

## Presidential address delivered at IV Annual Conference of I.A.D.V. & L.

### Biographical sketch

Dr. Gurmohan Singh graduated from Medical College, Amritsar in 1959. He had a great interest in Dermatology from



the very beginning. He passed M. D. (Derm. & Ven.) from All India Institute of Medical Sciences, New Delhi in 1962. He was one of the students of the first batch in this speciality.

After a short span of work as Lecturer in Skin & V. D. at Medical College, Amritsar and S. P. Medical College, Bikaner, he joined College of Medical Sciences, B.H.U. in April, 1964, shortly after which he got married.

Dr. Singh became Reader in Skin & V. D. in July 1965, the post which he held for over 10 years, when he was appointed Professor of Skin & V. D. at the Institute of Medical Sciences, Banaras Hindu University, Varanasi.

During this period Dr. Singh went abroad, first in 1967 as post doctoral fellow for 2 years to work in Department of Dermatology, University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia. He was the recipient of Fullbright Travel Grant. In 1972, he was deputed to attend International Congress of Dermatology in Venice (Italy), where he presented 2 papers. In December 1974, he was invited by the International Committee of American Academy of Dermatology to participate in their Annual Meeting in Chicago.

During these visits he was invited to lecture at the Institute of Dermatology, University of London; Skin and Cancer Hospital, University of New York Medical Centre, New York; University of California, San Francisco; and Stanford University, Stanford (Calif).

Dr. Singh is well recognised as a cutaneous microbiologist. He has been appointed expert member on sub-committee on Infection of the American Academy of Dermatology.

He received an Award from International Society of Tropical Dermatology for outstanding research done during the years 1969-74, at its conference held in Brazil in September, 1974. Very recently Dr. Singh has received ICMR award (Shankuntla Amirchand Prize) for outstanding research in Biomedical Sciences.

Besides his academic achievements, Dr. Singh is also interested in organisational work. He was Hon. General Secretary of the

Indian Association of Dermatologists, Venereologists and Leprologists for 2 terms viz. 1974 and 1975. Now he is elected president of the Association for the year 1976.

### **Abstract**

Dr. Gurmohan Singh, President of the Indian Association of Dermatologists, Venereologists and Leprologists for the year 1976 thanked the members of the Association for electing him to this high and responsible post. He felt particularly honoured because he was presiding over the conference which was being held in his alma mater.

Dr. Singh stressed that our Association should flow with the main stream of the country, and keep pace with the tremendous progress that she is making in economic and social welfare programmes under the able leadership of our Prime Minister. He requested the members of the Association to launch massive programmes of medical relief for our rural population, which is economically and socially underprivileged. This he said, will strengthen the country.

Dr. Gurmohan Singh criticized the present system of medical education. He blamed our medical educationists, who he feels need to be educated and made more knowledgeable. Our system of education is copied from the British and the Americans, he said. He emphasised our needs that are entirely different, that our education must be need-based. He claimed that we must first assess the needs of medical doctors and train our students accordingly and teaching should be intensified about common ailments more stress being laid on management of infectious diseases including those of skin, leprosy and venereal diseases. Dr. Singh expressed his concern about the limited exposure to the subjects of Skin, V.D. and Leprosy in most of the medical colleges and Institutions the pattern in them being a course of 12 lectures, few clinical demonstrations and examinations. "Medical Council of India is static with respect to this — may be because it has no representative from the speciality." The president pointed out that these communicable dermatoses cannot be eradicated from our country unless each doctor that we produce has a sound knowledge about them. Patients of leprosy reach specialists only when they get exacerbation or develop deformities. Our general practitioners should be knowledgeable to diagnose it in its early phases, he re-emphasised.

Dr. Gurmohan Singh repeatedly stressed that training in our medical colleges should be Indianized. Till now some of the prized institutions of the country had the pride of having maximum percentage of their graduates passing E.C.F.M.G. examination and settling in U.S.A. he complained. "It would not have happened if our training was oriented towards the needs of Indian patients. Let us change. Teach Indian Dermatology, Venereology and Leprosy". He appealed to the members to make a humble start.