

THE PASB/WHO SEMINAR IN BELO HORIZONTE

On June 30, 1958, the Pan American Sanitary Bureau, as the agency of the World Health Organization for the Western Hemisphere, convened a Seminar on the Control of Leprosy which ended on July 7th. This was the first of three conferences which WHO has held recently concerned primarily with the evolution in methods of leprosy control, the other two being the Inter-Regional Conference on Leprosy held in

Tokyo in November 1958, immediately after the VIIIth International Congress, and the CCTA/WHO Conference on Leprosy in Africa (south of the Sahara) held in Brazzaville, F.E.A., in April 1959.

Six themes were dealt with by the Belo Horizonte seminar, each introduced by an invited paper. Summaries of the conclusions regarding these themes appeared in *THE JOURNAL* **26** (1958) 267. Full reports of the meeting, including the prepared papers, have appeared in the *Boletín de la Oficina Sanitaria Panamericana* **45** (1958) No. 6 (Dec.), and the *Revista de Sifilografía, Leprología y Dermatología* (Havana) **14** (1958) No. 2 (July-Dec.).

In preparation for that seminar, Dr. Lauro de Souza Lima prepared a summary of available information on Leprosy in the Americas—a subject which he, who had served numerous assignments as a leprosy consultant for PASB/WHO and visited many of the American countries, is exceptionally well qualified to deal. No such review having been available heretofore, a translation of it, supplied by the Pan-American Sanitary Bureau, appears in this issue as a reprinted article.

This report is informative, including the indications of how much information needed for an over-all evaluation of the situation was lacking. Apart from anything else, however, it shows how vastly different is the leprosy problem (or problems) in the Americas from those in the central zone of Africa, in India, and in the countries of the Far East. From which it follows—for one thing—that if one focuses his eyes with respect to control exclusively on, say, mass treatment as it is now being conducted in Africa, the situations in other countries will not be in focus.—H. W. W.