

# SPECIAL ORTHOPAEDIC NUMBER

PAPERS READ AT THE FIRST ORTHOPAEDIC MEETING

SINGAPORE JUNE 1964

UNDER THE AUSPICES

OF

THE UNIVERSITY OF SINGAPORE

AND

ACADEMY OF MEDICINE

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## FOREWORD

In most countries in Southeast Asia Orthopaedic Surgery is now an accepted specialty. The acceptance and development of Orthopaedic Surgery has by no means been equal in all areas and in some countries it remains a struggling poor relation of General Surgery. There is however no doubt that the pattern has been set and Orthopaedic Surgery will continue to develop in its own right in all countries.

It was therefore felt that the time was right to attempt to bring together some of the Orthopaedic Surgeons of Southeast Asia and Australasia so that knowledge could be exchanged, personal contacts established and the problems facing other surgeons made known. Thus it was that in June of this year the first meeting of Orthopaedic Surgeons to be held in Southeast Asia took place in Singapore. The meeting was organised by the University of Singapore and surgeons from many countries attended.

As the meeting developed it quickly became obvious that the geographical aspects of Ortho-

paedic problems were even wider and had more importance than most surgeons had previously realised. Variations in the incidence of such conditions as congenital dislocation of the hip, congenital talipes equino-varus, congenital constriction bands, tuberculosis of bone and joint and similar problems were brought forward in discussion. The papers contained in this edition of the Singapore Medical Journal will give some idea of the extent of the problems that were discussed and the international nature of the congress.

This dissemination of knowledge was of considerable interest to all but it was the impression that most of those present felt that perhaps the greatest gain had been the opportunity to make a personal contact with people facing similar or dissimilar orthopaedic problems in the surrounding territories of Southeast Asia and Australasia. It is hoped that it will be possible to hold the second of such meetings in Singapore in 1966.

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