

EDITORIAL

5th ALL INDIA CONFERENCE OF DERMATOLOGISTS AND VENEREOLOGISTS

The 5th All India Conference sponsored by the Indian Association of Dermatologists and Venereologists was held with Joint Annual Conference of Association of Physicians, Cardiologists and other allied societies including the Association for Advancement of Medical Education in India, at Calcutta from 17th to 21st January 1963.

At our last conference in Bombay (February 1962) we decided to hold annual conferences with the Physicians who were kind enough to admit us in their fold. Advantages of such joint conferences are obvious and need no elaboration or emphasis on our part.

Secondly skin is not an isolated organ. It is part and parcel of the body as a whole. More and more specialists realise the interdependence of various specialities. Days of watertight compartments are over. For lesions on skin may be forerunner of some serious trouble inside. Besides skin conditions may also affect internal organs. This interrelationship has been now firmly established.

Thirdly different specialists gather together at one platform and besides exchanging scientific knowledge and work, renew old contacts, make new ones and above all establish a feeling of camaraderie which is the most significant gain of such meets.

Fourthly such joint meets involve less expenses and are less cumbersome organisationally.

Now coming to the joint conference proper. As usual there was the typical Bengali Inauguration beginning and ending with National Anthems. The conference was presided over by the West Bengal Chief Minister Mr. P. C. Sen. It was inaugurated by the Union Health Minister Dr. Sushila Nayar who dealt with various aspects of Medical Education and Medical Relief laying particular stress on rural health. She also referred to the problem of short courses of medical studies without sacrificing the existing standards in order to increase the number of doctors to meet the National Emergency created by the unscrupulous aggression by Red China. The shadow of the unparalleled treachery committed by a friendly country like China loomed large throughout the functions of the conference and one and all speakers condemned it in no uncertain terms.

As regards the arrangement there was some initial confusion but later on all went well. As our President (elsewhere in this issue) has so pertinently pointed out "we are thankful to the organizers of this Seminar of conferences or the Confederation of specialist associations as well as the authorities of the Association of Physicians of India for giving us this opportunity to take part in this confederation.

We are all aware of the difficulty of organising and conducting an annual conference of even one association. So we can imagine the trials and tribulations gone through by the organisers and the time and energy spent by them." It was indeed a Herculean task which the organisers saw it through successfully. We salute them.

Now regarding our own conference. Well compared to the funfare and grandiosity observed at the last conference in Bombay, this was absolutely a business session and more or less a tame affair. The attendance was very poor. And we are told this was a common feature of all other association conferences and it is usually so in strictly specialist conferences. However this time several factors were responsible for poor attendance viz (i) Uncertainty about the holding of the conference in view of the National Emergency (ii) Withdrawal of Railway concession and (iii) most important for our conference was the total absence of the Calcutta Skin and V. D. Specialists. It is unfortunate their secession from parent body is not yet ended though Kantaga's (from Congo) is! However some of us [President Dr. Govinda Nair, Prof. Kandhari and myself-Mehta] took the initiative and met the local lords at Dr. J. Majumdar's place to bring about rapprochement and re-union. We were all happy to find that there was genuine and spontaneous desire alround for reunion. Our gesture was well responded to by our Bengali friends in the same spirit in which it was offered. Well we thank them for their courtsey and kindness during our meeting and it is our fervent hope and prayer that we emerge as single strong united body.

Our scientific sessions were well attended by all those who participated in the Conference. Papers were of high calibre. Symposia were well conducted. The most striking feature was the keenness with which individual member rose up to narrate his experiences with regard to a particular paper or symposium. The president was kind enough to allow free discussion and this sometimes delayed our sessions. The only regrettable feature was that we could not hold joint meeting with neuro physicians and cardiologists due to lack of time and some confusion in programme planning.

We held two business meetings when minutes of the last conference, secretary's report, Editor's report and accounts were passed. Besides, some more foreign Honorary members were admitted and the same office bearers were continued. On the whole it was a successful session promising to do better at the next conference at Fondicherry where we are sure we shall muster strong and united!
