

EDITORIAL

THE 4TH ALL INDIA CONFERENCE OF DERMATOLOGISTS AND VENEROLOGISTS

The IVth All India Conference of Dermatologists and Venereologists under the aegis of the Indian Association of Dermatologists and Venereologists, was held at Sir Cowasji J. Hall, Bombay on 23rd to 25th Feb. '62. The proceedings commenced at 9 a.m. sharp with the arrival of the Governor of Maharashtra His Excellency Shri Sri Prakasa. The hall was packed to its capacity by the delegates from all over India, Pakistan, Ceylon, Japan, Germany, U.S.A., Switzerland and Egypt. The Conference was attended by such international figures as (1) Prof. Alfred Marchionini: The Director of the Department of Dermatology of the University of Munich. (2) Prof. Frederick Reiss: The Associate Prof. of Dermatology at the Columbia Presbyterian Medical Center, New York. (3) Prof. R. Schuppli: The Head of the Dermatology and Allergy Clinics of the University of Basle. (4) Prof. H. Schreus: The Head of the Dermatology Section at the Akedemy of Medicine in Dusseldorf. (5) Prof. L. J. A. Loewenthal: Connected with the South African Institute of Medical Research. (6) Prof. Abdel El. M. Mofty: Well-known as a member of the Egyptian team who used ammidin & amomoidin for leucoderma. (7) Prof. K. Ito: Prof. of Dermatology, Fifu Medical College, Japan.

Proceedings of the Conference began with the introduction of the foreign guests by Dr. S. C. Desai, the General Secretary of the Association. He was followed by Dr. A. C. Rebello, the Chairman of the Reception Committee who delivered the welcome address which is published elsewhere. Then Dr. T. K. Mehta, Managing Editor of the Official Journal read out some of the important and inspiring messages received on this memorable occasion, from all over India and abroad, some of which are presented elsewhere in this issue. Then His Excellency the Governor delivered his inaugural address whercin he emphasized the importance of Skin and Venereal Diseases both from professional and public view point. He was happy to note that All India Association was trying its best to spread factual knowledge about the twin speciality by holding such conferences and educative exhibitions. Concluding he wished the conference all success in its laudable effort. He also inaugurated the Asian Chapter of the International Society for Tropical Dermatology. Dr. Reiss, Secretary General, International Society for Tropical Dermatology, presented the Charter for the Asian Chapter to Dr. S. C. Desai, General Secretary of the Asian Chapter. In his remarks Dr. Reiss observed that this (Asian Chapter) will provide a platform for Dermato-Venerology and other allied specialities to gather together at various centers in Asia and discuss special problems connected with Tropical Dermatolo-Venereology. He was followed by Dr. V. R. Khanolkar, the Director of the Indian Cancer Research Institute, Bombay, to inaugurate the Scientific Session, being himself a Scientist of International repute. He dealt, at some length, on importance of scientific works on pressing problems of speciality. In this connection, he pointed out the desirability of avoiding dogmatism on one hand and keeping an open mind on the other while considering the views expressed by the various speakers on the papers read by them before the Conference.

Dr. R. V. Sathe, President of Indian Medical Association, inaugurated the Scientific exhibition viz. Skin in Health and Disease. In his remarks, he

pointed out the educative and informative value of such exhibitions not only to the medical profession but also to public at large. He was happy to note that the exhibitoin, first of its kind was open to public and that admission was free.

Then followed the presidential address by Dr. Joseph Fernandez, (Bombay), who presided at the conference. In his address which is printed in full elsewhere, he referred to the various organisational, academic, and professional problems of the twin speciality and appealed to the members to solve them in the spirit of sacrifice and service.

The closing scene was enacted by Dr. M. W. Dhurandhar, one of the organizing Secretaries, who performed the pleasant duty of thanking one and all. Thus the Inaugural session came to an end amidst scenes of great enthusiasm.

After the tea break, the scientific programme began. As regards the scientific papers, this conference set a **New Pattern** by organizing various seminars on **pattern** of Skin diseases and venereal diseases, in General Hospitals and in Armed Forces. All the speakers agreed that we waste such a lot of time and money on disposal of routine cases of infections which usually require ecologic approach in their management. The symposium on organization of Skin and Venereal departments was another feature of the conference. The symposium on the Allergic Dermatoses was a major attraction for the medical profession of the city. Incidentally it emphasized the growing problem of allergy in our country also with modern industrialization and rapid introduction of synthetic drugs in treatment. Another interesting symposium was that held on Cosmetology problems in Dermatology which mainly concerned itself with dermabrasion and dyschromia. Seminar on Mycology brought out very informative and interesting facts about pathogenic species responsible for various anatomic dermatophytoses.

Besides there were many short papers on different subjects of which following were novel and notable (1) Vesicular Eruptions of palms as a manifestation of cervical neuropathy, (2) Medical statistics in Dermato-Venereology, (3) Dysproteinaemia in chronic recurrent Pydoerma (4) Histochemical and electron-Microscopic studies on skin cancers, (5) Cultural studies on lepra bacilli and (6) Histochemical investigations on the collagen diseases of skin.

That leprosy forms part and parcel of the twin speciality was amply born out by the symposium on leprosy. Thus it will be seen that major problems confronting the speciality were discussed threadbare at least by the speakers. As there was a very heavy and crowded programme all the three days, necessitating time restriction of 5 to 7 minutes for each speaker, latter focussed his remarks on important and pertinent points only. However, it may be pointed out here, not out of criticism but by way of constructive suggestion, that due to heavy schedule of programme there was no time left at all for raising questions or discussion. In fact this was the only grouse one could hear in the otherwise remarkably successful conference which point we shall allude to later.

Another attractive feature of the conference was the different conference lectures interspersed in between seminars, symposia and short papers. These lectures were delivered by our famous foreign guests each one master in his

own hobby of sub-speciality. Besides two films were exhibited one on invention of Griseofulvin and the other on allergy. These were highly educative and were well appreciated by the vast audience.

Another novel feature of this conference was that of appointment of reporters for each different session. They made their own journalistic notes of the proceedings of the particular session and also collected the papers from the speakers and handed them over to the Editor of the official Journal. These papers are being published by instalments, beginning with the present (March '62) issue.

All medical conferences usually arrange exhibitions. But these are mainly pharmaceutical. Whereas for the first time our conference arranged entirely scientific exhibition of its kind on Skin in Health and Disease in thirteen different sections. Sections on Pigmentary, hair disorders and allergy were the main attraction for the public. That the exhibition was a resounding success was amply proved by long queues which the Bombayites did not mind to wait in. It was a pleasant surprise even for the organizers. Apart from the inauguration of scientific sessions and exhibition, there were many organisational matters which were discussed either, in the general body meeting or in the meeting of the Central Council, at each of which the president presided and conducted the business in an orderly and efficient way. Closing session was marked by touching scenes of fraternal greetings amongst delegates and an atmosphere of allround cordiality. However, in all these rough and tumble of conference, one man who stood shoulder high above all others was the indefatigable General Secretary, Dr. Sharat C. Desai of Bombay. It is no euphemism to say that not only he but his whole family really gave their blood, sweat and tears for the success of the Conference. We shall again return to this point in our subsequent issues. Suffice it to add that speaker after speaker eulogized his signal and selfless services to the Association. In fact as the president Dr. Fernandez remarked, he was the super-dynamo who generated all the energy needed for the success of the conference.

Having provided a bird's eye view of the great and memorable conference, it was a treat for those who watched it personally, we shall offer our comments and refer to highlights of the conference in the next issue of the Journal.

One more point and we close this. There were social functions also in the form of dinners, lunches, dance, music and excursions. President, Dr. Fernandez, invited all the delegates to a lunch on the last day. All these were well attended. Post dinner speeches provided great fun and frolic, humour and wit, particularly those by Dr. Alfred Marchionini and Dr. A. C. Rebello.