Obituary

Professor Renato Segre

Several years after his first stroke, and after overcoming an aphasic syndrome, Renato Segre died on January 6, 1978, in Buenos Aires, Argentina, his adopted country. He was born in Torino, Italy, on July 26, 1904. In Italy, he distinguished himself from his very youth, especially at the School of Medicine of Torino, where he became a professor of Otolaryngology. Slowly and gradually he entered the field of Phoniatrics, a new branch of medical sciences, which was emerging at that time. He specialized in Phoniatrics in Vienna, Austria, with Dr. E. Froeschels, and then he enlarged his knowledge in other European countries, at the same time encouraging the development of what already was his medical specialty.

On April 21, 1940, Renato Segre arrived in Argentina where he definitively settled with his family, validating in 1944 his MD degree and adopting the Argentine nationality. His work in Argentina is of great significance. His efforts and enthusiasm highly contributed to the knowledge, diffusion and development of Phoniatrics. He was one of the organizers during the 1940s of the Argentine Association of Logopedics, Phoniatrics and Audiology, of which he was the President between 1966 and 1968. Also his international activity was very great and he was elected President of the International Association of Logopedics and Phoniatrics in 1969. He organized the XVth IALP International Congress which was held in Buenos Aires under his chairmanship.

Renato Segre was the Director of Fonoaudiológica, the journal of the Argentine Association of Logopedics, Phoniatrics and Audiology, between 1968 and 1972. Then he became a member of its Consultant Committee. A great number of his scientific papers were published in several specialized journals. Renato Segre published his first book (Lecciones de Audiología y Fonética Clínica) in Buenos Aires in 1941. Other relevant books were his Tratado de Foniatría (1955) and La Comunicación Oral Normal y Patológica (1973) which was translated into Italian.

He was very fond of Arts in general, and especially of music, and that led him to be the laryngologist of the Colon Theater (opera-house) of Buenos Aires. He was in charge of the Phoniatric Clinic at the School Hospital of the University of Buenos Aires. He was Professor of Phoniatrics (Therapies in Phoniatrics) at the School of Phono-Audiology of the Faculty of Sciences of Human Rehabilitation (University of the Museum, Buenos Aires).

In 1974 Renato Segre organized the ‘Liga Argentina de Orientación al Afásico’ and some time later he published what was to be his last book, Rehabilitación del Afásico. A summary by Renato Segre of this book appeared in Folia Phoniatrica.

With the death of Renato Segre not only a fundamental source of Argentine and international phoniatrics is lost, but essentially a great and sensitive man.