

Nelson Souza Campos, M.D.

1900-1973

Lauro de Souza Lima, M.D.

1903-1973

In the course of one year Brazil lost two outstanding leprologists who had attained the highest post in the former Departamento de Profilaxia da Lepra of the State of Sao Paulo and who had gained high international prestige. They were very close friends and worked together in various studies, co-authored many publications, and their lives were interlinked until their deaths. These are reasons for presenting their activities and contributions in the same obituary.

Both doctors initiated their careers in 1928 working in a regional dispensary. A few years later, Souza Campos was transferred to the headquarters of the Department of Leprosy, Sao Paulo, while Souza Lima was

appointed director of the Sanatorio Padre Bento (Guarulhos, Sao Paulo). Souza Campos was nominated vice-director of the leprosy department in 1935 and director in 1945; Souza Lima assumed the latter post a few years later.

In 1933, when in my sixth year of medical training, I began my leprosy training at the Sanatorio Padre Bento while Souza Lima was director of the institution and his research in leprosy was well known. In spite of the rigidity of the control measures at that time recommended by the international congresses and conferences he did his best to attenuate them and to raise the morale of the patients through his kindness and friend-

liness. Little by little he assembled a group of physicians interested in research, some who later became distinguished leprologists making important scientific contributions.

It was at the Sanatorio Padre Bento, in 1933, that the Sociedade Paulista de Leprologia was founded and became the stepping stone for the school of leprology of Sao Paulo which became known by its achievements. Dr. Francisco Salles Gomes, Jr. was the director of the department of leprosy, a most competent public health specialist and administrator, energetic and with a strong determination to control leprosy. Control and research were undertaken with great enthusiasm for about 20 years and the department of leprosy and the school of leprology of Sao Paulo passed through a golden phase with an active research and control program. The REVISTA BRASILEIRA DE LEPROLOGIA (initially Revista Paulista de Leprologia) became one of the more important leprosy journals. In addition to monthly meetings, an annual meeting was also held at which great numbers of papers were reported on various aspects of leprosy problems which were regularly published in a special number of the REVISTA. The workers of this remarkable period were Salles Gomes, Souza Campos and Souza Lima, assisted by many young leprologists who gradually became internationally known despite the fact that they had to overcome the difficult barrier of writing in the Portuguese language. In order to avoid the injustice of a few omissions I won't mention all the names as the list is quite lengthy. The creation and development of an excellent library (Biblioteca do Departamento de Profilaxia da Lepra) under the directorship of Mrs. Luiza Keffer played an important role in the progress of leprosy research. Dr. Ernani Agricola, then director of the National Leprosy Service (S.N.L.), greatly stimulated the writing of a treatise on leprosy and many monographs.

Drs. Souza Campos and Souza Lima conducted many important studies: the former on clinical aspects, immunology, epidemiology and control; and the latter on clinical aspects and therapy. Through their work they provided an important base for the establishment of a new classification which was gradually developed by leprologists from Brazil and Argentina (Rabello, Fernandez, Schujman, Aguiar Pupo, Basombrio and others). This classification was accepted

by the Panamerican Conference of Leprosy (Rio de Janeiro, 1946) and two years later by the Fifth International Leprosy Congress (Havana, 1948).

Among Dr. Souza Campos' publications the following deserve special mention:

1. Tuberculoid leprosy: clinical aspects, epidemiology and control, particularly the forms observed in children.
2. Mitsuda's reaction.
3. BCG vaccination and conversion of the lepromin reaction. Immuno-allergic correlation between tuberculosis and leprosy (19 papers were published on this subject in collaboration with Rosenberg and Aun).
4. Epidemiology and control.

Almost all his papers were published in the REVISTA BRASILEIRA DE LEPROLOGIA. He also published several monographs:

1. Diagnóstico clínico, laboratorial e biológico, with L. Souza Lima. *In*: Tratado de Leprologia, Rio de Janeiro, S.N.L., 1944, vol. 3.
2. Epidemiología e profilaxia da lepra, with L. M. Bechelli and A. Rotberg. *In*: Tratado de Leprologia, Rio de Janeiro, S.N.L., 1944, vol. 5.
3. Sintomatologia nervosa da lepra, with L. M. Bechelli, Rio de Janeiro, S.N.L., 1946, 193 pp.
4. Organização e funcionamento de preventórios, with L. M. Bechelli, Rio de Janeiro, S.N.L., 1948, 128 pp.
5. Lepra na infância, with L. Souza Lima, Rio de Janeiro, 1950, 201 pp.
6. Sobre casos de lepra com evolução anomala, with L. Souza Lima, Rio de Janeiro, S.N.L., 1950, 120 pp.

These monographs received the first prize in contests promoted by the National Service of Leprosy.

One of the most important contributions of Souza Lima was the monograph on "uncharacteristic (indeterminate) leprosy," published in 1941 in collaboration with F. Alayon. This form of leprosy was studied under its clinical, histopathologic, immunologic and evolutive aspects and is, in my opinion, the most complete and profound study on the subject. I do not believe I am exaggerating in considering it as a masterpiece, though unfortunately it is inaccessible to the majority of leprologists because it was published in Portuguese.

Souza Lima tried several drugs for leprosy

treatment and lepra reaction and was in charge of the drug trials in Brazil for the WHO coordinated studies. In 1937 he published a monograph on therapy, going into great detail regarding the chaulmoogra drugs which were then used as the medications of choice. When sulfones were introduced for the treatment of leprosy by Faget and co-workers (Carville, 1943), the Sanatorio Padre Bento through Souza Lima and collaborators became one of the most important centers for studying promin and other derivatives of DDS. Due to the excellent studies reported and experiences gained, Souza Lima was often designated as chairman of therapy committees at the international congresses and conferences. With P. Rath de Souza he described, in lepromatous patients under sulfone treatment, the clinical, immunologic and histopathologic aspects of a peculiar reaction, similar to that observed in tuberculoid patients. They named it "pseudo-exacerbation" (Havana, 1948), which was many years later described as "reverse reaction." With Dr. Opromola he was the first to try rifamycin for treatment of leprosy. Together they studied the therapeutic effect of several antibiotics.

With Souza Campos he wrote several

monographs already mentioned, as well as a book titled *Lepra Tuberculoide* (Sao Paulo, Renascenca, 1947, 298 pp), and with F. Maurano the monograph "Reação leprotica" (Rio de Janeiro, S.N.L., 1949). He was awarded several prizes.

Drs. Souza Campos and Souza Lima each served as president of the Sociedade Paulista de Leprologia, and the former for many years editor of the REVISTA BRASILEIRA DE LEPROLOGIA. Both were members of the panel of experts on leprosy for WHO and in 1952 they attended the first WHO Expert Committee on Leprosy (Rio de Janeiro, 1952).

After their retirement from the Department of Leprosy both worked for the Pan American Health Organization, Pan American Sanitary Bureau, WHO Regional Office (Souza Campos in Colombia, and Souza Lima in Paraguay and Central America with headquarters in Mexico).

During the last few years of their lives, their activities in leprosy work almost completely ceased, nevertheless their departure from life has deprived many leprologists and their country of their profound knowledge and experiences.

—LUIZ MARINO BECHELLI