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THE SOUTH AMERICAN CLASSIFICATION

INTRODUCTION

In this department there are reproduced, for reasons stated elsewhere, translations of certain documents relative to the development and formulation of the South American classification. First are the two editorials announcing the new scheme which appeared, in 1939, in successive issues of the *Revista Brasileira de Leprologia*. Although much was written about it thereafter, so far as we are aware no attempt was made to discuss it in full prior to the Rio de Janeiro conference in 1946, except at the outset when Aguiar Pupo¹ wrote at length of what was proposed.

One of the main questions about this scheme was precisely what the new class called "incharacteristic" was supposed to comprise. In 1941 Lauro de Souza Lima, one of the originators, and Fernando Alayon, a histopathologist, in an elaborate monograph dealt with the matter from their own point of view. That is not entirely in accord with that of many others, but this publication is nevertheless a valuable one. Perhaps because of the language and the time when it was published (1941), it was apparently never reviewed outside of Brazil and is quite unknown to most workers elsewhere, and consequently a review of it is printed elsewhere in this issue (pp. 563-566).

In 1945, several years after the introduction of the new scheme, Lauro de Souza Lima was designated to report his experience with it at a meeting held in Tres Corações in Minas Gerais. A translation of that report is included here, followed by an editorial summary of the "opinions" of various appointed groups and individuals concerning the questions which had been raised in it.

Finally, we present a new translation of the only "official" formulation of the South American scheme, the report of the

¹ AGUIAR PUPO, J. Das formas clínicas da lepra; modalidades invasoras e reacionarias. *Rev. brasileira Leprol.* 7 (1939) 357-387.

Second Pan-American Leprosy Conference held in Rio de Janeiro in 1946. The original report, in Portuguese, was published twice in Brazil, neither time entirely without error. An English translation appeared in THE JOURNAL at the time, but it was an unduly free translation for such a document and there were certain important errors and omissions. Consequently, there exists no version to which persons not familiar with Portuguese can refer with confidence to determine precisely what the South American classification involved. The present translation has been made with care, and has been checked by two of the leading Brazilian leprologists.—EDITOR.