

## BOOK REVIEW

**Anais do VIII Congresso Internacional de Leprologia.** Organizado pela International Leprosy Association e sob os auspícios do Governo Brasileiro. Rio de Janeiro, Setembro 1963. Publicado pelo Serviço Nacional de Lepra, Ministério de Saúde, Brasil. Volume 1, pp. 479. Paper bound.

This volume of the *Transactions of the Eighth International Congress on Leprology*, held in Rio de Janeiro in September 1963, covers the program of the congress up through the papers presented in the Round Tables on (1) Pathology and Experimental Transmission and (2) Borderline and Indeterminate Leprosy. Almost all of these are carried in full, with accompanying tables and illustrations, and in the language of presentation at Rio de Janeiro, a task that obviously called for a great deal of careful attention by the editorial staff, working under sponsorship of the Organizing Commission (COCIL). The meticulous care given by the editors is indicated by a list of some 90 errata accompanying the volume, most of which are trivial, including chiefly typographic errors and mistakes in spelling. It is no serious reflection on the editors to note the fact that the list is not complete; a careful reading of the text uncovers not a few others. This defect, quite clearly in the midst of an effort at perfection, need not be taken too seriously in an exercise of this magnitude, particularly in view of the fact that there has been continuing demand for haste in printing the volume on the part of participants in the Congress. The solid fact is that the papers, as presented, are now available, and minor printing errors detract little from their messages and significance.

The scientific papers in the volume are preceded by 95 pages of essential official data on the organization and directing bodies of the Congress, lists of participants, remarks at the opening and closing sessions, a description of the social program, and general comments on the congress as a whole. The printing is clear, and the page format is favorable for gross and microscopic illustrations, most of which are good.

It is worthy of special note that the volume here reviewed briefly is the *official* record of the congress. Not surprisingly, in view of the wide interest in a record of the congress, several of the world's journals devoted to leprosy, including the INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL OF LEPROSY, carried condensed accounts of their own on the subject matter of the Rio Congress. These condensations were the subject of a news item in THE JOURNAL (32 (1964) 444-445), and some correspondence (THE JOURNAL 33 (1965) 242-243 and 362-363). There can be little argument, however, with the view that the *Transactions*—granted that there are some errors in orthography and even in translation—form the official record of the congress, to be quoted as such in the future. Presumably all will agree, however, that the several reports published in the different leading journals served a highly useful purpose in making some record of the congress available to members of the International Leprosy Association, participants in the congress, and others during the long period when the official *Transactions* were being prepared. Needless to say, the receipt of subsequent volumes furnishing a continuation of the record of the congress, is eagerly anticipated.—E. R. LONG