

Past International President Dr. Ramiro Collazo Dies

PAST INTERNATIONAL PRESIDENT Dr. Ramiro Collazo of Havana, Cuba died in a Havana hospital August 6 after suffering two strokes. Dr. Collazo served as International President during 1945-1946 and had once said of his office: "My great responsibility lies in the knowledge that I am presiding over an association of leaders in which each and every Lion must fully realize his leadership and, jointly with the other members of his club, their collective responsibility to the community."

During his tenure as International President, there was a net membership increase of 60,933, a one year figure that has not been surpassed. While in office, he travelled widely throughout North, South and Central Americas and Europe in those first months following the end of World War II. In addition to Spanish, he also spoke fluent English and French, thus giving him ready access to the thoughts and feelings of people whose lives had been touched by the war.

Dr. Collazo received his degree in civil law from the National University in Havana and became one of the most respected attorneys in his country. Prior to assuming the International Presidency, Dr. Collazo had served as an International Director and in 1937 was the first District Governor of Cuba. He also served two terms as President of the Havana Lions club which, at that time, was the largest club in the association.

Dr. Collazo was most active after his term as International President in furthering international understanding and had been honored by a number of countries for these efforts. "Mutual understanding," observed Dr. Collazo, "is one of the great contributions of our association. And that understanding can best be promoted by an interchange of views at club, district and international gatherings. Governmental pacts and treaties and agreements are all fine, all necessary; but the close association of the citizens of one country with those of its neighbors is the surest way to bring the desire for peace and friendly relations."

He is survived by his widow, Josephine, and his son.

Dr. and Mrs. Collazo had lived quietly and alone in Havana, enjoying their art collection and remembering their many old friends. "Friendship," said Lion Collazo, "is the leaven which works wonders among men who meet on common ground for the good of their several communities and nations."

