Editorial

PHYSIOLOGISTS AND THE MOON

Now that man has finally landed on the moon and returned safely, there can be no further debate on the feasibility of this feat. However, the debate on the desirability of this feat continues. The opponents of space exploration continue to harp on the argument that nothing tangible has been achieved. In purely materialistic terms we have exchanged a few rocks for millions of dollars.

However, in the field of medical sciences, this achievement is bound to have an impact in the long run. Apart from studying the effects of changes in environmental factors ranging from violent changes in gravitational force to exposure to unknown surroundings the greatest development is in the field of biomedical instrumentation. The "fall out' of all this effort of moon landing in terms of newer and more sophisticated equipment is going to be tremendous and the impact of all these electronic wonders is already being felt, as can be seen from the research papers in various foreign journals.

Sooner or later, despite foreign exchange difficulties, there will be a need and demand for these sophisticated equipment in India. Do we have the men to man this kind of equipment ? The physiologist in the post moon landing era has to be a much more versatile individual than his predecessors. In addition to Physiology, he will have to know a great deal of electronics and mathematics in addition to other sciences.

The rapid advances in all fields is posing a great problem to the older generation of physiologists. There is, therefore, a crying need for arranging frequent training, courses, workshop meetings, summer institutes and similar gatherings to keep him at least partly upto date in the matter of physiological research. Money spent in these fields is bound to pay rich dividends in the form of better informed, modern and progressive scientists.

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