

A NEW HOME - BASE FOR HANSENOLOGIA INTERNATIONALIS

EDITORIAL

In the early 30's the "*Arquivos do Sanatório Padre Bento*" was a publication devoted to present the scientific production of this hospital which was the major center for leprosy treatment and research at that time. With the leadership of Lauro de Souza Lima and other members of the staff, the Sociedade Paulista de Leprologia was founded in august, 1933. In september of this same year appeared the *Revista de Leprologia de São Paulo* in order to be the voice of that society and to replace the former *Archives*.

The aim of the new society was to congregate all people working in leprosy, to exchange ideas and experiences and, through the Review to spread out national and internationally the scientific production of their members.

In 1936 the name of the Review changed to *Revista Brasileira de Leprologia* and was supported by grants of the International Center of Leprology under the presidency of Dr. Eduardo Rabelo. Thus, it became the official organ of the Brazilian Association of Leprology and their branches.

Due to budget problems that prevented us to maintain a closer relationship to more technically developed countries, the lack of support of the health authorities and lack of interest of the new generation, the enthusiasm of the national school of leprology started to decrease. In 1970, as a result of this situation, the publication of the journal was

discontinued.

Anyway, the flame of enthusiasm for the disease has not totally been extinguished and here and there sprouts of interest appeared again in the form of a conference, a course or congress of many aspects of the disease.

Finally, in 1976, by leadership of Dr. Abrão Rotberg a new journal appeared to replace the former publication under the name of HANSENOLOGIA INTERNATIONALIS. With new horizons, this publication opened its doors to other specialties involved in Hansen's disease, as microbiology, immunology, surgery, social aspects and health education.

In these last 13 years this publication has fought many budgetary battles. Despite of that, it faithfully maintains its initial purpose.

Now, the base of HANSENOLOGIA INTERNATIONALIS has moved to the Instituto "Lauro de Souza Lima" and we are aware of the big responsibility that this means for us. However, we know that we count on many people and institutions, as the College of Hansenology of the Endemic Countries whose members should speak through this journal, to accomplish this task.

We have already released the second number of 1988 and now we present the first number of 1989. Soon the journal will be regularly published with the help of all it's members in order to preserve publication as a sound voice of our aims in the fight against Hansen's disease.

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