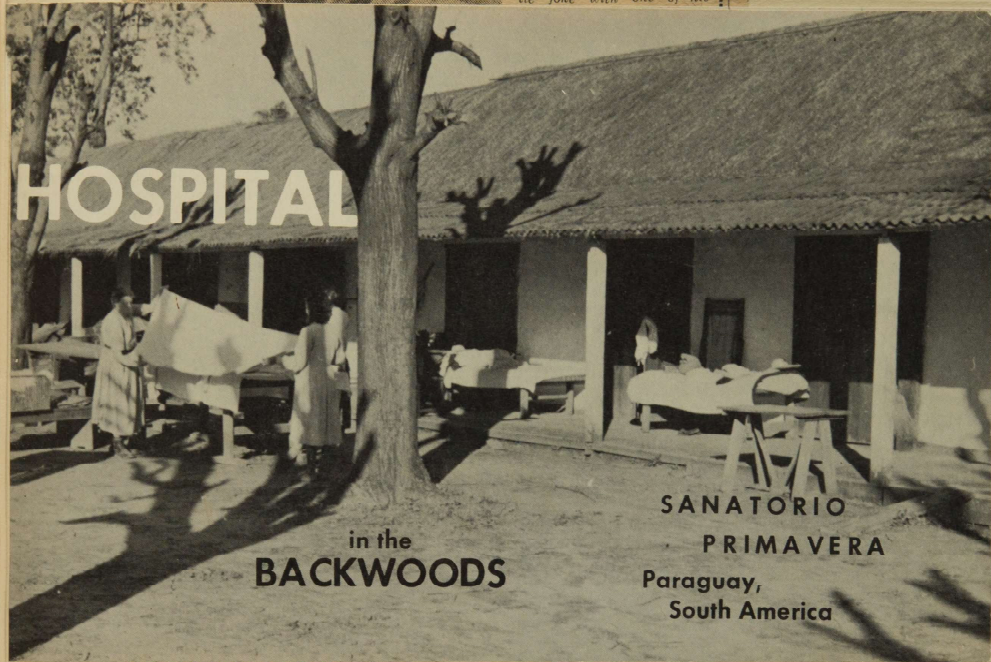


BA Herald 24.5.58
middle page
Buenos Aires Herald



Dr. Cyril Davies has a little joke with one of his



HOSPITAL

in the
BACKWOODS

SANATORIO
PRIMAVERA
Paraguay,
South America

On a cattle ranch at Primavera the beginning was made; the first building was put up after the materials had been cut from the forest.

Three doctors who had joined the Bruderhof only shortly before departure from England, began their medical work in one end of the building.

Unaccustomed to the primitive and sub-tropical conditions, many of the community members fell ill in the first few weeks. But as word about the doctors spread from one village to another, the Paraguayan patients soon began to come from the surrounding country.

The Primavera Hospital

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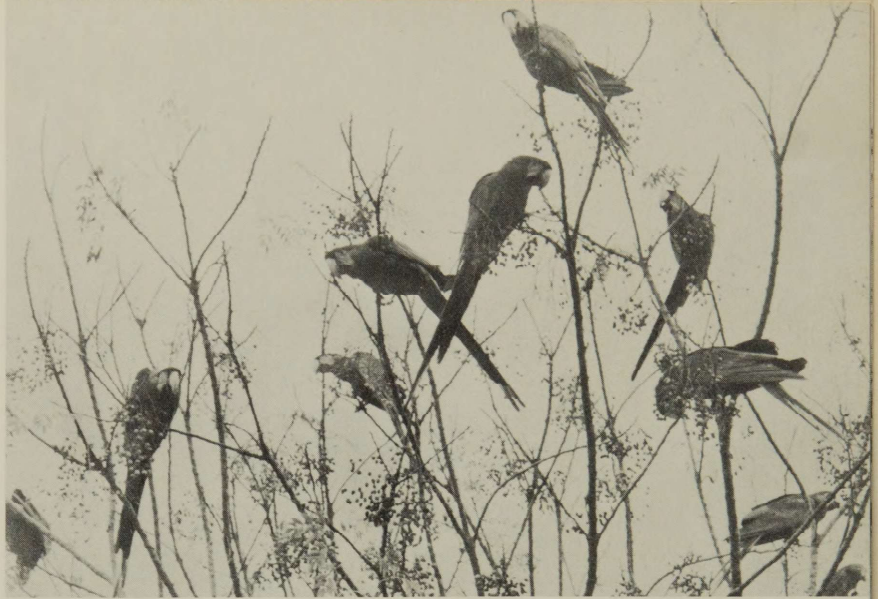
Paraguay, in the heart of the South American continent, is one of the poorest countries in the Americas. It is partly covered by dense sub-tropical forests. Timber export is one of the chief sources of revenue.

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The forests are characterized by a profusion of exotic plants, such as tropical hardwoods, creepers, orchids and other epiphytes. Animals, such as tapirs, reptiles and beautiful birds like toucans and these macaws abound.



On a cattle ranch at Fri-
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Paraguay also has vast areas of wide open prairie and swamps studded with palm trees and sluggish rivers. There are many large ranches and the rearing of cattle is Paraguay's second largest industry.

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Sanatorio Primavera, the hospital in the backwoods, is located about 100 miles N.E. of Asuncion. The area it covers was hewn out of the primeval forest in 1942. It has 30 beds and an average of 7,500 out-patients are attended each year, coming mostly from the rural population in a very poor and undeveloped region.



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Methods of traveling in northern Paraguay are very primitive. Riding on horseback over the campos (prairie) and through the swamps and forests is the quickest and easiest method in this area used by many patients. Others reach Primavera by ox-cart, horse wagon or even by truck. Planes are used to carry cases requiring specialists to Asuncion.

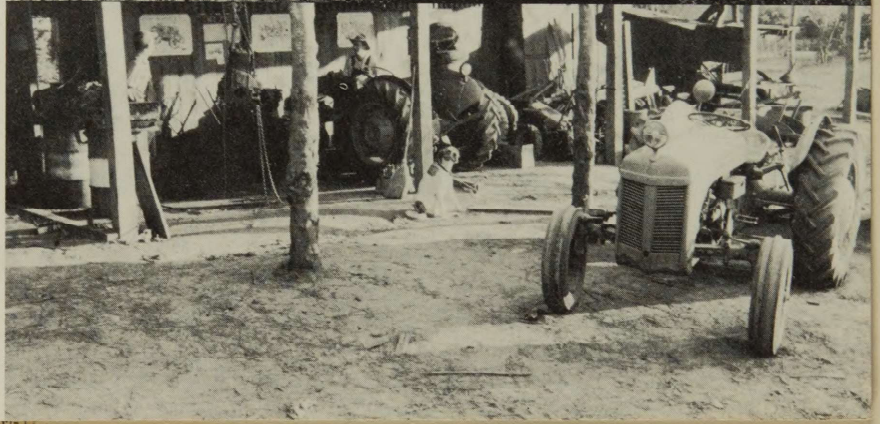
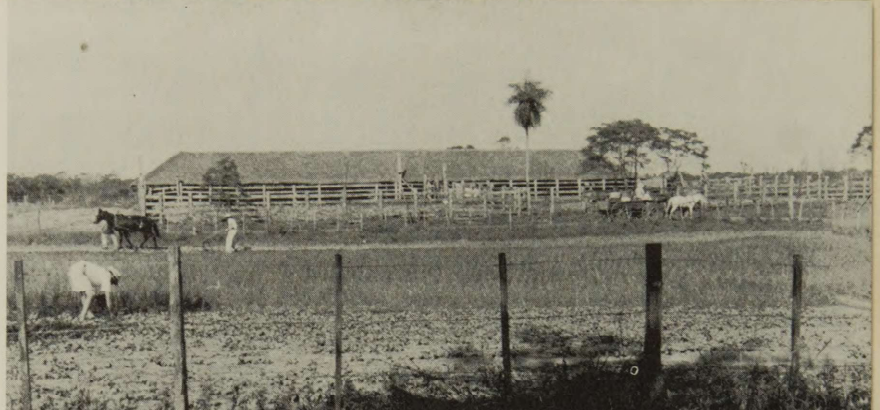
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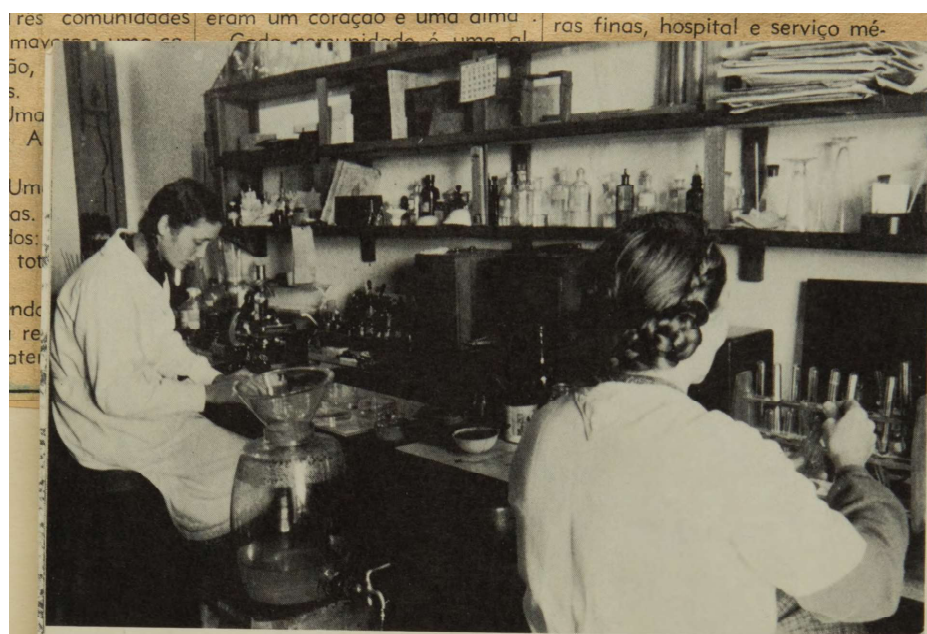
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Malnutrition accounts for much of the illness in northern Paraguay. Agricultural methods are still primitive. However, around Sanatorio Primavera due to research and experiment, great progress has been made and modern machinery is being introduced as means become available. It is very essential that food be grown for patients and their relatives and that neighboring farmers learn more modern methods.



On a cattle ranch at Primavera the beginning was



In the laboratory two staff members are busy making tests. Approximately 2000 of these are done yearly. A fairly large collection of snakes and parasites has been built up and a certain amount of research done. Specimens are also sent to other countries.

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Nurse Teresa from China is preparing the small operating room for emergency surgery. Accidents are the most frequent cause for surgery, although the doctors are often faced with other serious cases. There are eight nurses, counting assistants. The total staff, including part-time helpers, numbers 20, and, in addition, others work on the auxiliary agricultural program.



On a cattle ranch at P...
... the ... was

...res comunidades, eram um coração e uma alma... ras finas, hospital e serviço mé-



One of the Paraguayan home industries is cigar-making, carried on in this district in a primitive way by mother and daughter. In addition to tobacco, other crops are citrus of many varieties, mandioca (cassava), corn and beans, and now rice is being extensively cultivated.

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The task of dispensing drugs is a heavier one than is usual in a small hospital. There are no drug stores for the patients to visit and this fact necessitates the carrying of a large stock. This is not only a heavy financial burden but demands a great deal of work, as the import of drugs is a long and tedious job. Due to illiteracy and use of the Guarani language, it takes considerable time before the pharmacist is convinced that the patient has fully understood directions.

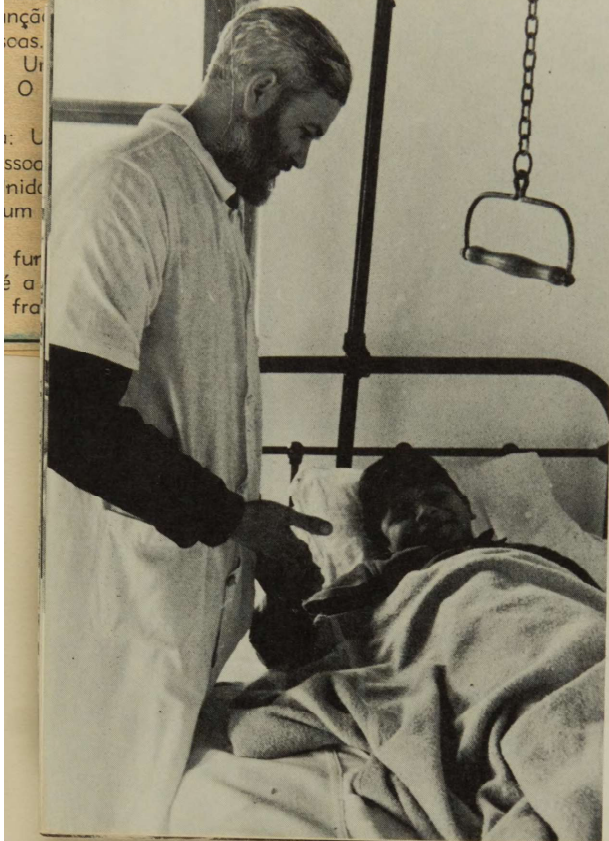
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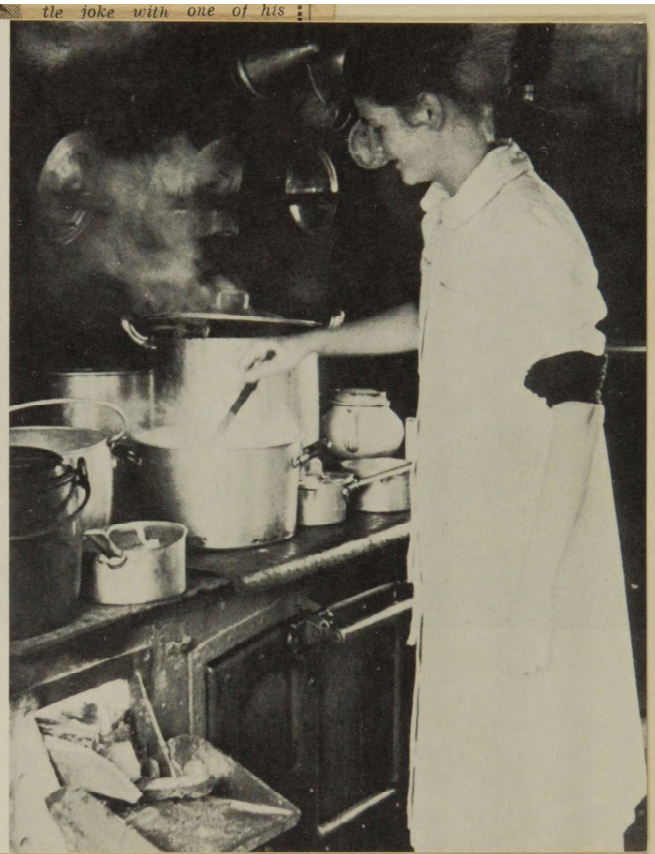
Dr. Cyril takes a warm, personal interest in every patient. Most frequent cases are accident, tuberculosis, hookworm, leishmaniasis (tropical sores) and venereal disease. Maternity work is increasing, for, due to unhygienic conditions in the homes and the consequent high mortality rate, women are learning to appreciate the service of the hospital.

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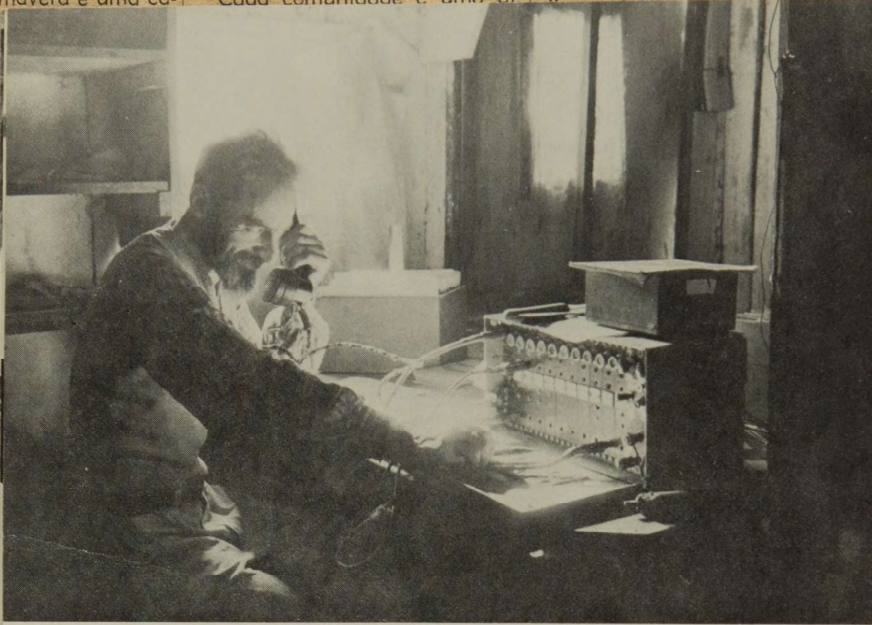
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Nurse Rosemary is helping to prepare food in the simple hospital kitchen. The hospital staff are men and women of many nationalities, including people from the United States.



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Tres comunidades eram um coração e uma alma. Primavera e uma ca- Cada comunidade é uma al- ras finas, hospital e serviço mé-



Primavera has its own telephone system. For arranging transport of urgent cases by plane to Asuncion, there is a radio station which maintains daily contact with Asuncion.

The transport to Asuncion has been very quick, much as it could be done, and covered by the radio.

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To transport an emergency case
to Asuncion before an airstrip
had been made, forty men and
boys quickly cut down the long
grass and levelled the land as
much as possible so that a plane
could land. Now there is an air-
strip near the hospital — grass-
covered but with good drainage
so that it rates well with pilots
who fly small planes from
Asuncion.



On a cattle ranch at P...
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Buildings and equipment at Sanatorio Primavera are still inadequate, and the annual budget is meager.

Will YOU help to further this simple but desperately needed service in one of the hemisphere's poorest countries?

Please send your gifts to:

WOODCREST SERVICE
COMMITTEE
FARMINGTON, PA.

Further information gladly sent upon request.

Photos by Colin Sharpe,
Montevideo, Uruguay

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