

Change in Health Departmental Designation in Brazil

TO THE EDITOR:

I am pleased to inform you that a law signed on 23 July 1968, by the Governor of the State of São Paulo, Brazil, Dr. Roberto Costa de Abreu Sodré, changed the name of the "Departamento de Profilaxia da Lepra" of the Secretary of Health to "Departamento de Dermatologia Sanitária."

I am sure that, just like the official substitution of "hanseniasis" for "leprosy," previously determined by the Secretary of Health of the State, Dr. Walter Pereira Leser, this new change will contribute to minimize the stigma inflicted on patients

and their families and the effects of superstitions connected with the word "leprosy," thereby facilitating the attendance of patients and contacts, the integration with other public health services and the activities of our health educators and social workers.

—ABRAHAO ROTBERG M. D.

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