

## EDITORIAL

The journal is the face of an association, and like the face of an individual, it invariably reflects what is going on inside the body. The editor of the journal, is like a beautician who tries to highlight the good features and hide the bad ones. All this is possible . . . . only upto a limit.

The most important aspect of the journal is the scientific value of the articles published in the journal. If the members do not write good articles or send their best articles to other journals, our journal would suffer. Fortunately, there are enough good writers in India and a fairly large number of good articles are received by the journal. In due course, I hope our journal will attract articles from other countries too to achieve the international status. Interestingly, some Indian workers send some of their articles to some obscure foreign journals which are not available to their countrymen. Thus, the article is virtually lost to those who need it the most. The choice of the correct journal for an article is an art, which every author must practice.

The ability to write a good and precise article varies widely. It is painful to note that a significant proportion of the authors prepare their manuscripts very carelessly. It is rarely set according to the pattern of the journal, there are often several mistakes in spellings and grammer and construction of the sentences is often very poor. The worst however is, that the article is so long that many readers won't dare read it. An article can be made more crisp by omitting all that is given in text books and expressing the findings clearly and in the least possible words. The tables and figures should be given, only if necessary because each printed page costs. A carefully prepared article will save the editorial board a lot of time and money which can be more usefully employed in improving the quality of the journal. I do hope that the suggestions of the editorial board on the manuscripts will be taken in a spirit of friendliness and co-operation for an overall improvement.

The second most important aspect of the journal, is the quality of printing. I am sure every member would like to see the IJDVL printed as well as the international journals and it is not impossible. It only requires a reasonable increase in the cost of printing. A look into the finances of the journal reveals that each issue of the journal costs between Rs. 10-15 per copy, whereas each member pays only Rs. 20 for 6 issues i.e. a little more than Rs. 3 per issue, while a non-member subscriber pays less than Rs. 7 per issue. This seems to be bad economics and makes us highly dependent on the advertisements. The financial position of the journal being as it is, it is extremely essential to build a capital of the journal. It is suggested that an all out effort may be made to accept donations from whatever source

they are available. Individuals may contribute voluntarily, the state branches and the centre may transfer whatever they can save, and a sizeable fraction of the collections made for the annual conferences may be remitted to the journal. This money can be kept in the fixed deposit scheme, the interest of which will be a regular source of income for the journal. It is also proposed to increase the subscription rates for non-members.

I am grateful to you that you have considered me worthy of this important position in the association, and for giving me a very co-operative and efficient team to work with. I am also confident that all members of our Association will give us their whole hearted support. I would therefore like to appeal to all the members to help us in raising our standards, by contributing their best articles to the IJDVL, to help collect as much funds as possible and to ensure that every college library and as many general practitioners as possible, subscribe to the journal. Every small effort may look like a drop in the ocean, but a thousand drops certainly fill the cup.

On behalf of the editorial board, I can assure you that we will do our best. It is proposed to include in each issue, some new features such as a detailed article for Continuing Medical Education; an Editorial on a current topic and Abstracts from Current Literature, especially for those who have no access to international journals. The regular features on Research Articles, Case Reports, Letters to the Editor and News etc. would continue. Your suggestions are welcome, as your co-operation is expected.

**J. S. Pasricha**  
*In-coming Editor*