

NEWS & VIEWS

THE SCIENTIFIC SESSION ON SKIN AND VENEREAL DISEASES AT THE 41st ANNUAL CONFERENCE OF THE ALL INDIA MEDICAL ASSOCIATION

A scientific session of skin and venereal diseases was held on December 29, 1965 at Baroda, under the auspices of the 41st Annual Conference of the All India Medical Association. This was the first time in the history of the Annual conference of A. I. M. A. that a full session of skin and venereal diseases was held.

This session was specially organised by Dr. B. S. Verma, Head, Department of Dermatology and Venereology, S. S. G. Hospital, Baroda with the main objective of emphasizing the importance of skin and venereal diseases in medical practice. Since skin diseases form a fairly large percentage of the general practitioners practice it was felt that such a session would be of great interest and value to the medical practitioners from all over India who attended this meeting.

Dr. A. A. Carvalho of Ahmedabad was in the chair, while Dr. B. S. Verma, the organiser of the session, conducted the meeting. The session was initiated by Dr. Verma who welcomed and introduced the speakers and their subjects.

The following papers were read :—

1. Limitations of Medical Practice under present socio-economic conditions.—by Dr. A. A. Carvalho, M. B., D. V. & D., F. C. P. S.
2. 'Cambay Boil'—by Dr. M. H. Taylor, M. D.
3. Eczema—A Practical approach to the problem.—by Dr. T. K. Mehta, M. B. D. V. & D., F. C. P. S.
4. Leprosy—a clinician's approach to the problem.—by Dr. J. C. Shroff, M. B., D. V. & D.
5. Recent advances in Venereal Diseases—by Dr. E. A. Daruvala, M.B., D.V. & D.
6. Uses and abuses of corticosteroids.—by Dr. C. F. Shah, M. B., D. V. & D.
7. Summing up and initiation of discussion.—by Dr. B. S. Verma, M. B. D. V. & D., D. D. V., F. C. P. S., Ph. D. (London).

Dr. Adrian Johnson M. D. from Australia was unable to come.

Dr. Carvalho spoke on the limitations of medical practice under the present socio-economic conditions. He maintained that the maintenance and promotion of the health of the nation is the responsibility of doctors and if they accept the challenge squarely, they must first of all enquire as to whether we are prepared with the conditions and wherewithal to fulfill the obligations to society effectively. He then surveyed the conditions prevailing in India at the present day. He ended by urging doctors to work beyond the technical aspects of their professions and try to control the overall conditions by a more active part in the various health building activities of the country, so that the aim to build a healthy nation may be fulfilled.

Dr. M. H. Taylor, who hails from Cambay, presented a study on the 'Cambay Boil' which is a common ailment in Cambay and surrounding areas. He presented a

series of pictures showing the various manifestations of this particular condition. It was an impressive record of such cases. The paper emphasised the different types of this condition which are often missed, by the skin specialists.

Dr. T. K. Mehta, began his paper by giving a broad overview of common skin ailments as seen in a hospital, and highlighted the underlying causative factors. His presentation was through an impressive collection of slides made in his department. His main presentation was on eczema where he lucidly described this disease and the causes of failure in treatment of this condition.

Dr. J. C. Shroff, speaking on leprosy emphasized the importance and difficulty of recognising leprosy in India. He described the various forms under which this disease masquerades, by presenting a series of interesting personal experiences. He also brought out the problem of the infectivity of the disease.

Dr. B. A. Daruvalla unfortunately was not able to come but his paper was read by Dr. P. T. Acharya. The paper was on recent advances in V. D. which covered all the modern developments in the various aspects of these diseases. He emphasised the increasing incidence of venereal diseases in India.

Dr. C. F. Shah, talked on the important subject of the uses and abuses of corticosteroids. He emphasised the dangers involved in the indiscriminate use of these drugs.

In summing up, Dr. B. S. Verma, stated that dermatology had kept pace with general medicine in India. He then brought out the importance of skin diseases by describing the history of the development of the subject and the various contributions made by dermatologists in the field of medicine and surgery.

Dr. Verma, stressed the fact that social factors represent an important part in the etiology and pathogenesis of skin and venereal diseases. He brought out the special relationship between sociology and Skin and Venereal diseases.

The discussions were lively and the audience participated by asking a number of interesting questions on each of the papers.

Dr. B. S. Verma was congratulated for having arranged this special Skin and V. D. session at the Annual conference of A.I.M.A., and it was felt that such meetings should be convened frequently as they serve a very valuable purpose. Dr. B. S. Verma then proposed a vote of thanks to Dr. A. D. Joseph, Dean, Medical College, Baroda for encouraging the organisation of this session. He also thanked Dr. A. B. Kothari, Dr. C. P. Munshi and the other organizers, of the Annual conference of A.I.M.A. at Baroda.

POST-GRADUATES RESULTS

We congratulate the below mentioned candidates who have, during the year 1965 (addition to the list published in December 1965 issue) passed postgraduate examinations in Dermatology and Venereology.

- (A) M. D. Delhi in December 1965.
1. Dr. J. S. Mehta 2. S. Siddappa 3. M. K. Sud 4. Mrs. Miyake.
- (B) D. V. D. Baroda 1965.
1. Dr. G. R. Kulkarni 2. R. I. Patil 3. M. O. Desai.
- (C) D. D. Vishakhapatna 1965
1. Dr. Mrs. P. Laxmi Devi 2. P. Shyama Sundara Rao.

Data compiled by Dr. S. J. Yawalkar, M.D., D.V.D., Bombay.