

PRESIDENTIAL' ADDRESS

By

D. N. MULAY, Delhi.

I am deeply grateful to you all for having elected me the President of the Association for the year 1969-70. I am particularly grateful to my teacher Dr. J. C. Shroff for his magnanimity and support for my election as the President. I am conscious of the honour done and the confidence you all have reposed in me. The responsibility of this high office has so far been shouldered by very senior and eminent members of this association, who have created for this association a place of its own. I take this opportunity of assuring you of my earnest endeavour to serve you and the association during the period to the best of my ability with the advice of the senior members and your co-operation.

The ideal and purpose in general of any scientific association is two folds:—

1. It should be a co-ordinated body which stimulates scientific interests and propagates scientific achievements amongst its members and other specialists.
2. It should serve as a common platform to guard the interest of its members and augment the prestige of the speciality amongst the Medical Fraternity, the Public and the Govt.

To fulfil these ends an association should have a clear cut democratic constitution which would avoid groupism and help the economic management of the association.

As regards the first point, our association has done admirably well by holding a Joint Conference every year. This arrangement has been beneficial to us and we owe our thanks to the Association of Physicians of India for the same.

Besides this, the monthly clinical meeting held by different branches has augmented the interest of our members in our association and has created interest in our speciality amongst other professional colleagues. The Journal of our association under the able guidance of Dr. T. K. Mehta has been publishing original articles, review articles and interesting case reports which has served the association well in furthering the scientific interest and propagation of scientific achievements in our composite speciality which includes dermatology, venereology and leprosy. Our journal needs more contributions in way of original articles and should be made more attractive to gain popularity amongst the medical fraternity in India and abroad.

I feel happy to say that we all have been doing our best upto now to fulfill the the aims and objects of our association but much more needs to be done to give a leap forward so that our association and the speciality would get the recognition it deserves amongst the medical fraternity.

Suggestions have been made in the past that we should arrange refresher courses on different subjects in our speciality for our members as well as for others who are interested. Although the idea was enthusiastically received, it has not yet gained

momentum because of certain difficulties. The scientific committee which has taken over the work of arranging scientific programme for the conference should also be entrusted with the arrangement of the refresher courses for our members at the time of conference. As far as the refresher courses in Dermatology & V. D. for general Practitioners is concerned, I beseege every member to take initiative and arrange these through the branches of the Indian Medical Association.

There should also be a seminar combined with the association of Physicians of India on a subject of common interest at the annual conference to propagate the work done by the members of this association.

Research & Education: In the field of research, we have made significant contributions during the recent past and researches have been carried out at various places like the All India Institute of Medical Sciences and few of the colleges. Unless there are well equipped departments of dermatology and venereology with adequate staff and professorial chairs in majority of the institutions, it is not possible to augment our research capacities. It is a matter for our association to create an awareness in the Government of India as well as amongst authorities of various universities regarding the need for the full fledged departments for our speciality.

The second function of the association as I have pointed out earlier is to provide a platform to further the cause of the speciality and in this regard we have previously passed a resolution to have a Central Institute of Dermatology, Venereology and Leprosy which should be centrally placed and should have an upto date Library and well equipped Laboratory to provide facilities for research and training.

I think, it is time now for us to have certain positive steps in approaching the Government and urging the importance of such an institute and giving an impetus for its creation.

Recently the Government has revised and amended the drug control act and have included cosmetics along with the drugs. Under the rules of the amended act, the injurious cosmetics, their manufacture and sale will be prohibited. The Indian Standard Institute (I.S.I.) are standardising the methods of testing of cosmetics for their irritant and sensitisation potenoialities. The ISI needs the co-operation of all the members of our association in reporting to them the names of such cosmetics alongwith their manufacturing concerns which are noticed to be injurious. The ISI would like to report to the drug controller such items and besides would also like to test the new cosmetics before they are marketed. Our association, in this matter should strive to persuade the Government to establish a central testing laboratory to test the individual components of the cosmetics on animals, as well as on human beings with the help of Dermatologists.

As in other sciences, there has been significant advance in the field of dermatology, venereology and leprosy also. The understanding of the auto-immune or which may be appropriately called as Auto-allergic process, has opened a new field of investigation in unfolding the etiological backgrounds of certain diseases hitherto

unknown. Apart from the collagen diseases which are now known as auto-allergic diseases, it is likely that some of the other dermatoses also may fall under this group.

The work done on Pemphigus at All India Institute of Medical Sciences by Prof. K. C. Kandhari and his associates needs a special mention in this respect.

The electron microscopy has provided a very useful means in the study of Pemphigus Vulgaris and has shown that tonofilament and desmosomes complex is damaged and the immuno fluorescent staining technique has shown auto anti bodies which work against the intercellular substance of the epidermis and oral epithelium. It has also been of help to study and know the exact mode and site of pigment (Melanin) formation in a melanocyte and its dispersal through the dendrites.

The isolation of melatonin from the animals which is secreted by the pineal body and the nerve endings has been shown to arrest the melanin formation. With further research probably it may be possible to harness this hormone for useful purposes.

Lot of research has been done on psoriasis but it still remains an enigma and there are two schools of thoughts regarding site of initial change i. e. whether it is in the epidermis or dermis. In keeping with the pace of research and progress going on, it will not be too long that this mystery will also be unfolded soon.

Similarly the histochemical staining techniques have fairly advanced and peroxidase staining, Fulgin reactions and Periodic Acid-Schiff staining reactions (PAS) have considerably helped in the study of viruses, fibrinoid degeneration and mucopolysaccharides disorders.

For the detection of the causative drug or chemicals in drug dermatitis Shelley's degranulation test of the Basophils has been a useful test but the latest method of lympho blastic transformation test is gaining importance.

In the field of leprosy the work at the Indian cancer research Institute under the guidance of Dr. Khanolkar has received world wide recognition. The lepra Bacillus found in 1879 by Hansen has so far defied all attempts for its artificial culture but recently shepherd and others have been able to grow lepra Bacillus on the foot pad and in the Bronchus of mice. This method has been utilised for diagnosis and evaluation of anti leprosy drugs.

In the field of venereology, the central institute of venereology, Madras has all throughout been doing commendable work and Dr. Chacko's work in producing a media where Gonococci can be easily cultured deserves appreciation.

In the field of therapy though steroids both as systemic and local agents have revolutioned the treatment, its hazards have also been widely known and its use should be restricted to the diseases where no other treatment is possible and only as a life saving measure.

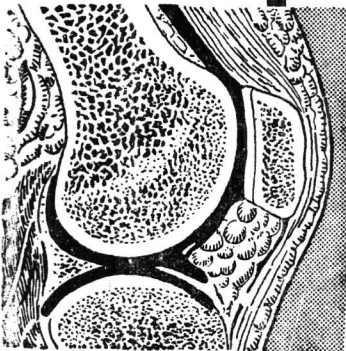
The antimetabolic drugs or the anti-folic-acid, compounds like methotrexate, prunethal etc. are now coming into use in diseases like psoriasis, collagen disorders,

viral infections and neoplasms etc. But their toxic reactions to the bone marrow and liver have to be borne in mind.

We are proud of the outstanding work done on lymphogranuloma venereum, Donovanosis and other venereal disorders by Dr. Rajam and Dr. Rangiah which has received the international recognition and also by the world Health Organization. The work in mycology of Dr. S. C. Desai has won him recognition in the world of dermatologists and his work is quoted in various text books of mycology published abroad.

In the end, I hope that with the blessings of the Pioneers and Stalwarts of our association like Dr. Rajam, Dr. Rangiah, Dr. Desai and Prof. Kandhari and with the cooperation of all the members, our association would progress and achieve further a place of higher and higher prestige in the medical field in India and abroad.

INDICATED IN



Rheumatic Arthritis...

Dexapred

TABLETS 0.5 mg.

INDICATIONS:

Rheumatic diseases, allergic conditions, bronchial asthma, dermatological and ocular disorders, renal and liver diseases, infectious diseases, malignant tumours and particularly in pericarditis and pericardial effusion.

DOSAGE:

Initial dose is 3 mg. daily or as directed by the Physician.



GUJARAT PHARMACEUTICAL & CHEMICAL WORKS
ASARWA AHMEDABAD II