

THE TERM "LEPER" IN PARAGUAY

To the EDITOR:

Referring to the use of the term "leper," as discussed in the April-July issue of the present volume of the JOURNAL, it may be mentioned that in Paraguay, South America, the euphonic term in general use for "leprosy" and "leper" is simply "Hansen." This word, used in reference to positive cases, gives all the information required in medical consultation or references in the hearing of the patient and his friends and there is no suggestion of the stigma attached to the old and universally odious word "leper."

This use of "Hansen" means to the patient that his disease is now removed from the sphere of ignorance, loathesomeness and ostracism, to a level in which modern science and hygiene and human-

itarianism find in the patients subjects of the highest interest. The name opens up to them a new and bright prospect of hope and health. To call the leper a "Hansen" gives him a feeling that he has quite a new status, and he can hold up his head with pride, knowing that he now has friends.

J. W. LINDSAY.

*136, Beresford Avenue
Tolworth, Surrey, England.*