

HANSENOLOGIA INTERNATIONALIS

(Hansen. Int)

Hansenologia Internationalis, a new periodical

EDITORIAL.

Medical publishing dealing in the field of Hansenology presented two phases. The first had its beginning in the early years of this century with the Journal "Lepra" (1900-1914) published in Europe and lasting until 1914 when the World War I interrupted its presentation.

Only in 1933 modern Hansenology was to have again a publication of its own. Under the masterly editorship of H. W. Wade the International Journal of Leprosy had its first issue in the Philippines.

At about the same time Aguiar Pupo and Eduardo Rabello started the "Revista Brasileira de Leprologia" which was to be published until 1970. The starting of both publications was due in fact to the great enthusiasm and insistent support of H. C. de Souza Araujo.

The span of these publications was marked by many highlights in the field of modern Hansenology. A few of these deserve to be recalled.

I — In 1933-1934 an epoch-making article by F. Hayashi marking the revival of the reaction developed by Mitsuda between 1913 and 1923. From 1934 to 1937 A. Rotberg studied 1.529 Mitsuda reactions pointing out the genetic trait of the test, results which he presented in a remarkable Thesis.

II — 1934-1937. A large series of important articles by H. W. Wade on "Tuberculoid Leprosy".

III — 1935-1937. S. Schujman (Rosário, 1935) presents the evidence for the clinical and immunobiological autonomy of "Tuberculoid Leprosy". 1936-1937. First works by F. E. Rabello extending this immunobiological concept to the whole field of Hanseniasis.

IV — 1938-1939. Articles by F. E. Rabello under the heading of "Polar forms" (Rio de Janeiro, Paris, February-May 1938) constituting the basis for the historical Editorial in Revista Brasileira de Leprologia, launching the so-called "South American Classification".

V — 1939-1948. From this period date the works by Aguiar Pupo and cols. on the importance of "macular" or "uncharacteristic" forms adding up to 68 and even 80% of the totality of clinical forms, both in private practice and among young contacts.

VI — 1938-1940. To this period belong the now classical works of J. M. Fernandez on the tuberculinic type response and the turning of the response to Mitsuda under the influence of BCG, a subject which is still controversial up to day.

VII — 1941-1943. In this period articles by L. Souza Lima and F.

Alayon, and subsequently by F. E. Rabello, codifying the concept of Indeterminate forms. In 1943 Pardo-Castelló and Tiant's in the JAMA and W. Buengeler's articles in the Wirchow's Archly confirming the South American Doctrine.

VIII — In 1948, at the 5th International Congress of la Havana, "Polar types" (Rabello, 1938) received general acclaim. The polar concept was well substantiated due to the studies made by F. Latapi to the effect that "types" and "groups" should be distinguished, notions that can be considered basic in modern Hansenology.

IX — Between 1946-1952, and after the Rio de Janeiro Pan-American Conference, Brazilian experience with the sulphone traitement (Faget 1941) lead to a strong support of the prophylactic effect of the drug when given early to Indeterminate cases (Bechelli, 1952).

X — In 1958, at the Seminar of the Pan-american Health Organization held in Belo Horizonte — Brazil, soon was found the inefficacy of the physical segregation and so denounced by J. Doull — "an anachronism", At about that time, Mexican hansenologists under Latapi, were already taking a dynamic view of the control, with "prospective" prophylaxis, and the creation of "mobile units" for the intensive search for early forms of group I.

XI — From 1955-1967, F. E. Rabello wrote against the old denomination of the disease and in favour of "Morbus Hansen". In 1967, A. Rotberg proposed "Hanseniasis", a term which is being gradually, and at this time, warmly adopted by Latin-American hansenologists (F. E. Rabello: "a truth in march that nothing will arrest").

XII — 1960-1968. The following landmarks deserve to be registered: the positive inoculation in the mouse

foot pad (Shepard), the "morphologic index" (Waters and Rees), the intravenous inoculation in rats (Rees), lastly the non-viability of granular bacilli for contagion (Shepard).

XIII — 1970-1973. The surprising findings made by Storrs and Kirchheimer leading to the discovery of the armadillo — *Dasypus novemcinctus* — as a tool of choice for experimental Hanseniasis.

These were some of the original contributions whose knowledge was made possible by the existence of printed means of communication in specialized field. It is our feeling now that another vehicle of cultural interchange between the various centres of hansenological activity became an imperious necessity.

The Journal "Hansenologia Internationalis" purports to be the continuation of the "Revista Brasileira de Leprologia", whose 34 volumes, from 1933 until 1970, had been internationally indexed. Its initial issues will be published bi-annually — and in Portuguese, Spanish, French, Italian and English. All articles will have summaries in English.

"Hansenologia Internationalis" will have its Head Office at the Instituto de Saúde of the Coordenadoria de Serviços Técnicos Especializados of the Secretaria de Saúde do Estado de São Paulo, where its staff will be helped by a 30.000 volumes specialized library.

The present publication "Hanseniasis: resumos e notícias/Hanseniasis: abstracts and news" will be continued without change.

Having in view the above considerations, we take this opportunity to invite all our highly esteemed colleagues to present their contributions and outstanding support.

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