Professor Hercílios César de Souza Araújo was born in Paraná, at Sto Antônio de Imbituva and died in Rio, on the 10th August 1962 at the age of 76.

Professor of Leprology at the School of Medicine (Faculdade de Ciências Médicas) and Director of the Leprology Laboratory of the Institute ‘Oswaldo Cruz’, he dedicated 36 years of his professional life to the investigation and teaching of leprosy, in Rio de Janeiro.

With a brilliant intelligence and an extraordinary capacity of work, he wrote 300 medical essays, the majority on leprosy and the others on many subjects as the biographies of S. Lucas, Oswaldo Cruz, Janselme, Cardoso Fontes, Krauze, Baltha, etc.

He travelled around the world, teaching leprology courses, lecturing and participating of conferences or getting material for his books and researches.

His most important works on leprosy are: Leprosy and Haemato­phages, Acid Fast Bacilli Cultures, Leprosy Survey made in Forty Countries, History of Leprosy in Brazil in 3 volumes and 200 other publications. The trial of culture of the leprosy microbe attracted him very much. He has even isolated ten samples of bacilli from leprosy patients and studied them almost until his death.

The Brazilian Government, in recognition of his efforts, awarded the “Order of Medical Merit” in 1960.

Professor Souza Araujo was patron of the Centre for the Study of Leprosy of the University of Paraná to whom he donated his personal collection of leprosy books.

The death of this remarkable Professor is, for Brazil and for the world, an inestimable loss.