

- The floating gardens of Xochimilco for a cruise along the canals. Cocktails and refreshments will be served on board. "Mariachis" will entertain.
- The city of Toluca and its quaint market day where all sorts of colorful basketwork and ceramics, handmade by the local people, can be purchased. Lunch in the Desert of the Lions.

The following issue of this Journal will announce more details. For further information contact; General Secretariat, Avenida Veracruz 93, Mexico 11, D. F. Mexico.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear Editor :

Apropos editorial musing by Dr. Carvalho (published in April 1977 issue) I would like to offer the following remarks.

First of all I appreciate his pontification. Such sermons do serve the purpose occasionally. Some kindred souls do strike a responsive chord and are motivated to practise what is preached by elders. However, in all such matters practice is more followed than preaching.

As for skin infections, it is more an ecologic problem, mainly one of prevention. Poverty is at the root. Poverty means poor nutrition, poor accommodation and poor environment. Thus it is not only skin infections but all sorts of infections affecting different systems and organs that are common among poor people apart from deficiency conditions. Solution is obvious.

Regarding V. D. (S. T. D.), inspite of comprehensive knowledge, there is global rise in the incidence of V. D. Why? As stated elsewhere by me, (apart from various causes) the V. D. spreads by geometric progression whereas our efforts to control it are in arithmetic progression. Thus it is a race between two unequal speeds. I cannot go into all the details but here again the solution is apparent.

I quite agree with Dr. Carvalho that most of us are not directly involved with antileprosy work. But here the main problem is to remove the stigma. Like V. D. it is a social disease. Therefore the society at large should be constantly exposed to the true nature of the disease, viz. its curability with modern treatment. People should be constantly persuaded and pressed to adopt healthy and humane attitude to this disease as they do to T. B. In this vast task, social bodies and religious institutions have to play a great role.

Dr. T. K. MEHTA

P. S. : I hope I am not pontific!