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May 12, 1953

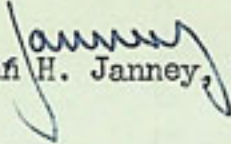
Dear Ignacio:

I was very disturbed to read in the paper a few days ago that you have had another earthquake which was moderately severe. I sincerely hope that it did you no damage, although the newspaper said that a hospital was partially destroyed. Concepcion was mentioned in the article.

We are beginning summer in Maryland and I wish you could see the little farm, which is much better to look at now than it was when you were there in January. I have 15 head of cattle which are doing well and gaining each day on the good crop of grass.

The next time you come, you must bring Mary and stay longer. Please give her our regards. Also, our best wishes to you, and we hope that you completely escaped the disaster.

Sincerely yours,


John H. Janney, M.D.

Dr. Ignacio Gonzalez
Hospital Regional
Concepcion, Chile

JHJ:AD

IGG/drd

CONCEPCION, 29 May 1953.-

Dr. John H. Janney, M.D.
Maryland State Planning Commission
1211 Cathedral Street
BALTIMORE, 1., Maryland

Dear John;

It was indeed a real pleasure to receive your kind letter of May the 12th.

The earthquake was almost like the other; the only difference being that the former had done most of the job already...

Apparently the city did not suffer damage but the old buildings which have been only superficially repaired in 1939 were shaken and fractured. As unfortunately the rains have come according to schedule, the housing situation is quite a problem.

We were in the dining-room having our lunch.- I never try to escape in earthquakes because I trust modern buildings, but the shake was so violent and long that I thought for a moment that everything was being destroyed.-

The toll: 5 deaths and some minor injuries; Thousands of houses damaged beyond repair.-

Our Hospital and all the modern (or good) buildings did not suffer a single crack.- Unfortunately we had our TB and Psychiatric Departments in the remaining of our old Hospital and they were badly damaged.

Suárez (! the Minister of Health!) and Urzúa have come to see and study solutions to the problem.- !We can be grateful to the earthquake if we could get a new Psychiatric and TB wing added to the Clinical Hospital!.

I remember with particular pleasure my visit to you at your nice farm. I have told Mary about your achievements as a farm-hand and about how beautiful your country in Maryland is in spite of the rainy and foggy days, and how nice you and Mrs. Janney were to me.- I wish we can pay you a visit again in the future.

The Servicio Nacional de Salud is still born but does not breath nor even cry... I don't know for sure where the weakness is located: if in the complications and implications of the King-Kong himself or in the capabilities of the doctors who happened to deliver it...

But let us drop it because I don't want to pelar...

My interesting trip to the U.S. is paying small dividends yet.- You know how reluctant they are in Santiago to listen to a poor provinciano's voice.- Anyhow, last week I read a paper on "Medical Education in the United States", at the Sociedad de Cirujanos de Hospital; and next day at the Clínica del Dr. Covarrubias, San Vicente Hospital.- And that is something.

Here in Concepción we are planning on a change in our curriculum and in our teaching methods as well as in our general approach to medical education, according to my experiences in the U.S. Medical Schools.

Santiago is now under a general strike of medical students who complain of too much red tape in the study of the reforms of medical education.- And General Ibáñez is looking very interested indeed at the proceedings because his government is willing to help the University of Chile, which is not very ibañista after all. to get ride of her troubles.

Bueno.- Ya creo que le he contado bastante de este Chilito.

Envidio su primavera de Maryland.- Lo que es aquí estamos en pleno invierno y sobre Concepción parece que han suspendido este año un estanque doble, porque ha llovido como para que nos transformemos en patos.

Los mejores saludos de Mary y míos para Ud. y señora y muchos deseos de verlos, acá o allá, pero verlos.

Un abrazo de