

Towards a History of Psychology in Portugal: the Contribution of Sílvio Lima's *A Psicologia em Portugal* (1949)

Manuel Viegas Abreu

Universidade de Coimbra

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ABSTRACT

In the panorama of the portuguese scientific production in the area of psychology, there is a lack of a history of psychology in Portugal. The purpose of this article is to analyze the proposals that Sílvio Lima (1904-1993) presented in the 1949 synopsis entitled *Psychology in Portugal* as a contribution to fill this gap. Bearing in mind the validity of the proposals, the synopsis project deserves to be resumed and expanded. In order to contribute to this purpose, the present paper includes an "Addendum" with the main bibliographic references of the protagonists mentioned in the synopsis

Para una Historia de la Psicología en Portugal: La contribución de *La Psicología en Portugal* (1949) de Sílvio Lima

RESUMEN

En el panorama de la producción científica portuguesa en el área de la psicología, falta una historia de la psicología en Portugal. El propósito de este artículo es analizar las propuestas que Sílvio Lima (1904-1993) presentó en la sinopsis de 1949 titulada *Psicología en Portugal* como una contribución para llenar este vacío. Teniendo en cuenta la validez de las propuestas, el proyecto de sinopsis merece ser reanudado y ampliado. Para contribuir a este propósito, el presente artículo incluye un "Anexo" con las principales referencias bibliográficas de los protagonistas mencionados en la sinopsis.

Introduction

A History of Psychology in Portugal is yet to be written. This fact is revealing of little attention or less esteem that the Portuguese psychologists dedicate to the critical analysis and evaluation of the antecedent contributions to the delimitation and expansion of psychology given by scholars, researchers, academics and even

professionals from different practical intervention areas. It is true that there have been several priorities in the development of the discipline, both from the point of view of research and the theoretical foundation, as well as from the point of view of institutional and professional organization. The often urgent need to implement these priorities set to a secondary level the importance of historical studies on the assessment of impact carried out in research, social interventions

Correspondencia Manuel Viegas Abreu: abreu@fpce.uc.pt
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or past authors publications, in the recognition and affirmation of psychology as a autonomous science and as a professional practice.

Not being yet possible to have the desired History of Psychology in Portugal, it is fair, however, to recognize that we have partial studies of great interest about some researchers or about the marked influence of their creations, which we will later refer. However, we do not have monographs about each of the relevant authors, nor about the totality of their work, and we are undoubtedly lacking a work that is broad enough to grasp the line of succession or temporal continuity in which are described original contributions, possible ruptures and proposals for theoretical, epistemological and methodological innovations.

To pointing out, at the beginning of this communication, the lack of a History of Psychology in Portugal, it is our purpose to contribute to awareness raising of this gap and to remember that Sílvio Lima, in the paper he published in the middle of the last century, entitled '*Psychology in Portugal*', recognized implicitly the need for a work of this scope for which he presented a proposal for periodization, extremely valuable data about a set of authors and relevant works, and also considerations about common characteristics to the different periods. This study by Sílvio Lima, although known, has not been recovered until now. Other indispensable tasks related to the creation of higher psychology courses at the Universities of Coimbra, Lisbon and Porto, the training of psychologists and the design and monitoring of the organization of intervention strategies in various fields of psychological practice constituted the priority focus of a generation of young people researchers who have continued the efforts of their masters Sílvio Lima and Émile Planchard, in Coimbra, and Moreira de Sá and Delfim Santos, in Lisbon.

Having achieved the intended objectives and consolidated the projects that mobilized this generation of university researchers and lecturers in the development of teaching and research in Psychology at Portuguese Universities, we believe that the time has come to revisit Sílvio Lima's proposal, submitting it to a critical evaluation which allow the identification of topics of its actuality and justify their resumption and expansion.

Analysis of the of the Sílvio Lima paper: nature, objective and structure

The paper, which for its brevity the author himself called "modest 'lightning' essay", was intended to be part of World Psychology, a worldwide publication project that Georges Kisher, a lecturer at the University of Cincinnati, has unfortunately not achieved. Therefore, the paper was published, in 1949 in volume XXV of *Biblos*, magazine of the Faculty of Humanities of the University of Coimbra.

The paper is organized in two parts. The first constitutes an outline, synopsis or summary of the main lines of evolution that Psychology, as a "positive science", has taken in our country since the middle of the 19th century, showcasing three distinct periods and revealing the characteristics, the protagonists and the creations or published works most striking and influential for each of them.

The second part highlights the characteristics common to all the periods considered and points out "guidelines" for future development. For the beginning of the periodization, Sílvio Lima took the "mid-

19th century as a starting point", placing there the beginning of the evolutionary process in which Psychology becomes autonomous from Philosophy, asserting itself as a positive, experimental and metric science, as it has developed first in Germany, Great Britain and France, and shortly afterwards in the United States. Thus, the following three periods that Sílvio Lima recognizes in the evolution of Psychology in Portugal are: the first period occurs between the middle of the 19th century and 1914, the second takes place between 1914 and 1941 and the third goes from 1941 to 1950. For each of them Sílvio Lima points out the general characteristics, the dominant epistemological contexts, the main protagonists and the most influential works.

The first period [mid19th century to 1914] Main features, protagonists and productions

The dominant epistemological context in this first period is influenced by the positivism of Augusto Comte, by the materialistic-physicalist organicism of Haeckel, Karl Vogt and Büchner and by the evolutionism of Lamarck and Darwin. Therefore, it presents as general characteristics the "liberation" of Psychology in relation to Philosophy, the criticism of "theological-metaphysical ontologism" and the growing awareness of the possibility of building Psychology as a natural discipline founded on exclusively scientific bases. The growing interest by new concepts and problems of psychological nature emerges in Portugal, as it has also happened in many European countries, due to the influence of progresses made in observation and experience disciplines such as biology, anthropology, neurology, ethnology, philology, sociology, pedagogy. In this regard, Sílvio Lima affirm that it is "*through the 'open door' of these sciences [...] that the pioneers of psychology begin a fight to the Aristotelian-scholastic metaphysical traditions*", on which Rational Psychology was based.

Regarding the main protagonists of this first period, Sílvio Lima distinguishes both a group of psychiatric doctors, as well as a group of philologists, ethnologists and anthropologists. The group of psychiatric doctors includes: António Maria de Sena, António Magalhães Lemos, Miguel Bombarda, Júlio de Matos and José Bettencourt Ferreira. All of them, not only for their publications, but also for their professional activities, stood out for having laid the foundations for research, university education and psychiatric care in Portugal.

In the group of philologists, ethnologists and anthropologists, Sílvio Lima refers to the works of Adolfo Coelho, José Leite de Vasconcelos and Basílio Freire. The first two were notable for being the founders of scientific Philology and Ethnology, with studies that influenced the research and teaching of these disciplines. In turn, in a different area, Basílio Freire paved the way for the development of pathological anthropology and criminology.

The second period [from 1914 to 1941] Main features, protagonists and productions

It is in this period that Psychology asserts itself among us as an autonomous science, with its own specificity and experimental laboratory methodology and based on psychological processes

measurements, aiming in parallel to show its usefulness through practical applications or interventions, namely in the medical-pedagogical field and school and professional guidance.

The dominant epistemological context remains to be positivism, but the emergence of psychic phenomena specificity accentuates the associative empiricism and the elementary analysis. As for the most relevant protagonists of this period, Sílvio Lima also distinguished two groups: a group made up of university lecturers and medical educators, and another group made up of neurologists and psychiatrists.

In the group of University lecturers and medical educators, are included António Aurélio da Costa Ferreira, Alves dos Santos, Faria de Vasconcelos and Matos Romão. Besides all of them were researchers and authors of important scientific works, their works constitute historical milestones in the evolution of psychology in Portugal. Thus, António Aurélio da Costa Ferreira founded the Institute, which took his name, of medical-psycho-educational support for disabled children, Alves dos Santos founded the first Experimental Psychology Laboratory functioning in Portugal, at the University of Coimbra in 1912-14, Faria de Vasconcelos created, in 1924, the Institute of Professional Guidance linked to the University of Lisbon and Matos Romão founded, in 1926, the Laboratory of Experimental Psychology at the Faculty of Humanities of the University of Lisbon.

Among the neurologists and psychiatrists, Sílvio Lima point out Sobral Cid, Elísio de Moura, Egas Moniz, António Flores and Diogo Furtado. According to Sílvio Lima, the psychiatrists of this period revealed in their works the influence of new theoretical and methodological orientations by valuing the social context for the understanding and treatment of mental disorders. In turn, neurologists distinguished themselves for making significant advances in knowledge of the organization and functioning of the brain and in the invention of methods and techniques for its visualization.

The third period [from 1941 to 1950] Main features, protagonists and productions

This period is characterized by a “turning of theoretical and methodological orientation”, in that alongside the laboratory, analytical-naturalistic, experimental and metric psychology, according to the model of Fechner and Wundt, emerges a descriptive, hermeneutical, comprehensive, humanistic, “abyssal” and biotypological psychology.

The epistemological context has now become plural, welcoming the influence of both Psychoanalysis and the conceptions of Dilthey, Brentano and Husserl, prompting the renewal of conceptual and methodological categories repelled by the positivist epistemology. In this case are the concepts of value, meaning, situation, complex, conflict, adaptation, structure, totality, gestalt, type and intentionality.

The choice of the year 1941 as a “chronological milestone” of the new direction that psychological studies in Portugal presented in this period is justified by Sílvio Lima because this was the year of the remodeling of the “Aurélio da Costa Ferreira Institute”, operated by Vítor Fontes, as well as the “Professional Guidance Institute”, conducted by Oliveira Guimarães. To these two events, Sílvio Lima adds the “happy moment”, in 1942, of the official opening of the

“Hospital Júlio de Matos”, which he considered to constitute a medical and social center for the assistance and prophylaxis of mental illnesses and anomalies, a school of psychiatric technical training and focus of particularly psycho-scientific studies.

Which are the researchers and scholars that Sílvio Lima points out as being the most influential in this period? In addition to Victor Fontes and Oliveira Guimarães, mentioned above, Sílvio Lima mentions the names of university lecturers of psychology and pedagogy Delfim Santos, in Lisbon, Newton de Macedo, in Porto, Emile Planchard and Sílvio Lima, in Coimbra. Among the neurologists and psychiatrists, he mentions the followers of Egas Moniz and A. Flores and the psychiatry lecturer Barahona Fernandes.

Assessment balance

With the presentation of the main characteristics, the most influential protagonists and the most relevant works from each of the three periods of the evolution of psychology in Portugal, Sílvio Lima in the second part of his paper, in an assessment balance, points out the transversal characteristics to the different periods, formulates brief critical assessments, and finally points out “guidelines” for future development.

In the referred balance, Sílvio Lima considered that “Portuguese psychology has always had a pragmatic character, with a pedagogical-sociological objective, [...] aiming the mental and ethical formation and reformation of man”. In this same sense, he stated that “*the Portuguese psychologist would say that he is more attracted by the problems of concrete and real life than by the purely theoretical, logical-speculative work of the laboratory*”. Recognizing that Portuguese studies in psychology have been carried out almost exclusively by doctors, psychiatrists, sociologists, philologists and pedagogues, and not exactly by professional psychologists, he regrets that “*our Universities and Institutes have not had conditions conducive to the emergence of powerful creative individuals like Wundt, Piéron and Michotte*”. And he adds this critical note, very incisive, “*Our ‘university’ psychology, linked to the Faculties of Humanities of Coimbra and Lisbon, was unable and did not know yet - for external and internal reasons [...] - to structure itself and work as a scientific organ of psychological culture*”. An equally very negative judgment is directed at the “Pedagogical Science Courses” created at the Faculties of Humanities in 1930, replacing the “Normal Higher Schools” of 1911, and intended for the theoretical and pedagogical training of secondary school teachers. The critical judgment pointed, in particular, to the existing divorce between the theoretical component and the practical component of the referred training, which were respectively, the responsibility of the universities and secondary schools, which were unable to articulate themselves.

What are the evolution guidelines that Sílvio Lima pointed to the future of Psychology in Portugal? A first guideline, formulated almost as a recommendation, pointed out that “pragmatic, pedagogical and social tendencies” should be maintained and reinforced, which were known as common features of previous periods studies.

The scientific development to be promoted should focus primarily in differentiated areas. Professional guidance and professional selection would be in charge of the Maria Luísa Barbosa de

Carvalho Institute (IOP) and its provincial delegations to be created. Experimental Psychology, Child Psychology, Pedagogy, Experimental Didactics and School Guidance would have Faculties of Humanities as main centers of research and teaching. For their part, the Faculties of Medicine and Sciences would dedicate themselves to the development of “normal and pathological Anthropology”, Psychiatry, Neurology and Zoopsychology. Finally, “Medical-psychopedagogy” and “Child Neuropsychiatry” would have the Aurélio da Costa Ferreira Institute and the Júlio de Matos Hospital as specialized development centers.

Final considerations and proposals

The study by Sílvio Lima, despite its brevity and its schematic character, a kind of “essay lightning” as he himself qualified it, lays the foundations and indicates the main sources for the organization of a History of Psychology in Portugal between mid19th and mid20th century.

The periodization proposed in it can be revised and updated, but it constitutes, in essence, an acceptable principle of categorization and organization of ideas, achievements and the most influential protagonists.

Despite unavoidable lags, the guidelines that, in 1949, Sílvio Lima pointed to the future development of psychology in Portugal revealed remarkable prognostic value. We can say that Sílvio Lima somehow foresaw the horizon of continued progress that psychology has known throughout the 20th century.

For a desirable History of Psychology in Portugal that necessarily needs to be written, the long chronological period considered in the study by Sílvio Lima obviously has to be overcome in the two temporal

dimensions that limit it. Indeed, it will have to take into account, not only the multiple and diverse contributions prior to the establishment of psychology as a scientific discipline, but also the multiple and wide-ranging developments that psychology has experienced since 1950 until nowadays.

It will have to include the pre-scientific phases of the evolution of psychology, according to lines outlined by Profª Maria Isolina Borges in published papers, in the 80's, in the *Jornal de Psicologia*, and by Prof. José Ferreira Marques in the paper “International perspectives on the history of psychology in Portugal” published in *Revista de Psicologia Geral y Aplicada* in 2000. Both traces back the precursor roots of psychology in Portugal in the works of Pedro Hispano, philosopher, theologian and doctor, a renowned European scientist of the 13th century. Therefore, it is important to proceed to the recognition and delimitation of each of the phases of the pre-scientific evolution of the knowledge of psychology in Portugal, identifying and analyzing studies, publications and eventually achievements that have had a historically relevant impact.

For the elaboration of a History of Psychology in Portugal, it is therefore essential to proceed with a systematic and analytical incursion into the past prior to the middle of the 19th century, but it is also essential to elaborate an inventory of events, legislative decisions, research works and publications that occurred after 1950, guiding throughout the second half of the twentieth century the progressive and continued development that Psychology in Portugal experienced to the point of becoming the thriving reality that it is today, an assertive reality, sure of itself, of beneficial and promising results, occupying in their own right an essential and influential place in the harmonious concert of sciences.

Addendum

Indicative bibliographic references of the protagonists reported in the different periods

1. The first period [mid19th century to 1914]

1.1. The group of psychiatric doctors (António Maria de Sena, António Magalhães Lemos, Miguel Bombarda, Júlio de Matos and José Bettencourt Ferreira)

Bombarda, Miguel (1877), *Do delírio das perseguições. Tese inaugural*, Lisboa.

Bombarda, Miguel (1877), *Dos hemisferios cerebraes e suas funções psychicas*. Lisboa

Bombarda, Miguel (1894), *O Hospital de Rilhafoles e os seus serviços em 1892-1893*. Lisboa

Bombarda, Miguel (1896), *O delírio do ciúme*, Medicina Contemporânea Lisboa,

Bombarda, Miguel, Os neurones e a vida psíquica, *Jornal da Sociedade das Sciencias Médicas de Lisboa*, LXI, 1897, 129-180

Bombarda, Miguel (1900), *A biologia e a vida social*, Lisboa

Ferreira, J. Bettencourt (1892) - Ensino positivo e prático. Os museus. O museu de história natural de Lisboa. *Revista de Educação e Ensino*, Ano VII (6), 261-272, Lisboa

Ferreira, J. Bettencourt (1895) - Algumas palavras sobre a reforma do ensino secundário. *Revista de Educação e Ensino*, Ano 10 (8), 337-348.

Ferreira, J. Bettencourt (1940), Contribuição para o conhecimento das origens e progresso das ciências em Portugal. *Congresso do Mundo Português*. Vol. XII, 531-542, Lisboa

Lemos, António Magalhães (1889), *A paralisia geral*, Porto

Lemos, António Magalhães (1912), *Hallucinations de l'ouïe*, Paris

Lemos, António Magalhães (1925), *A psiquiatria e a neurologia no Porto: história e estado actual do seu ensino*, Porto

Matos, Júlio de (1880), *Patogenia das alucinações*, Porto

Matos, Júlio de (1884), *Manual de doenças mentais*, Porto

Matos, Júlio de (1889), *A Loucura*, Porto

Matos, Júlio de (1892), *Alucinações e Ilusões*, Porto

Matos, Júlio de (1902,1903,1907), *Os alienados nos Tribunais*, Lisboa

Matos, Júlio de (1911), *Elementos de Psiquiatria*, Lisboa

Sena, António Maria de (1876), *O delírio nas moléstias agudas*, Coimbra

Sena, António Maria de (1876), *Teses de Medicina Teórica e Prática*, Coimbra

Sena, António Maria de (1885), *Os alienados em Portugal*, Porto

1.2 The group of philologists, ethnologists and anthropologists [Adolfo Coelho , José Leite de Vasconcelos and Basílio Freire]

Coelho, Francisco Adolfo (1868), *A Língua Portuguesa*, Lisboa

Coelho, Francisco Adolfo (1872), *A Questão do Ensino*, Porto

Coelho, Francisco Adolfo (1880), *A Reforma do Curso Superior de Letras*, Lisboa

Coelho, Francisco Adolfo (1890) *Secção de ciências étnicas. Esboço de um Programa para o estudo antropológico, patológico e democrático do povo português*, Lisboa.

Coelho, Francisco Adolfo (1900), *O ensino histórico, filológico e filosófico em Portugal até 1858*, Coimbra.

Freire, Basílio (1886), *Os degenerados*, Coimbra

Freire, Basílio (1889), *Os criminosos- Estudo de Antropologia Patológica*, Coimbra

Vasconcelos, José Leite de (1901), *Esquisse d'une dialectologie portugaise*, Paris

Vasconcelos, José Leite de (1897-1913), *Religiões da Lusitânia*, Lisboa

Vasconcelos, José Leite de (1903), *Textos Arcaicos*, Lisboa

Vasconcelos, José Leite de (1911), *Lições de Filologia Portuguesa*, Lisboa

2. The second period [from 1914 to 1941]

2.1. The group of University lecturers (António Aurélio da Costa Ferreira, Alves dos Santos, Faria de Vasconcelos, and Matos Romão)

Ferreira, António Aurélio da Costa (1910), *O povo português sob o ponto de vista antropológico*, Lisboa

Ferreira, António Aurélio da Costa (1916), *Sobre umas provas de exame da atenção voluntária visual*, Imprensa da Universidade, Coimbra

Ferreira, António Aurélio da Costa (1916), A agudeza visual e auditiva do ponto de vista pedagógico, Imprensa da Universidade, Coimbra

Ferreira, António Aurélio da Costa (1919), A arte de educar e a psicologia experimental, *Boletim da Biblioteca Geral da Universidade de Coimbra*, Coimbra

Ferreira, António Aurélio da Costa, (1919), *Instituto Médico- Pedagógico da Casa Pia de Lisboa*, Imprensa Libânio da Silva. Lisboa

Ferreira, António Aurélio da Costa, (1920), *Algumas lições de Psicologia e Pedologia*, Lumen, Lisboa

Ferreira, António Aurélio da Costa, (1920), *Da inteligência do escolar e da sua avaliação. Lição de abertura duma série de lições de Psicologia*, Lisboa : Tipografia Adolfo Mendonça.

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Ferreira, António Aurélio da Costa (1922), *História natural da criança*, Lisboa

Romão, Matos (1912), *A energia na sua dupla evolução científica e filosófica*, Tese de concurso, Faculdade de Letras da Universidade de Lisboa, Lisboa

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Romão, Matos (1944), *Galileu e o método científico*, Faculdade de Letras de Lisboa, Lisboa

Santos, Joaquim Alves dos (1905.), *A nossa escola primária: O que tem sido, o que deve ser*, Porto

Santos, Joaquim Alves dos (1913), *Psicologia e pedologia: uma missão de estudo no estrangeiro*, Coimbra,

Santos, Joaquim Alves dos (1913), *O ensino primário em Portugal nas suas relações com a história geral da nação*, Porto

Santos, Joaquim Alves dos (1915), *Elementos de filosofia científica*, Coimbra

Santos, Joaquim Alves dos (1919), *Educação Nova -As Bases, I - O Corpo da Criança*, Lisboa

Santos, Joaquim Alves dos (1923), *Psicologia Experimental e Pedologia*. Coimbra

Vasconcelos, Faria de (1924), *Lições de Psicologia Geral*, Lisboa

Vasconcelos, Faria de (1903) *La psychologie des fous infantiles*, Université Nouvelle de Bruxelles

Vasconcelos, Faria de (1909), *Lições de Pedologia e Pedagogia Experimental*, Lisboa

Vasconcelos, Faria de (1915) *Une École Nouvelle en Belgique*, Delachaux et Niestlé Bruxelles

Vasconcelos, Faria de (1931) *Monographie de L'Institut de Rééducation Mentale et Pédagogique*, Lisboa

Vasconcelos, Faria de (1986), *Obras Completas*, Fundação Calouste Gulbenkian, Lisboa

2.2. The group of neurologists and psychiatrists [Sobral Cid, Elísio de Moura , Egas Moniz, António Flores and Diogo Furtado]

Cid, Sobral (1903), *Teses de medicina teórica e prática*, Coimbra

Cid, Sobral (1924), A vida psíquica dos esquizofrénicos, *Jornal da Sociedade das Ciências Médicas de Lisboa*, Tomo LXXXVIII, Lisboa

Cid, Sobral (1924), *Síndromas psicomotores, encefalite e esquizofrenias*, Lisboa

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 Moniz, Egas (1901), *Teses de Medicina Teórica e Prática que se propõe defender na Universidade de Coimbra*, Coimbra
 Moniz, Egas (1901), *A vida sexual I - Fisiologia*, Coimbra
 Moniz, Egas (1902), *A vida sexual II - Patologia*, Coimbra
 Moniz, Egas (1914), As novas ideias sobre o hipnotismo (aspectos médico-legais), Lisboa
 Moniz, Egas (1917), *A neurologia na guerra*, Lisboa
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 Moniz, Egas (1936), A cirurgia ao serviço da psiquiatria, *A Medicina Contemporânea*, Lisboa, Ano LIV, N.º 19, p. 159-160
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 Moniz, Egas (1950), Conceitos neurológicos em Psiquiatria, *A Medicina Contemporânea*, Lisboa, Ano LXVIII, N.º 2, p. 41-57
 Moura, Elísio de (1901), *A Semiologia dos reflexos*, Coimbra
 Moura, Elísio de (1947), *A anorexia mental*, Coimbra
 Moura, Elísio de (1969), *Anotações a um parecer médico-legal*, Braga

3.The third period [from 1941 to 1950] (Victor Fontes, Oliveira Guimarães, Delfim Santos, Newton de Macedo, Emile Planchard, Sílvio Lima and Barahona Fernandes)

Fernandes, Barahona (1944.), *No Signo de Hipócrates*, Livraria Luso-Espanhola, Lisboa
 Fernandes, Barahona (1956), *No Signo de Hipócrates- Vida, Mente e Espírito*, Livraria Luso-Espanhola, Lisboa
 Fernandes, Barahona (1969), *No Signo de Hipócrates- Medicina humana*, Livraria Luso-Espanhola, Lisboa
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 Fernandes, Barahona (1998), *Antropociências da Psiquiatria e da Saúde Mental. O homem Perturbado*, Fundação Calouste Gulbenkian, Lisboa:
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 Fontes, Vítor, (1943), «A Criança em Portugal. O Instituto António Aurélio da Costa Ferreira», *Os Nossos Filhos*, Março, pp. 12-13, Lisboa
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