

CORRESPONDENCE

Are we helping Macau? — "Thank you for regularly sending me your magazines, for they stimulate new activities here in Macau. Patients are beginning to show up spontaneously and the surgical ward of the Central Hospital for the first time was opened for patients 'of this type'. I am thinking of changing our Sanitarium of Kâ Hô (Macau) into a recuperation and training centre. It is a long time that I have been participating in your fight against leprostigma, a reason for my request for membership of the College of Hansenology of the Endemic Countries".

M. J. CAMPOS MAGALHÃES
Health Service of Macau (via Hong Kong)

What about the "venereal"? — "I entirely agree with the suggestion (to eliminate the term 'leprosy') but regret that a similar campaign is not waged against the appellation 'venereal diseases', which causes so many hindrances to their prevention and treatment."

A. N. REBELO
Porto, Portugal

"Sexually transmitted diseases" is the new internationally adopted appellation. Your old wishes have worked. The hope now, Dr. Rebelo, is that "leprosy" is next on the list of socially and medically inconvenient terms to be eliminated. (A.R.)

"Stigmoney" or "Stigma is Money" — "We fully endorse your arduous campaign, that should be continued, despite the obstacles which have recently emerged in a difficult field — the one represented by the financial interests of charitable organizations."

CARLOS E. R. T. RUDGE
Division of Hansenology and Sanitary Dermatology — Institute of Health, Public Health Service State of S. Paulo, Brazil

The pejorative that hinders control — "We wish to express our agreement with all those who strive to demonstrate that hanseniasis is a disease like any other in order to destroy its former pejorative appellation and all taboos that hinder control. We fully agree with your "Six Permanent Public Appeals" and we are ready to fight for them."

FLAVIO A. A. GOULART and WALTER S. DA MATTA RIBEIRO
Sector of Integrated Supervision, C.R.S. Überlândia, Public Health Service of the State of Minas Gerais, Brazil

"Hanseniasis" in Italy — "I congratulate you on the new official terminology with which I was always in accordance. In Italy, I have already had the opportunity to make public and to recommend the substitution of 'hanse niasis' for 'leprosy', which is being very well received by our colleagues."

O. MINGOIA
Milano, Italy

Progress in Uruguay - "Luckily, we count with the cooperation of the 'Hospital de Clinicas de la Universidad de Montevideo'. In its surgery ward we have interned two patients who will soon be operated for plantar ulcerations."

M. MARGOUNATO
Montevideo, Uruguay

A new fighter against the cultural barriers - "I am a catholic priest who works in the former "colony" Paricatuba, Manaus. I would like to be more involved in the battle against the cultural barriers which cause psychosocial problems and block preventive measures. Consider me as a founder of the College of Hansenology of the Endemic Countries."

Father HUMBERTO GUIDOTTI
Manaus, Amazonas, Brazil

The negative word - "I am sending two slides (*) which illustrate, once again, the negative aspects of the words 'lepra', 'isolation' and other against which you have battled so much I hope they augment the material you use in your your lectures about the subject."

AMADO SAUL
Mexico, D.F. Mexico

(*) 1) A cartoon: "Superman" defeated at last by "leprosy", asks to be cremated so that his 'leprosy of Krypton' should not propagate. 2) Front page headline of a Mexican newspaper: "Tomorrow, 10.51, Mexican time, the 'lunar lepers' land." (Armstrong, Aldrin & Collins).