

# HANSENOLOGIA INTERNATIONALIS

## The 2nd Brazilian Congress of Hansenology

EDITORIAL

Those who have attended medical congresses and have witnessed the usual, and depressing, contrast between the crowds at the formal openings and the dwindling numbers of participants in the ensuing working sessions, would have been pleasantly surprised with the scenes at the II Brazilian Congress of Hansenology. From the morning of June 30, to the late evening of July 2, 1978 — a Sunday! — over 450 people continuously jammed the principal auditorium of the University of Rio de Janeiro, many standing in the aisles or disputing a seat on the steps.

Hansenologists from 18 Brazilian states and a few invited guests from the U.S., Argentina, Venezuela, Paraguay and France made up half of the

participants. The other half was constituted by young dermatologists, general practitioners and medical students, increasingly aware of the importance of hansenology, thanks to the p3rtinacious and idealistic efforts of Professor Réne Garrido Neves, the President and principal organizer of the Congress. Financial aid by the Ministry of Health, then headed by Prof. Paulo de Almeida Machado, substantially contributed to the success of the meeting.

"Hansenologia Internationalis" was honored with the permission to publish the reports and is happy to collaborate with Prof. Neves' scientific and integrationist efforts.

A. ROTBERG