

## EDITOR'S NOTE

Dear Readers,

This year, *História, Ciências, Saúde—Manguinhos* celebrates its tenth anniversary. The festivities will take place during the second semester. We're not saying what they will be because we don't want to spoil the surprise. You're invited, of course, and don't forget to bring your friends, which means please tell your peers about us and encourage them to contribute to this periodical, whose life is the history of the sciences.

Two articles in this issue engage in a stimulating dialogue with each other and, by a felicitous coincidence, both authors are from regions now beginning to challenge Southeastern Brazil's supremacy in the historiography of the sciences and health. In his delightful text, Alarcon Agra do Ó, from the Federal University of Campina Grande, offers snapshots of health conditions in early nineteenth-century Bahia as seen through the eyes of Thomas Lindley, an English businessman jailed for contraband and mistakenly thought to be a physician. Curiously, he didn't hesitate to perform this part, and set about dealing with a multitude of sick and dying. The author endeavors to identify the "grammars" employed both by this English traveler and by the region's various groups as they experienced disease and its ensuing environment of uncertainty.

Nauk Maria de Jesus, from the Federal University of Mato Grosso, examines authorities' efforts to introduce surgical classes in the captaincy of Mato Grosso, specifically, in Vila Bela and Vila Real do Senhor Bom Jesus do Cuiabá. The time period in question stretches from the rigors of Pombal absolutism to the liberalizing winds blown in when the Portuguese court took refuge in Brazil. Nauk's article is less flowing and colorful than Alarcon's, since his protagonists are mainly the State and its administrative agents. But it was also the unsatisfied needs of the afflicted and dying that stirred the inauguration of surgical teaching so far from Brazil's coastal centers, which were stages to innovation because of the opening of ports.

Another highlight is the article by Maria Clélia Lustosa Costa, from the Federal University of Ceará, who writes about the dramatic drought that assailed Ceará province from 1877 to 1879. It was concomitant with a serious smallpox epidemic, which impelled a surge of migration from the Northeast to the Amazon and the coast. Ms. Costa's study looks closely at how the drought impacted the province capital and how hygienists and other social actors responded to the sanitation and urban crisis, relying on medical discourse.

Both form and content make Regina Horta Duarte's text most enjoyable to read. A professor at the Federal University of Minas Gerais, Ms. Duarte writes about the *Revista Nacional de Educação* published by Edgar Roquette-Pinto at Rio de Janeiro's National Museum between 1932 and 1934. With a large circulation, and aided by radio and cinema, the journal worked to bring such topics as science, history, art, and Brazil's constitutive values to every school and family within the vast territory then recently tamed by Rondon. According to the author, during the magazine's brief life, its director and the intellectuals who contributed to it managed to introduce new ways of disseminating scientific information in Brazil, assigning a new role to the National Museum.

"Directions in Hospital Assistance in Rio de Janeiro (1923-31)," by Gisele Sanglard and Renato da Gama-Rosa Costa, helps fill a gap in the historiography of health and hospitals in

Brazil. Combining an architectural approach with an investigation of social relations and the state of the art in medical knowledge, this finely illustrated article reveals the vital role played by certain wealthy philanthropists at a crucial juncture in Brazilian public health, when the lack of hospital beds had reached a critical point.

This issue offers many other interesting texts plus a considerable number of reviews, some almost as challenging as any article. I'd especially like to call the reader's attention to the edifying autobiographical testimony by the chemical engineer Ernest Paulini, who knows the history of Brazil's Malariology and Rural Endemics Institutes as no one else—meaning that he knows the core of Brazilian public health during the second half of the twentieth century.

I wish you happy reading and hope it will provide inspiration for further creation in this fascinating field of research that we have been working to cultivate over the past decade. With your help, the harvest will be good!

*Jaime Larry Benchimol*

Editor