

EDITORIAL

Our 8th Annual Conference was held jointly with Association of Physicians of India at the historic city of Gwalior from 27th to 31st January 1966. The weather as usual in this month, was very bracing and stimulating. The inaugural session was attended by all the delegates belonging to various specialties. It was prototype of such sessions in the past. The president of the Association of Physicians Dr. N. J. Modi delivered presidential address and dwelt at length on the still more useful role the Association can play in the furtherance of the twin goals of Medical Education and Research. He made some very constructive and practicable suggestions in this respect viz exchange of teachers and post graduate students by Travelling Fellowships, Lectureships and various subcommittees. It was indeed a very pragmatic address.

Our own session began with Central Council meeting. Due to various reasons the attendance was little below mark. The universally popular, amiable and genial figure Prof, K. C. Kandhari was elected president for the year. In the general body meeting he delivered the Presidential Address. He had chosen as his theme, Medical Education and Training in Dermatology. At the outset he made it clear that ours was a composite speciality comprising Dermatology (with its sub-divisions e. g. allergy, mycology etc.) Venereology and Leprosy. And it was heartening to know from him that these frontiers of our field have been accepted by no less a body than the Medical Council of India. This positive treatment, coming as it did from the highest office bearer, should allay all imaginary fears about subordination of one subject to the other.

Then he referred, very rightly in our view, to the stepmotherly treatment meted out to the speciality of dermatology in various medical colleges and hospitals. He stressed the need for recognition of dermatology as a full fledged speciality and providing it with all facilities due to such a speciality. In this connection he also emphasized the challenge posed by so many dermatoses as regards etiology, diagnosis and management. This challenge can be effectively met only by a well trained specialist in all branches of dermatology and possessing a modern department to deal with it.

As regards post-graduate qualification he advocated a diploma course for a junior or what might be called a therapy specialist and a degree course for a consultant specialist and teacher in the subject. This was the editorial view propounded some years ago. However trend now is to have uniform postgraduate qualification viz. M. D. or M. S. for all specialties like M. B. B. S. for graduate qualification. For a vast country like ours with its developing economy (actually still a backward and rural economy) junior specialists are in fact a great necessity and in demand. Prof. Kandhari was quick enough to point out the importance of research in this Space Age and spotlighted some subjects for the purpose. He had praise and a word of cheer for the official journal but was sincere to point out the various directions in which it can be improved and developed to attain a high standard. To summarize Professor Kandhari lucidly discussed the following points: (i) Composite speciality (ii) Recognition of

speciality by authorities and assigning its due place in the scheme of under graduate and post-graduate teaching, viz teaching hours, beds, equipment etc. (iii) importance of research and research in indigenous drugs (iv) crying need for a Central Institute of Dermatology (v) Need for study of cosmetology and plastic surgeon for dermatological work.

In conclusion he appealed to all members of the audience to work for the speciality in a spirit of dedication and foster team spirit. It was indeed a well thought, planned and studied address delivered in soft measured tones avoiding all the rhetoric sometime incidental to such addresses. Because of the transparent sincerity of the speaker the address carried conviction and the full audience received it with great acclaim on its conclusion. It was a great and pragmatic address.

Finally we take this opportunity of sincerely thanking the organizers of the conference particularly Dr. Laha and his band of workers who had spared no pains to make the conference a success under difficult circumstances of a small and far off place. The entertainment programme of the conference shall ever remain green in our memory.

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I, A. R. Alevoor, hereby declare that the particulars given above are true to the best of my knowledge and belief.

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Sd. A. R. Alevoor,
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