

EDITORIAL
THE SEVENTH ALL INDIA CONFERENCE OF
DERMATOLOGIST AND VENEREOLOGISTS

The seventh annual conference of our association was held jointly with the twentieth joint annual conference of Physicians and other allied specialists eg. Cardiologists and others, at the garden city of Bangalore, in a salubrious climate for which the city is so well known. In fact that was one of the reasons for the larger attendance at the conference.

The inaugural session on 22nd January 1965 was a simple but impressive affair with all sectional presidents on the dais and our president Dr. Harbajansingh towering above all of them. Dr. Sushila Nair, the Union Health Minister, in her inaugural speech emphasized the need for maintaining high standard of medical education and medical research so as to provide best medical relief. The notable feature of the inaugural session was the short but sweet speech by the president of the inaugural session viz. the Governor of Mysore, General Shri Srinagesh and that was highly appreciated by the audience. Equally short but humourous and witty speech was delivered by the radiant chief minister Shri Nijalingappa while releasing the souvenir. The State Health Minister Dr. Alva had necessarily to dwell at length on various aspects of medical relief especially rural health.

The most instructive, informative and interesting speech of the morning came from the President of the XX Joint Annual Conference viz. Dr. J. C. Patel of Bombay. The theme of his speech was Medical Research. It could not be otherwise, knowinging as we do him for two decades. It was heard and followed (for printed speech was distributed to delegates in advance) in pin drop silence and rapt attention. It was a masterpiece both in this presentation and content. He was forthright and minced no words. There was no usual grumbling against authorities, no complaints, no fault finding and no blaming. He had solution for every difficulty met by a research worker in research. Incidentally it was a sort of medical story of president himself who is known as a taskmaster. His review of the past and present research facilities was simply forthright and at times outspoken but always objective. His optimism for future of research in our country was equally robust. There are many aspects of research and so are facets to each aspect. It was remarkable that he had comments and suggestions for each facet of each aspect of research. It was a great performance and the 1000 strong audience was match for the occasion to receive it with equally great ovation. In terms of money it (the performance) should surpass that of all the glitter boys and glamour girls of the movie land put together and thus should provide for financing the country wide medical research for which the speaker has devoted his life. Our sincere congratulations and hats off to Dr. J. C. Patel. The session ended with the national anthem when all kept standing.

Our own seventh annual session began on the same day i.e. 22nd January 1965, in the afternoon with the central council meeting with Dr. Desai in chair. The

minutes, accounts of the association and the journal were passed unanimously. Before the transaction of the business a condolence resolution from the chair, on the sad demise of our past president Dr. Govindan Nair, was passed all standing. The editor reviewed the position of the journal and painted a rosy picture. As usual the president and other members complimented the editor for his competent management of the journal albiet bimonthly one, resulting into surplus balance. The concensus of opinion of the house was that the editor should be given a free hand for the time being as regards the management of the journal and members should cooperate with him in the manner suggested by him. Thereupon the editor thanked the members present for their unstinted support to and confidence in him. He repeated his earlier aim of making the journal a monthly publication in line with similar foreign ones. For this realisation he appealed once more to the members to contribute quality articles to our own official journal and shed the complex of seeing oneself in foreign journals. It was pointed out by him that all good and worthwhile articles are now abstracted all over the world and thus foreign publicity is assured. At the close of the agenda the outgoing president Dr. S. C. Desai conducted in the new president for 1965, Dr. Harbhajansingh of Delhi and handed over the charge to him amidst loud cheers. Thereupon the new president thanked the members for unanimously electing him as the president for 1965.

Dr. Harbhajan Singh in his presidential address eloquently covered the skin (including leprosy) and venereal field. Incidentally he also put great stress on research in many skin diseases, especially pigmentary disorders. Finally he thanked Prof. Kandhari for his constructive suggestions in the preparation of the address. The president was given a big hand on conclusion of his address.

The scientific programme consisted mainly of two symposia one on Allergy and the other on Non-specific urethritis (non-gonococcal). Besides there were individual papers on diverse subjects. The symposium on allergy caused heated discussion in which several senior members took part and also guest speaker Prof. Stutgen of Dusseldorf (W. Germany). The latter made some very pertinent points. Dr. T. K. Mehta of Bombay asked the seniors to appreciate and encourage the young participants and warned them against making even unwittingly remarks which might be depressing to them. The Chairman Prof. Kandhari conducted the meeting tactfully and appreciated Dr. Mehta's point. On the whole the symposium emphasized the need for better understanding and preparation. The one on N. S. U. was equally interesting. Prof. Rangiah, Dr. Chacko, Dr. Ambady and Col. Sukheja discussed the various aspects and all of them drew attention to its increasing incidence.

The final session of the programme on short papers was presided over by Col. Gaid. He conducted the meeting with military discipline and finished the programme according to time schedule.

The overall effect of the conference was one of satisfaction and fulfillment. Before closing the remarks on scientific programme it is our duty to pin point some papers and persons. The one on enzymetic study of bullous fluids by the new comer from Prof. Kandhari's magic bag viz. Dr. Rao, was of a very high standard. Dr. A. C. Parikh of Bombay also made a very good debut by presenting a lucid paper on classification of leprosy. Dr. Figueredo, the life time leprologist, in spite of his ripe age was there to answer queries on his ward's paper.

The scientific programme was climaxed by a guest lecture by prof, Stutgen on 'The role of Skin Chemistry in the understanding of disease mechanisms. Prof. Stutgen inspite of language difficulty, kept his audience spell bound and conveyed the meaning of his lecture to the listeners. It was a treat, a great oration. We take this opportunity to congratulate him and also thank him.

Of course there were as usual entertainments and slight seeing climaxed by a visit to Vrindavan gardens in the night for dinner. With its myriads lights and fountains the gardens made one feel that one was in a fairly land!

Finally it is our sacred duty to thank the organizers of the conference, particularly Dr. Basavraj Urs. the Secretary and his band of workers who took every care to see us comfortable. It is said repetition loses charm but in case of Bangalore a repeat visit is bound to increase charm. That is what one feels on return.

ASSOCIATION ACTIVITIES

Indian Association of Dermatology and Venereology

The following office bearers were unanimously declared elected at its General Body Meeting held at Medical College, Bangalore at 3 P. M. on 22-1-1965.

President: Dr. Harbhajan Singh

Vice-Presidents: Dr. P. N. Rangiah (Madras)
Prof. K. C. Kandhari (Delhi)
Dr. T. K. Mehta (Bombay)

General Secretary: Dr. D. N. Mulay

Joint Secretary: Dr. S. J. Yawalkar (Bombay)

Treasurer: Dr. R. Bikhchandani (New Delhi)

Managing Editor of the Journal: Dr. T. K. Mehta (Bombay)

Members of the Central Council:

Western India Branch: Dr. N. Figueredo, (Bombay)
Dr. B. S. Verma (Baroda)
Dr. J. C. Shroff (Bombay)
Dr. M. W. Dhurandhar (Bombay)

Northern India Branch: Dr. K. N. Saxena (Agra)
Dr. Ratan Singh (Delhi)
Dr. S. R. Sadana

Southern India Branch: Dr. D. P. Jayaram (Bangalore)
Dr. B. M. Ambady (Trivendrum)
Dr. C. Sobhanadri (Guntur, Andhra)

Armed Forces: Lt. Col. M. L. Gaiind (A.I.M.C. Poona)

INDIAN JOURNAL OF DERMATOLOGY AND VENEREOLOGY

JOURNAL REPORT

We have great pleasure in submitting the annual report of the working of the journal since we last met at Patiala.

Members will recall that we had proposed to convert our quarterly publication into a bi-monthly one. It is with great pride and pleasure we inform the delegates to the conference that we have realised this objective of ours. For this happy result we are mainly indebted to our innumerable contributors and advertising pharmaceutical concerns without whose cooperation our venture would not have come to fruition.

From this platform we express our sincere thanks to them all.

Members will have already realised from this that the quality of contributions is directly linked with the progress of the journal. I therefore once again appeal