of the Education of Women, Eduardo Monteverde, National University, Montevideo, Uruguay.

¹ For the list of members contained in the Resens General, see Appendix A, p. 64.

The Education of Women as Measured in Civic and Social Relations, Susan M. Kingsbury, Bryn Mawr College, Bryn Mawr, Pa.

The Education of Women as Related to the Welfare of Children, Julia C. Lathrop, The Children's Bureau, Washington, D. C.

The Education of Women as Measured in Civic and Social Relations, Sophonisba P. Breckinridge, University of Chicago, Chicago, Ill.

In addition to the program of the subsection on education for women, prepared and presented by women, papers were presented by women in three sections of the congress: First, Anthropology; fourth, Education; and eighth, Public Health and Medical Sciences. These papers are as follows:

Recent Development in the Study of Indian Music, by Frances Densmore.

Concepts of Nature among American Natives, by Louise C. Fletcher. Training Girls and Women for Trades and Industries, by Mary Schenck Woolman.

Pan Americanism and Education, by Sra. Ernestina A. Lopez de Nelson. Elementary Education, by Lucy Wheelock.

The teaching of Modern Languages in the Secondary Schools of Chile, by Srta. Graciela Mandujano.

The Support of Elementary Education, by Srta. Jeanne Puch and Srta.

Margaret Galharret.

Experimental Studies in Heredity, by Maud Slye.

In addition to the above-mentioned committee of the subsection on education for women only two women were members of committees of the remaining 44 subsections of the Scientific Congress. Elizabeth Duncan Putnam and Alice C. Fletcher were members of the subsection on Ethnology, of section one on Anthropology.

The sessions of the Pan American Scientific Congress were open to the public. The interest of women lay largely in the program of those sections concerned with the discussion of anthropology and related subjects, education and medical sciences, and public health.

The Second Pan American Scientific Congress has just published its first report, "Final Act and Interpretative Commentary Thereon," Washington, Government Printing Office, April, 1916. This commentary, prepared by James Brown Scott, secretary of the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace and reporter general of the Second Pan American Scientific Congress, is an excel-