

Our Association and Ourselves

Our Association held the Summer meeting in the historic and beautiful city of Hyderabad in the month of August.

The local organisers though young in age, very successfully organised the Conference.

The credit however goes to our energetic President Dr. Maneksha for selecting the venue and the capable young organisers.

The highlights of the Conference was a multi disciplinary Symposium on "Burns" organised with the collaboration of the Indian Council of Medical Research.

We pay our grateful thanks to Prof. P. N. Wahi the versatile Director General of Medical Research, who was personally present to inaugurate the Symposium.

Another welcome feature was that the participants were subsidised to the extent of their travelling expenses. Even that is a great help and incentive to specially our younger colleagues.

It was announced that a brochure will be published based on the papers presented, which no doubt will be a valuable addition to the none too prolific literature on "Burns" in our country.

I have to resort reluctantly to a subject about which I do not relish writing. In spite of several reminders, quite a few of our members have neither subscribed nor have

renewed subscription to our own Journal 'Indian Journal of Plastic Surgery', which is now mandatory for all members. Mandatory or not mandatory, I feel that we should on our own try to nurture this toddler trying to face the world with uneven steps. It is your Journal and needs your help.

I am told that of late there has been some uncharitable criticism in the last summer meeting (I was unfortunately not present, in my opinion, totally unwarranted) by a very small but vocal section of our members, that the standard of our Journal is not quite up to the mark of some foreign journals. May I submit, that the standard of any journal depends upon not so much on the quality of paper or its get up, but on its contents. It is hardly to be reminded that the contributor who can improve the standard of the contents of his article or the quality of the photographic prints or diagrams. Since it is the only Journal on Plastic Surgery in our country and as it is in its infancy, we have tried to bear with articles and photographic prints which ordinarily should not have been published. But we have done it to encourage specially our younger colleagues. The Journal will only improve if all concerned tries to improve the standard of Journal. We plead guilty to the fact, that much against our wishes, we have not been able to improve the quality of paper on which reproduction of blocks etc. also depend. When not all

members subscribe or even help with even one advertisement it is hardly to be expected, that we could afford good paper and other accessories. I appeal to every member for cooperating with us, by enriching our Journal with their valuable contributions and paying their subscriptions and encouraging others to subscribe and send advertisements.

The 3rd Asian Pacific Congress is going to be held in the 1st week of June, 1973.

The letter from the Secretary General of the Congress is reproduced below which is self explanatory :

Dear Prof. Sinha,

The dead line for sending papers to the Asian Pacific Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery and the 2nd International Society of Aesthetic Plastic Surgery, is the end of January 1973.

January is approaching and time is limited would you please, personally encourage your colleagues to participate. The Asian Pacific Meeting is our meeting and we hope that as many members as possible from

Asia will participate.

Apart from the Sessions on Hypospadias, Development of mid third of face in relation to cleft lip and palate surgery, skin tumors, changing aspects of burn treatment, geographical problems of reconstructive surgery, there will be also a session on hand surgery.

Please encourage all your colleagues in these various fields to come.

Hoping to see you soon,

Sincerely yours,

Prof. N. BEN HUR. M.D., F.A.C.S.

It is expected that most of you, specially those who attended the Second Asian Pacific Congress at Delhi in 1970 would like to attend.

It would be also pertinent to mention that if members from India travel in a group (minimum of fifteen) then the airfare is reduced by thirty percent. It is worthwhile considering and may be finalised at the Kanpur Conference.

[R. N. SINHA]