

EDITORIAL

VI ALL INDIA CONFERENCE

The sixth All India Conference of our Association will be held jointly with Physicians and others at Fatiala from 23rd to 26th January 1964. Incidentally it includes Republic Day also. We don't know whether we celebrate or deliberate on that day!

This is the second conference on annual basis. It is too early to assess its utility. However, it does put us all on guard and force us to do planning for the next conference. There is no time to relax. But relaxation consists in refashioning our programme for the next conference. Work and more work is or at least should be the burthen and music of life. In other words it is in the fulfilment of one's chosen profession that real relaxation and recreation lie. Let us then gird up and devote our energies to the cause which is so dear to us all—the uplift and advancement of Dermatology in widest sense.

This time we shall focus attention of the Intending delegates only to one fundamental problem and that is teaching and training in Dermatology. The standards of teaching and available facilities at various medical colleges are more or less uniform for undergraduates, but they vary considerably as regards post-graduates with some Universities granting diplomas and others degrees. Even these leave much to be desired and there is plenty of scope for improvement. It is our considered opinion that for teaching posts, degree courses should be compulsory. However, as our country is vast, diploma courses may be continued for those who are going to innumerable nonteaching district hospitals who have a sufficient load of skin patients. In order that these suggestions wear an official garb we would humbly suggest that the Central Council or if necessary the General Body should pass a resolution to this effect and forward it to various universities and concerned government and municipal authorities. In this connection we may remind the readers about the various committees and sub-committees appointed at the time of the fourth All India Conference held in Bombay in January 1962. One of them was a sub-committee on Education. Therefore it will be quite in the fitness of things if this committee, as all other committees submit their reports. The problem of education and training in dermatology cannot brook any delay. This is one of the steps, besides many others which we shall discuss later for advancement of the speciality. We are happy to announce that University of Bombay has already taken decision to institute degree course.

Finally we wish the conference all the best and sincerely appeal through these columns to all the members to attend it and make it a success.
