

EDITOR'S NOTE

In this issue, the reader will find a detailed radiograph of the trajectory of *História, Ciências, Saúde – Manguinhos*. We hope it is as enlightening for you as it was instructive for us to prepare it.

A few months before completing 13 years of continuous publication, the journal mixes the characteristics of more recent journals with those typical of journals that have already reached maturity. The complete texts in the free online version (<http://www.scielo.br/hcsm>) make us co-participants of a positive and healthy movement for the democratization of scientific knowledge, with important benefits as far as the access and visibility of the journal and no harms for the hard editions, where the main graphic innovations still happen. Certain indicators bring us optimism and others demand a more careful reflection on the paths to be followed.

One thing is for sure: our next editors' meeting at the *História, Ciências, Saúde – Manguinhos* will be high-spirited, and you, reader, who has been with us for a longer or shorter period of time, you are invited to join us in this reflective process. Write to us!

In the section 'Sources', you will find a by-product of the research on the trajectory of *HCS – Manguinhos*, conducted under our guidance, by students holding scientific initiation fellowships. It is a description of the *Revista Brasileira de História da Medicina*, first in the country in this knowledge field. The periodical was founded and edited by the physician Ivolino de Vasconcellos, and served as a voice for historian doctors organized under the Sociedade Brasileira de História da Medicina and the Federação with the same name, after Second World War. With the addition of the article by Mauro Amoroso, the work by the students Amanda Mendonça and Gabriel Nicolini almost complete a dossier.

Amidst the repertoire that brings a special colouring to this edition of *História, Ciências, Saúde – Manguinhos*, we call our reader's attention to another batch of articles whose combined effect leads to a very interesting overall result.

Sandra Caponi, with her ability for conceptual analyses, compares the work by Jean Christian Marc Boudin, a turning point in the 1800's medical geography, with acclimation theories currently defended. After defining the common ground for these theories concerning the larger or smaller capacity of individual organisms to adapt to climatic and environmental conditions, Caponi goes back to the cleavages and continuities between this 'torrid zones' medicine and the medicine named 'tropical' in the late 19th century. In her article, Rosa Helena de Santana Girão de Moraes offers an excellent empirical counterpoint to Caponi's reflections. The doctorate student at the École des Hautes Études en Sciences Sociales (Paris) presents the partial results of her research on the still little explored primary sources concerning the relationships between the French naval medicine and Brazil. As other physicians working for European navies, Paul Marie Victor Bourel-Roncière, the chief-surgeon of the naval station created by France in the Prata River

Basin, wanted to compile information on the regional diseases and the social and environmental factors determining their emergence and characteristic traits. His strategic goal was the production of nosographical maps that could be used as medical guides to the expansionist European States. Between 1868 and 1870, based on medical geography theoreticians, Bourel-Roncière gives special attention to Rio de Janeiro, considered one of the unhealthiest cities in the continent. The climate, the fundamental category in both of the mentioned articles, serves as cornerstone for Colombian physicians in the conceptualization of the fevers that spread epidemically among the tobacco and anil growers in the Magdalena river valley, in the mid 19th century. Girão de Moraes dives into the tentacular network of French medical geography, and the Colombian historian Claudia Mónica García makes excellent use of the same theoretical paradigm, up to the beginning of bacteriology, within the social framework of a disease that played an important role in the consolidation of the medical profession in her country. As in a sequence, a different article interacts in an enriching way with the authors mentioned above. Based on a different article Caponi published in this journal, Victoria Estrada Orrego and Jorge Márquez Valderrama analyze the epistemological difficulties that marked the transition from the miasmas theory to the theory of vectors in Colombia, by examining the controversies related to paludism among doctors belonging to a generation that comes to the scientific arena at the time the Pasteurian and the tropical medicines are instituted.

Beyond the articles assembled by their provoking affinities in focus and approach, in this edition of *História, Ciências, Saúde – Manguinhos* the reader will find, among other interesting materials, the exhaustive description that the historian Filomena Amador undertakes concerning the texts published after the 1755 Lisbon earthquake; the instructive analysis by Everardo Nunes on Robert Merton's (1910-2003) contributions to the field of medical sociology; the instigating discussion of the problem of self-determination for people with special needs, by the psychologist Ray Pereira, after the rumors on the euthanasia attempt by the mother of Vincent Humbert, a French youngman who became tetraplegic, blind, and speechless after a car accident. We also have the study by the Walter Ferreira de Oliveira on street social education, a pedagogical system developed in Latin America in the late 1970s; and the ambitious literature review of the dietetic studies conducted in Brazil from mid 19th to early 21st centuries, written by Francisco de Assis Guedes de Vasconcelos, a nutrition professor at the Universidade Federal de Santa Catarina.

We finish this letter by thanking everyone who has been collaborating with us. As members of its editorial board or not, they render their knowledge, their experience, and their precious time for this journal, by generously collaborating with the diffusion of the literature on the history of the sciences and medicine.

To all of these collaborators, who are condemned as they are to anonymity, our very special thank you.

Jaime L. Benchimol
Editor