

Record of Three Years of Progress of the Association

Secretary's Report at the Association of Plastic Surgeons Meeting at the XXXIII Annual Conference of the Association of Surgeons of India, Trivandrum January 31 to February 3, 1974.

Mr. President, Ladies and Gentlemen :

The present meeting marks the completion of my term of 3 years as your secretary. I shall endeavour to briefly mention the progress made by this Association during this period.

The full membership has grown from 52 in 1970 to 74 in 1973. Associate membership has improved from 36 in 1970 to 46 in 1973. This is commendable, particularly, as the Association has been increasingly demanding in the quality of candidature for its membership.

The financial situation is very sound. Bank balances of Rs. 6229.03 in 1970 have increased to Rs. 21,209.13 in 1973. The expenditure on Association activities, fellowships awards etc. which was Rs. 784.05 in 1970 is now Rs. 11,000/-. These additional funds have been made available through contributions and grants from Government and private agencies to the benefit of this body.

The year 1970 started with our bid to invite the next meeting of the International Confederation to India. Air India was persuaded to finance the production of our invitation brochure. Correspondence with the Government of India Agencies combined with the help received from our hosts in Australia

resulted in a record participation of 17 members of this Association in Melbourne. The standard of our Scientific contributions were greatly appreciated. Our hosts, a large number of whom we had the opportunity of entertaining at the Asian Pacific Congress in Delhi out did themselves in looking after us.

The summer meeting in Jaipur later that year was a great success. This meeting marked the commencement of the Gillies Oration with Dr. R.N. Sinha, delivering the first lecture. It also marked the starting of the Ethicon Fellowship. The initiative and work put in by Dr. N.H. Antia for the former and the late Dr C J.T. Pinto for the latter, deserves our gratitude.

We next met in the hospitable city of Hyderabad in August, 1972. The outstanding feature of this meeting was the grant from the I.C.M.R. to hold a seminar on Burns. This was the first time such funds had been made available to us for scientific purposes and the than Director General Prof. P.N. Wahi graced the occasion by performing the opening of the Scientific Programme. The I.C.M.R. as a result of our recommendations contemplates holding a study group meeting to go into this problem this year.

The arduous task of Revision of the

Articles of the Association, after consultation with the members, was finally accomplished in the Annual meeting in Kanpur in 1972. Much of the credit for this goes to our present President Brigadier Ganguly.

We met last in September this year for our summer meeting in Calcutta. We are still reeling under the excellent hospitality of our colleagues in Calcutta led by Prof. M.M. Mukherjee and his Protege' Dr. Amit Ganguly. It was an excellent meeting. The outstanding feature of the Scientific Programme were the second grant from ICMR to hold a seminar on Cleft Lip and Palate and the starting of the Peet Award with Dr. M.H. Keswani as its first recipient. Those of you who were present there can vouch for the usefulness of this seminar.

We meet now in this beautiful part of our country under extremely congenial circumstances. It is commendable that so many of us from different parts of the country have got together here inspite of the dislocation in public transportation. In this meeting we start the Hand Club, a long awaited development, and the cooperation extended by our Orthopaedic Friends deserves our appreciation. We have also had a joint session with the urologists. This joint participation in areas of mutual interests serves us

well and proves the usefulness of different specialities meeting under one roof.

So much for what has been done, but there are two important tasks to which we stand solemnly pledged and which need doing. There are the memorials of Prof. Kilner and our own Dr. Pinto. The former fund now stands at Rs. 3000/- with generous contributions from Drs. R.N. Sharma M.M. Mukherjee and R.N. Sinha. It is requested that further donations be forthcoming from our members to raise this sum to the required minimum of Rs. 5000/-. Regarding a memorial to Dr. Pinto, I appeal again on behalf of this body to our dear friends in Bombay to give shape to this long cherished desire of their colleagues. With goodwill and understanding, I see no reason why we should not be able to honour the memory of one of our own distinguished colleague.

I would now like to thank the two Presidents I have had the pleasure of working with, Dr. R. J. Maneksha and our present President, Brig. Ganguly for their help and consideration in the conduct of the affairs of this body. The love and consideration shown to me by my colleagues in the Council and members of this August Association leave few parallels.

S. G.