

## EDITOR'S REPORT - 1977

It is my pleasant duty once again to present to you, the annual editorial report for the year 1977. In this report I only intend to bring you upto date with the work that is being carried out from our office with regard to the Journal.

The routine tasks of receiving, acknowledging articles, editing and publishing them have gone on smoothly, thanks to the many contributors, my office staff and my printer. We continue to receive a large number of manuscripts, some good and others not so good. This year the despatching of all the six issues was accomplished with fair amount of regularity.

Two new features were introduced in the Journal in the past year. The first has been the editorial. This has been made possible through the contribution by members of the editorial board. The editorials have covered widely varying subjects of interest to our specialities. I am very thankful to the members of my committee for their ready and timely contributions through the year. The second new feature was the self-assessment programme. This came as a contribution from Dr. L. K. Bhutani who, I am sure, had to spend a generous amount of his time preparing and getting it ready. I am grateful to him for making it possible to present this item in 5 issues of the journal. I hope that you have enjoyed these new introductions as much as I have and found them extremely useful reading.

With the publication beginning in 1978 I am hopeful that we will be able to present yet new features that may prove useful to all our readers. We shall continue to welcome suggestions from you for further improvement in any or all aspects of the Journal.

I would like to believe that we have a responsible set of men and women as members of our association. In spite of several reminders given through the pages of the journal and otherwise a sizable number among us chooses to pay our membership dues at the end of the year rather than at the beginning. It will help our office a great deal if membership dues can be paid as early in the year as possible. I would also make a plea to the branch secretaries to inform our office promptly when membership dues sare remitted. As a measure of economy we print only a few extra copies of each issue. Therefore we areunable to supply back issues to many members whose payment is intimated to us late in the year. I hope that each one of us as individuals will learn to know our responsibilities before demanding for our rights.

### Finance

I consider it my duty to bring to your notice some of the irregularities which took place during the last year with regard to journal financing.

Perhaps some of you will remember that a suggestion to enhance the journal contribution was made from the floor at the time of the general body meeting held at Ahmedabad an year ago in January 1977. The large majority of members present at that meeting were appreciative of the rising cost of production of the journal. As a result an increase in the journal contribution from Rs. 5/- to 10/- per member per year was suggested and un-animously accepted. The state branch secretaries present at the meeting agreed to meet this extra cost of the journal from their membership contribution quota. The procedure in the G. B. meeting pertaining to this suggestion and the subsequent decision made by the G. B. are recorded in clause 8 in the minutes of that meeting which has since been circulated by the General Secretary to all members. Seven months later in August '77, I received a letter from the General Secretary that a decision has been made to postpone the implementation of the G. B.'s decision on the above matter. A few days later he also wrote to the branches advising them to send only Rs. 5/- per member towards the journal instead of Rs. 10/-.

At this stage the president made an appeal to the branch secretaries to honour and abide by the G. B.'s decision. Maharashtra and Gujarat branches have however chosen not to co-operate and have not sent in their dues. All the other 10 branches have decided to respect the G. B.'s decision and the President's appeal.

Thus with the active support of the General Secretary a group of members has refused to abide by an unanimous decision by the G. B. If this G. B. does not make any firm decision on this matter, I am afraid that any further meeting of this G. B. or decisions made by it are utterly meaningless and an absolute farce.

The journal is the official organ of the association. It is in no way unique in this respect. Many other All India Associations also publish their respective journals. During the past couple of years I understand that other associations have realised their responsibilities towards their journals—which in fact is an official commitment - and had made generous contributions towards their running expenses. It surprised me to read one of the letters sent by the Gujarat state branch Secretary to the President wherein expresses the view that the editor should find her own means to support the journal. Perhaps he was voicing the opinion of his branch members. The editor is not running the journal but the association is.

If you care to look through the audited statement of accounts presented to the G. B. year after year, you will learn that the Journal has enjoyed no luxuries. Rather it has managed a hand to mouth existence. Even setting aside a few bucks for the rainy day is a wise policy by any earthly standard.

And now, it is time for me to discharge more pleasant duty of saying thank you.

It has been my privilege to work alongside with my colleagues in the editorial board. As of yester years you have walked with me a second mile, sharing a great deal of my responsibilities. I have sometimes wondered if you have ever sat and cursed me under your breath. Even if you did, you have obliged me with your time and talents — every one of you. I could not give you up easily and can only hope that I will be fortunate to have just as good a lot as you to work with through another year.

There are so many senior colleagues whose contributions I would like to remember with gratitude. I have frequently knocked at your doors when I needed counsel or directions with regard to the journal work. I have received magnanimously from your end. You have criticised graciously but have also sent in your notes of appreciation many times. Above all I am grateful to know of your continued interest in the journal. It is my fervent hope that the Journal will grow to live up to your expectations.

I owe most to my colleagues who are members of this association. Perhaps I have failed to serve you as well as you wished me to. I would like to believe that you will feel free to give and take from us the same way we would from you. We shall strive to serve you to the best of our abilities through the work of the Journal as long as the responsibilities are vested in us.

I cannot close this report without recording my appreciation to the work done backstage by my secretary Mr. Syed Rahimullah who had a major share in seeing the journal through at every stage of its production. I owe a great deal to my printers who against many odds have given us of their best during the year. Along with us they have worked; particularly with the task of improving the photographs. In this respect we have probably fared a little better this year than in the past. To my departmental staff at Christian Medical College Hospital and my assistant editor who have shared a part of all the effort, I express my thanks.

Our good wishes go with you as you enter another year of work. We shall strive to work with you for the good of the association and the journal in particular.

Thank you once again,

**R. Mathai, FRCP., DD**  
Managing Editor & Publisher