

From the Editor's Desk

GOOD NEWS

The decision of holding the 1974 International Congress of Physiological Sciences in New Delhi which was taken during the Washington Meetings in 1968 was unanimously reconfirmed by the Council and the General Assembly of the IUPS in their meetings held in Munich during July, 1971. Such a ratification of their older decision by the IUPS can be rightly considered as the continuing faith and confidence in the A.P.P.I. being a national organization representing the vast majority of Indian Physiologists and Pharmacologists.

While we can look back with a sense of satisfaction with respect to the achievements of the members of the Association, we must, and we do understand at this time, that the programming of an International Congress in which more than 3,000 scientists from all over the world are expected to participate, will by no means be a small job. It is a tremendous responsibility that the Association has taken up. Continuing hard work during the next few years to mobilize financial and other resources, organizational skill, and the fullest use of the existing scientific talent will be required to bring about a successful congress of which the scientific community of India, later, may really feel proud of. Only a set of dedicated workers, consciously united and determined in their faith for the cause of science in India, can bring this about.

The 26th Congress of New Delhi, in its wake, can bring immense advantages to our scientists. First of all it can provide an excellent opportunity to our numerous scientists who hitherto have felt isolated because they could not have enough resources to go abroad. With this Congress, the mainstream of research and thought in the world of Physiological sciences will come at their doorstep. It will be now their job to benefit from such an opportunity. The worldwide exhibition of scientific instruments which, we hope, will be planned, can provide an opportunity to the yet developing Indian Instruments and Pharmaceutical Industries to show their metal. They will then be able to assess where they stand with regard to their counterparts all over the world. The scientific problems which have a special importance to the Indian national scene should get a sizable time during the deliberations of the Congress. Thus, we should hold special symposia on problems of altitude and deep sea physiology, on reproduction, and on problems of nutrition, and other similar issues.

Let us all join hands with organizers and give them every help that we can.

MUNICH CONGRESS

A number of Indian scientists were able to attend the 25th International Congress of Physiological Sciences held in Munich during July 1971. Those who attended will, for a long time, recall that it was a great experience. A record number of 3,800 delegates were registered. About 1,000 free communications out of 2,000 abstracts received, were chosen to be read.

About 30 symposia and as many invited lectures were also held during this week of the Congress. It was a delight and an intellectual treat to hear the foremost personalities of science discussing not only the details of their research interests, but also delving deep in the philosophy of science.

The cultural programmes were some of the most chosen ones. "Mass in B Minor" and "Marriage of Figaro" played in the Bavarian National Theatre kept the audience enthralled and enraptured. It was a rare fortune for us Asians to get the first hand experience of these classics of the Continental performing arts so delectably chosen out of their rich treasures. The hostesses dressed in beautiful Bavarian costumes with the winning smiles on their faces, the ever helpful and polite personnel of the Congress Organization, and the flow of Bavarian beer, all added to the charm and the shine of the Congress.

The whole show ran like a well oiled machine. No detail was forgotten. The beauty was that though it ran as a machine, it never gave the semblance of a machine. The delegates had all the time at their own disposal for they never looked like being herded around. From every angle, this XXV Congress of the I. U. P. S. was a great Congress. Kurt Kramer and Hans Schaefer, the leaders of modern German Physiology, also led the organization of this Congress and were very ably assisted by Fjedor Lynen, Rudolf Thauer, Albrecht Fleckenstein with Klaus Thurau as the secretary. We bow our heads with appreciation for the physiologists of the great German Nation.

DRUG INDUSTRY

The guest editorial in this issue is contributed by one of the country's foremost pharmacologists, Prof. B. R. Madan, who is also the General Secretary of the A.P.P.I., and deals with the problem of drug combinations. The article does not represent the official position of the IJPP or the APPI. As Professor Madan wrote to me, the article is meant to be provocative so that a debate can be started on an issue which is vitally important in view of its implications in the medical education on the one hand, and the health of the nation in general, on the other hand. Professor Madan has courageously fired the first shot, and in so doing, he has done a great service to the nation. The other scientists from the academic institutions or from the drug houses who do not see eye to eye with Professor Madan are free to express their opinions in the future pages of this journal.

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Editor