

Announcements . . .

International Congress of Dermatology

The XV International Congress of Dermatology will be held from October 16-22, 1977 in Mexico City with scientific programme, social programme and exhibitions.

Social programme - for participants and accompanying persons :

Sunday 16, evening

Welcome reception at the National Museum of anthropology, Included in enrollment fee

Monday 17, evening

Two performances of the Mexican Folkloric Ballet at the "Palacio de Bellas Artes". Included in enrollment fee

Wednesday 19, evening

Mexican Fiesta in the ancient college of San Ignacio, generally known as "Las Vizcainas". Includes folk dances, typical Mexican music, Mexican food buffet. Tickets : US \$ 20-00 per person

Thursday 20, evening

Concert at the Metropolitan Cathedral.
Included in enrollment fee

Friday 21, evening

Official Banquet—Tickets : US \$ 30-00 per person

Ladies' programme

In addition there will be the following activities especially organised for accompanying persons :

Monday 17, morning

Sightseeing tour of some of the most interesting and picturesque sights in the city of Mexico including : Chapultepec Castle, Polyform of the artist David Alfaro siqueiros, University City, Gardens of Pedregal residential area (included in enrollment fee)

Wednesday 19, morning

Sightseeing tour visiting the following museums : Modern art, Anahuacalli of Diego Rivera, Frida kahlo (included in enrollment fee)

Thursday 20, morning

Presentation of Mexican regional costumes with a brief verbal description of each and its history (lunch will be served—included in enrollment fee)

The official travel agency of the Congress, Mundus Tours, will offer tours to :

- San Juan Teotihuacan to see the Pyramids of the Sun and the Moon and the Temple of Quetzalcoatl

- The floating gardens of Xochimilco for a cruise along the canals. Cocktails and refreshments will be served on board. "Mariachis" will entertain.
- The city of Toluca and its quaint market day where all sorts of colorful basketwork and ceramics, handmade by the local people, can be purchased. Lunch in the Desert of the Lions.

The following issue of this Journal will announce more details. For further information contact; General Secretariat, Avenida Veracruz 93, Mexico 11, D. F. Mexico.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear Editor :

Apropos editorial musing by Dr. Carvalho (published in April 1977 issue) I would like to offer the following remarks.

First of all I appreciate his pontification. Such sermons do serve the purpose occasionally. Some kindred souls do strike a responsive chord and are motivated to practise what is preached by elders. However, in all such matters practice is more followed than preaching.

As for skin infections, it is more an ecologic problem, mainly one of prevention. Poverty is at the root. Poverty means poor nutrition, poor accommodation and poor environment. Thus it is not only skin infections but all sorts of infections affecting different systems and organs that are common among poor people apart from deficiency conditions. Solution is obvious.

Regarding V. D. (S. T. D.), inspite of comprehensive knowledge, there is global rise in the incidence of V. D. Why? As stated elsewhere by me, (apart from various causes) the V. D. spreads by geometric progression whereas our efforts to control it are in arithmetic progression. Thus it is a race between two unequal speeds. I cannot go into all the details but here again the solution is apparent.

I quite agree with Dr. Carvalho that most of us are not directly involved with antileprosy work. But here the main problem is to remove the stigma. Like V. D. it is a social disease. Therefore the society at large should be constantly exposed to the true nature of the disease, viz. its curability with modern treatment. People should be constantly persuaded and pressed to adopt healthy and humane attitude to this disease as they do to T. B. In this vast task, social bodies and religious institutions have to play a great role.

Dr. T. K. MEHTA

P. S. : I hope I am not pontific!