

EDITOR'S NOTE

We on the editorial board of *História, Ciências, Saúde — Manguinhos* evaluated our journal during a recent meeting, and the results were gratifying in a number of ways. More papers are being submitted all the time, which facilitates planning of future issues. Referees have responded in fine fashion as well. Theirs are substantive contributions that guarantee the quality of approved articles by fostering a productive exchange of correspondence with authors, ensuring a stronger final product. All this has won our journal praise for its quality and recognition within the academic world.

It was equally satisfying to verify that our editorial project is gaining a firmer outline, as reflected in its profile of readers. The journal's proposal for interaction between the vast fields of history, the sciences, and health has resulted in new knowledge on the issue of health. At the same time, we have held true to our intended aesthetic lightness and remain open to a breadth of disciplines and forms of expression.

In this issue, the theoretical foundations of epidemiology form the topic of two articles by authors who make their mark with stimulating styles, offering perspectives on new fields of reflection. Gil Sevalho uses contributions from history and geography to explore social time and epidemiological time, highlighting the repercussions of contemporary globalization and the acceleration of time on our understanding of epidemiology—and of emerging diseases in particular. Drawing from lines within safety engineering, epidemiology, and actuary sciences and making reference to molecular biology as well, Luis David Castiel analyzes the complexity of the construction of the category 'risk'. He sets out this construct's historical contextualization and world view, along with its repercussions in terms of psychology, socio-cultural aspects, and social communication.

Analyzing the relation between epidemiology and history in the case of yellow fever, Rodolpho Telarolli Júnior looks at the process of foreign immigration and the fashioning of health policies in the state of São Paulo as of the 1890s.

Based on his Master's thesis, Flávio Coelho Edler suggests it is necessary to rethink the formational moments of experimental medicine in Brazil. In this author's opinion, this phase in fact occurred earlier and was more complex than what has been traditionally argued. This idea has also been defended in works by Jaime Benchimol, Luiz Antônio Teixeira, and Luiz Otávio Ferreira, all researchers at the Casa de Oswaldo Cruz. Flávio shows how the nineteenth century clinical tradition did not constitute a structural barrier in the debate about laboratory innovations.

Anne Marie Moulin, author of a highly acclaimed study on the history of immunology, draws attention to different notions of the immune system. She argues that in the process of legitimizing immunology as a branch of science the construction of the concept moves beyond the boundaries of biology, opening a dialog between the biological and human sciences.

Tania Fernandes and Antônio Torres Montenegro's interview with biologist Célio Rodrigues has that special flavor unique to personal accounts. He narrates the daily practice of a scientist and sanitarian struggling against the bubonic plague in Pernambuco's backlands.

In our 'Sources' department, Maria do Carmo Teixeira Rainho describes the Brazilian National Archives collection entitled "Industrial Privileges". In our debate department, university, corporate, and research specialists discuss interactive processes in quest of new technology and intellectual property rights on new products.

Now, on to the journal itself.

Paulo Gadelha
editor