

Editor's Report — 1975

I have pleasure in presenting to you the Editorial Report for the year ending Dec. 31, 1975.

The copies of the audited financial statement have already been circulated. Comments and questions on the same may be raised at the conclusion of the report.

Viewed from many angles, the 3rd year in the life of our Association was a memorable one and it is needless for me to spell out again the highlights of the past year. On my part, I wish to set the clock back to the time four years ago, to March 1972 to be specific. At that juncture we turned yet another page in the story of the Journal as the Editorial Office changed hands and was shifted from Bombay to Vellore. There was also an inevitable face change. The format of the Journal became different, a procedure for printing of the articles was adopted on par with other standard Journals, some new columns were introduced and subject indexing method was changed.

In 1974 the subscription and advertisement rates were both raised to meet the rising cost, and comparable to those of many other Indian Journals. This was done in consultation with the then Editorial Board and through the Central Office at New Delhi.

In August 1974 I took on a greater responsibility in the Editorship; necessitated by Dr. Bhaktaviziam's departure to the United States of America. In January 1975 I therefore presented my first financial report to the General Body. Once again I bring to you facts and figures for the past year.

The Association has been registered under its new name, "The Indian Association of Dermatologists, Venereologists and Leprologists", in May 1975 at Varanasi. In accordance with the constitution, the name of its official organ should also be changed. All documents necessary for this have been obtained and it may be possible to bring out the first issue of 1976 under the new name.

As in the past, six regular issues of the Journal were published during the year. In addition a Special Issue was brought out in September 1975 to commemorate the First Conference held by the Association independent of the API. The circulation of the Journal has increased in the past years and now about 1,000 copies are sent within the country and many sent overseas to libraries and individuals.

During the past year we faced several difficulties. Our Institution passed through a period of crisis in the first part of the year. This made it difficult for us to discharge our duties efficiently. In the latter part of the year sit-down and pen-down strikes became the order of the day. These affected our printers who in turn became inefficient. This explains to a large extent our inability to send out the Journal in time on several occasions. We apologise for the inconvenience caused and thank you for having been patient with us.

Over the year we have received many complaints mostly with regard to non-receipt of the Journal. Incorrect addresses, belated payment of subscription, and delay in communications from various offices have contributed partly or wholly to this problem. We have tried maximum to keep complaints to the minimum. We could not but follow a set pattern for all and whenever the criteria were fulfilled the Journals were despatched without fail.

Maintaining a high standard for the Journal is the responsibility to be shared by every one of us. You know as well as I do that our Journal needs a lot more of improvement. In the year 1973, 67 articles were received for publication, in 1974, 63 were received and in 1975, 85 articles ; so that quantitatively we have done reasonably well. I wish we could feel the same about the quality. I had made a plea last year and wish to do this fresh again. I believe that we do have members here who can contribute articles of good standard. Such articles unfortunately, like the medical brain-drain in the country are drifting to the foreign press. I understand the motive underlying this but do believe that it is good to follow the motto "Charity begins at home". We like to accommodate budding colleagues in the field and wish to encourage them to publish articles. We request that articles be sent after going through them very carefully possibly with help of others experienced in such work so that it makes the bed of the Editorial Board less thorny. This year 13 articles had to be sent back to the authors on the basis of their being substandard. I trust that the authors to whom these have been returned will take it in the spirit in which it was done.

Finance had not been very comfortable. Due to stringency practised by several pharmaceutical companies we get less and less advertisements in the Journal. We need suggestions from you to improve our lot and wish that all of us would take an active interest in getting advertisements for the Journal. More money would mean a better turn out for the Journal.

To a large measure we have kept our neck above waters through the money that is being realised from sale of extra reprints. This however is a fluid existence and cannot always be relied upon. To add to our woes in August 1975 our printers demanded a 25% increase in their rate for executing the work in 40 days. We paid them at this rate for the printing of the last 2 issues. They have demanded for further increase this year.

In August 1975, Dr. Bhaktaviziam resigned from Christian Medical College and Hospital and consequently laid down his office of Editorship. We miss him and his enthusiasm in all the activities related to the Association and the Journal in particular. I am sure that his goodwill will continue to abide with us even though he is physically far away. I record here our deep appreciation for all that he had done for this Association and wish him well in his new place of work.

I thank my Editorial Board. You could not hope for a bunch of better colleagues. They have been more than what I could ever wish for. They held out a helping hand with a ready smile any time and

everywhere. I also wish to thank other senior colleagues who were not on the Editorial Board; but still helped me in my task in the most gracious way. They have edited, abstracted, reviewed and did anything else I ever asked for. I am deeply grateful to all of you and in helping me in my work, you have helped the Association at large.

To the members of the General Body we owe a great deal, first for having vested your confidence in us and later for having forgiven and forgotten all our failures in the most friendly fashion.

This work has been possible only with the co-operative effort on the part of my staff at Vellore. I am greatly indebted to my Secretary for an excellent job he has done. I record my appreciation to him and all other members of my department for their support and encouragement.

With this note of gratitude I close. We wish for this journal a better future and greater success, and request your continued support in furthering the interests of this Association, through this journal.

Thank you,

February 26, 1976

Dr. R. MATHAI,
Acting Managing Editor, I.J.D.V.