The 4th All India Conference of Dermatologists and Veneriologists of India

It is a matter of great relief and satisfaction that at long last the 4th All India Conference of Dermatologists and Venereologists of India will be held in Bombay on 23rd and 24th February 1962. The initiative for this has come, and appropriately so, from the Western India Branch (former Bombay Branch). Our congratulations to the branch, and we wish them God-speed in the task.

It will be recalled that the first conference was held in Bombay in December 1947; second in Calcutta in April 1951 and third at Madras in December 1956. Therefore, the conference was due in 1962 at the above rate. However for some time the activities of the All India Body had come to stand-still apart from starting the official journal in June 1955 under the continued editorship of the late Dr. U.B. Naravanrao who died in June 1960. Since then the present editor is in charge of the journal. The death of Dr. U.B. Narayanrao gave a further setback to the All India Body because he was its erstwhile General Secretary since its inception. Therefore it was in the fitness of things that the present office bearers of the Western India Branch together with the acting General Secretary undertook the onerous task of inviting and holding the 4th Conference in the city of its birth! Judging from the response already received, we have no doubt that with the willing co-operation, tolerance and spirit of accommodation of the participating delegates, the conference is assured of an unqualified success.

This brings us to the next point as to who will participate in this Conference? It may however be made clear that views expressed here are entirely those of the writer and they in no way reflect those of the Conference. Of course there is the constitution of the Association which lays down specific rules for the conference. All the branches will be represented there. Besides, it is felt in some quarters, that special invitations should be issued to people working in allied fields e.g. Leprologists, Sexologists and other prominent medical men and women; and whether para medical people could be invited is a moot point.

Secondly the conference, besides taking the stock of the acts of commission and omission so far, will have to deliberate seriously over innumerable current problems confronting it, some of which are listed below.

1) Organizational unity. 2) Integration and expansion of the Association by including sexologists and military experts. 3) Undergraduate and post-graduate teaching in Dermatology and Venereology and sexology also. 4) Question of instituting degree course, side by side with diploma course. 5) Relation with Governmental bodies both

at Centre and in States. 6) Relation with other Medical Associations. 7) Popularizing the speciality in Public eye. 8) Publication of survey of incidence of different diseases. 9) Efficient running and popularization of the Official Journal. 10) Relation with other national and international bodies. 11) Raising of finance for all these purposes.

No doubt there will be pompous inauguration, serious scientific sessions, presidential and other valedictory speeches, entertainment programmes etc. etc. but the crux of the matter, in cur view, lies in careful consideration of the problems posed above and taking thoughtful decisions on each of them. Lest anybody should misunderstand, let us hasten to add that it is not that these problems were never considered in the past. What we now suggest is a planned approach to them leading to unanimous or near unanimous resolutions on each of them so that future working of the Association is smooth and unhampered by any difference of opinion.

Therefore our Motto should be to Rise, Resolve and Re-Act.

Amen!

