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SECRETARIES

The Christian Workers' Rest Home  
and Sanitarium

"O RETIRO EVANGELICO"



CAXAMBU, MINAS, BRAZIL, S. A.

## *The Christian Workers' Rest Home and Sanitarium*

### **"O RETIRO EVANGELICO"**

**W**AS opened a year ago through the initiative of the Sub-Committee of Medical Missions of the Committee on Cooperation in Latin America, to provide a place where missionaries and other Christian workers could go and rest and recuperate under the best climatic conditions, in a Christian atmosphere and under medical supervision—along the lines of the Battle Creek Sanitarium. It is located at Caxambu, the best known watering place and health resort in Brazil, about ten hours from both Rio de Janeiro and Sao Paulo, in the mountains of the State of Minas, at an altitude of three thousand feet.

The Society, incorporated under the Brazilian law, is composed of missionaries of all the churches working in Brazil, and ministers and members of all the National churches, and has been endorsed by the General Assembly of the Brazilian Presbyterian Church; two of the three Conferences of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South and the former and present Bishops; the Brazilian Mission of the Woman's Board of that Church; the South Brazil Mission of the Southern Baptist Churches; the East and West Brazil Missions of the Presbyterian Church, U. S.; the South Brazil Mission of the Presbyterian Church, U. S. A.; the National Committee of the Y. M. C. A.; and leading members of the Rio Mission of the Protestant Episcopal Church; the Brazilian Committee on Cooperation in Latin America; the Christian Endeavor Society; the Conference of Christian Workers, etc.

Funds to the amount of two thousand dollars were raised by membership fees and offerings. A house, accommodating about fifteen guests, was rented and the absolutely necessary equipment was bought and the Home opened on the fourth of January, 1922, with nine guests. During the year there were over a hundred and forty cared for from three days to three months, including fourteen ministers and twenty teachers and other missionaries, many of them testifying of the great benefit they received, and some of whom have engaged rooms for this season.

Had there been accommodations for all who were turned away, the small deficit of less than three hundred dollars for the operations of the whole year, would have been turned into a satisfactory surplus. Had there been funds available to purchase medical equipment it could have been paid for from treatments the guests had at other places.

At the request of the Sub-Committee of Medical Missions the Executive Committee of Foreign Missions of the Southern Presbyterian Church loaned Dr. H. S. Allyn, a medical missionary with over twenty-five years experience in Brazil, to organize and administer the Home until its feasibility could be demonstrated, with the understanding that the other interested Boards would cooperate.

The Board of Directors of the Society, composed of representatives of the different Missions and ministers and business men, members of the National churches, at the end of year, decided that the enterprise was not only feasible but was a proven necessity, and resolved to appeal to the Missions working in Brazil, to recommend to their respective Boards to enter into efficient cooperation and with the help of the national churches to raise twenty-five thousand dollars to buy property and thoroughly

equip it. This appeal was made to the people in this country because the Brazilian churches are all weak and overburdened with their own work, but they have cooperated as best they could and will continue to do so, but to them it is still an experiment, as there never was anything like it in Brazil before and they will have to be educated as to the need and the benefits to be derived from it. So the appeal is made to those who know what the biologic plan of living will do for the individual and the community, to help in this missionary work of teaching the people of Brazil the Gospel of Good Health.

The house now occupied is too small, though it was the best that could be secured at the time, and a larger one must be obtained, as it is impossible to take care of these who apply and the overhead expense of a larger one would be but little greater. The superintendent has the option on a furnished hotel of fifty rooms which will accommodate seventy-five guests for fifteen thousand dollars. It is situated in the center of the town, three minute walk from the City park and the Springs. It can be bought on deferred payments. In case funds cannot be raised now to make the purchase it will be necessary to raise at least two thousand dollars to rent the building and make the necessary modifications to fit it for the purpose desired, and unless this can be raised the Home will probably have to close although it has made such a splendid beginning.

The following testimonials from a very few of the many guests who have given them will show that it is accomplishing its purpose and that its benefits are appreciated by those who have tried it.

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I passed nearly two months with my loved ones in this "House of God." I came to the Retiro, sick, weary, discouraged and full of apprehensions for the future. I return another person. Strong physically, well, happy and encouraged. Consequently this "Home" is a blessing, a true refuge for those who require rest and quiet. The atmosphere which surrounds the Retiro is like that which sanctified that "upper room" in Jerusalem; peaceable, calm, blessed of God. The service is done with neatness and despatch and with good judgment. The administration of the superintendent, the beloved Dr. Allyn, is noble, Christian and firm. His helpers are strong arms in loyally supporting him. Finally, in this "holy place," everything is done as the Apostle directed: "with decency and order." I am leaving to take up anew the arduous duties of my ministry in Rio de Janeiro, but I carry with me many longings for this place. I will not be ungrateful, I will always remember in my prayers the ministry of comfort dispensed in this place. "Blessed be this house."

GALDINO MORREIRA,

(Managing editor of the "Puritano" and pastor of one of the Rio Presbyterian churches.)

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Only three days did I have the pleasure of staying in the Retiro Evangelico, but they were sufficient to convince me of the bright future of this institution which has just been inaugurated. Its high aims, its fine situation and the proficiency of Dr. Allyn are a guarantee of its great usefulness in the future and a solid basis for the cordial support of all the evangelical churches in Brazil.

EDUARDO CARLOS PEREIRA,

(Pastor of the First Independent Church of Sao Paulo, Editor of the "Estandarte," professor of Portuguese in the Gymnasio of Sao Paulo and president of Independent Presbyterian Seminary.)

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Only four days so far, and how delightful I have found the Retiro Evangelico. Delightful for its position on the heights from which is seen a large part of this beautiful city; delightful for the fine climate; delightful for the Christian fellow-

ship and the spiritual atmosphere that fortifies the soul and cultivates fraternity and sanctifying piety. Yes, delightful, truly is this already blessed Home, that should be maintained and developed for the temporal and spiritual welfare of the hard-working laborers in the Lord's harvest, and for the honor and glory of the cause of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. May it receive the richest heavenly blessings and may the originators and administrators be most abundantly rewarded, especially Dr. Allyn and his most excellent wife.

ALVARO EGYDIO GONCALVES REIS.

(Pastor of the First Presbyterian church of Rio, founder and editor of "O Puritano" and noted Evangelist.)

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For me the Retiro was a true place of rest for body, mind and spirit. After the fifteen days I had the privilege of passing here, I returned to my work stronger and more encouraged.

Admirably located, the Retiro offers to the Christian community all the advantages of this city of mineral waters and beautiful walks, and another center of meetings, where the people of God, coming from all parts of the country, may enjoy sweet Christian fellowship, under the careful attention of Dr. Allyn. It is certain that this institution will grow and develop into an establishment, duly equipped, therapeutically and otherwise, to properly minister to the needs of body and soul.

HERBERT S. HARRIS,

Secretary of the Brazilian Sunday School Union.

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We are leaving, but before parting from this "Home," in which, for many days my loved ones found, peace, comfort, happiness and health, I wish to leave in these lines an expression of our profound gratitude to Dr. Allyn, the apostle of love; to his wife, always so attentive; and to D. Inhazinha, the personification of charity. We want, also, to extend our thanks to the servants of this establishment, always so solicitous.

LYSANIAS C. LEITE,

(Vice General manager of the Central of Brazil Railway and Candidate for the Presbyterian ministry.)

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Sad at leaving this "Retiro" where, in company of my wife, I passed twenty-five days of friendly fellowship with the competent and dedicated management, surrounded by a pure and evangelical atmosphere, in which a Christian may rest his body and spirit, while enjoying the greatest physical, moral and intellectual comfort; it is my duty to thank with all my heart, Dr. Allyn and wife for the fine treatment they gave us.

In writing this, I pray God that the Christians in Brazil may recognize the great advantages in the "Home of Rest," and give it the support necessary to make it an establishment worthy of His cause.

FRANCISCO JANNUZZI,

(One of the leading architects and contractors of Rio.)

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Dr. Allyn, the Superintendent, is now in this country and is fully authorized to act for the Society, and would be pleased to furnish all necessary information in regard to any phase of the work, or to receive offerings for the equipment or for its support. For the next few weeks his address will be, Battle Creek, care of Sanitarium. Until May, letters sent to 25 Madison Ave., Room 1922, New York City, will reach him.