

EDITOR'S REPORT — 1976.

I have the honour to present to you my report pertaining to the activities in relation to the Journal and its finances for the year 1976.

Kindly go through the financial statement which has been distributed. Please reserve any questions or comments to the end of this report.

From our reader's point of view there was an apparent lull in the activities from our office during the first half of the year. Although regular and timely despatch of the Journal was promised and hoped for, the first issue of 1976 materialised only in June of that year. Delay in registration of the Journal under its new name was the obstacle. We met avoidable and unavoidable delays around every corner. At this time I wish to record my grateful thanks to my colleagues who on my behalf contacted the officers at Delhi and helped to get the necessary papers moving. After the initial delay, subsequent Journal issues were brought out in fairly quick succession. At present we are upto date. I am sure that all of you have received the last issue for the year sometime at the end of December.

As usual articles flowed in at regular intervals. In the past year we received a total of 93 articles as against 83 in 1975. 2 articles had to be rejected as against 9 in 1975. At my end, there had been delay in informing the contributors about the acceptances or rejection of their papers. We have not been able to screen articles as fast as they came in. Much as I wish to tone up on this aspect with pressure of other routine chores delay seems inevitable many a time.

Casual attitude towards the preparation of articles still prevails although there has been some improvement in this aspect during the past year. From junior and senior contributors alike, we receive requests to make appropriate corrections in the text or bibliography or both to suit the Journal requirement. We have accepted to do this when such requests have reached us from senior members of the profession. Although I hate to say if, this attitude shows an irresponsibility towards the execution of a job at hand. Such requests I hope will not have to be coped up with during this year. Off and on whole articles have been rewritten and returned to authors to help them prepare these in better frames and fashions.

We have tried to improve the quality of the photographs which are printed. I hope that you are happier now than before with what is being produced. There is room for improvement still, and we shall try to improve further.

In spite of my attempts to get the Journal accepted for indexing by Index Medicus and Current Contents, I have been unsuccessful hitherto. The answers from the publishers had been that limitation of funds prevented them from accepting new Journal

for indexing purposes. To my mind, however, we have been politely refused because the standard of the Journal falls short of their expectations.

Our readers may have detected some changes in the pages of our Journal. Change can sometimes be dangerous. I believe, however, that the denial of change is more dangerous. Therefore we have felt it only proper to bring in changes in the Journal at various levels. Many a time changes have been made on the basis of suggestions offered by various members of the Association. To me this freedom and generosity with which they have been offered is an expression of their sense of participation in the affairs and interests of the Journal. I deeply appreciate this sense of belonging. Of course we have not been able to introduce all suggested alterations but I am sure that is understandable. Look forward to newer interesting features in the Journal pages as the year rolls by.

Complaints continue to reach us with respect to nonreceipt of the Journal. As in the past, the trouble lies often at home where a member has either failed to renew his membership with his respective branch or forgotten to inform our office when moving away from original address.

Finance

Along with a circular from the General Secretary dated 29—11—1976, I also received the minutes of a Central Council Meeting which was held at Ahmedabad a month before. I shall read out to you a part of this pertaining to the finance of the Journal. I quote, "considering the financial condition of the Association, it was pointed out that the Journal of the Association should preferably be self-sufficient. Further that "the Hon. General Secretary was asked to contact the Editor of the Journal to find out and suggest means to improve the financial condition of the Journal so that it is not only self-sufficient but also helpful in building up the finances of the Association". There has been no further correspondence on this matter since.

A quick glance at the papers in front of you would reveal the story of our Journal Finance; that it has not been sitting on a comfortable cushion. However, the story seems worse for the Association finances. Fully realising everyday and all day our hand to mouth existence we continue to plan on improvement of the Journal at all sides. Therefore it would be fatal to expect us to support the Association finances. Just as there may be means to improve the lot of the Journal, so there may be means to improve the lot of the Association exchequer. I am sure the Hon. General Secretary has suggestions for both.

Some of you at least may be aware of the fact that a sum of Rs. 5/- per member was earmarked to support the Journal finances from 1974. This is a 6th portion of the total membership fee. Perhaps the members who attended the last Central Council Meeting felt that this sum if diverted back to the Central Association treasury would help to fatten it. To this I have the following comments to offer.

Although the members of the Editorial Board shoulder the major responsibility for our Journal, this Journal belongs to every one of us. For the majority of this Association members—there are about 500—the Journal is the strongest connecting link with the parent Association. I would therefore think it only proper that a 6th portion of the membership fee is utilised to support the Journal. This Journal is your birthright through the Association. If this birthright is not worth a claim you would not mind what happens to it financially and otherwise. But the vehemence with which we are contacted when even one issue of the Journal does not reach its destination on time is an indication to me that you are proud to claim your right. To strive for a better Journal with a greater future will cost money. This is not a time to take away; but to give and support.

In the year that has just closed, I have drawn heavily on the time and goodwill of my colleagues in the committee. If therefore I place on record my sincere appreciation of their help during the year, it is no mere formality. It would be superfluous on my part to recount the various times and situations where they have come to my aid with valuable advice and their services. I would only say a very big "Thank you" to them.

To you the members of the Association who have once again vested your confidence in me and my committee, I also say thank you. We shall hope to continue to serve you through the pages of our Journal which we hope shall one day be a source for great academic prestige of this Association.

And last of all my thanks to my staff at the Christian Medical College and Hospital, Vellore; to the Assistant Editor and to my Secretary, S. Rahimullah in particular. They worked hard all through the year. Without them this work would have been impossible. I thank them for their whole-hearted co-operation in all aspects of the work in the office.

We wish you a very blessed and prosperous New Year.

Thank you.