

REPORT OF EVENTS OF THE FIRST NATIONAL MEDICAL CONVENTION

Registration of participants for the Scientific Session of the Medical Convention preceded the official opening of the Convention by the Minister for Health, Mr. Yong Nyuk Lin, on Saturday, 23rd March, 1968, at 3 p.m. at the Singapore Conference Hall.

A splendid display of Scottish folk dances and the playing of tunes by the Singapore Girl Pipers welcomed the arrival of the Minister who was received by the Chairman of the Organising Committee, the President and Council members of the Singapore Medical Association and representatives of the respective affiliated societies who were specially invited for the occasion.

At 3.05 p.m., the Minister mounted the rostrum in the Auditorium and made the following address in officially declaring open the First National Medical Convention and Exhibition:

The resounding applause by the audience at the conclusion of the Minister's opening address was evident—the address was highly received and appreciated by the distinguished audience of doctors, members of diplomatic corps, civil servants, representatives of professional organisations, etc.

Next, Dr. Arthur Lim Siew Ming, President of the Singapore Medical Association in welcoming the Hon. Mr. Yong Nyuk Lin, the Director of Medical Services, Dr. Ho Guan Lim and distinguished guests from abroad and locally as well as the general public to the Medical Convention, said:

Twenty foreign delegates who attended the Convention were then introduced to the audience, followed by the reading of fraternal greetings from sister medical associations all over the world who were invited to attend but owing to circumstances beyond their control, were unable to come.

At approximately 3.45 p.m. short addresses on Cancer and Occupational Health—being the two main themes of the Convention—were delivered by Dr. Tan Kheng Khoo, Secretary of the Cancer Society and Dr. Phoon Wai-On, President of the Society of Occupational Medicine.

The Citations for Professor E.S. Monteiro and Dr. Chen Su Lan both elected to Honorary Membership of the Singapore Medical Association, were read by Dr. Colin Marcus, Immed-

iate past-president of the Singapore Medical Association, and they are reproduced below:

The President, Singapore Medical Association, then presented the Certificates of Honorary Membership to Prof. Monteiro and Dr. C.W. Chen represented his father, Dr. Chen Su Lan who because of old age, was unable to come and receive the certificate himself.

The unique, historical ceremony being concluded, the Minister accompanied by officials of the Singapore Medical Association, foreign delegates, proceeded to the Concourse of the Conference Hall and inspected exhibits on pharmaceutical products, medical instruments, scientific exhibits on cancer and occupational health and radiology and exhibits of doctors' hobbies which included lovely paintings, sculpture and calligraphy.

The Medical Exhibition opened from 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. every day throughout the period of the Convention, and was well attended.

On the same day, at 8.30 p.m., some 600 doctors, their wives, guests and foreign delegates attended the Annual Dinner at the New Peking Restaurant. Mr. and Mrs. Yong Nyuk Lin were the guests of honour.

The highlight of the dinner was a fashion show of swimsuits by leading Singapore models, and a presentation of prizes for the winners of the Yeoh Ghim Seng and Heah Hock Thye cups for the Singapore Medical Association Golf Championships, won by Dr. B. K. Chew and Dr. B. K. Sen respectively.

At the dinner over \$7,000/- was pledged, and subsequently donated, to the National Defence Fund, by some members of the Association.

The Scientific Session was opened by the Director of Medical Services, Dr. Ho Guan Lim, at the auditorium of the Conference Hall, on Sunday, 24th March, 1968. The whole of Sunday morning and afternoon was taken up by the presentation of research papers—altogether twenty-one scientific papers on research work done mainly in Singapore (eight on occupational health and thirteen on cancer)—were read. Except for three doctors, all the other eighteen were the works of Singapore doctors and scientists.



The Minister for Health, Mr. Yong Nyuk Lin, being received by officials of the affiliated societies of the S.M.A. on his arrival at the Conference Hall. The S.M.A. President, Dr. Arthur Lim introduces him to Dr. Gwee Ah Leng. Others from the left are Dr. George Wong (partly hidden), Dr. Ho Guan Lim, Director of Medical Services and Dr. Yeoh Seang Ann. Dy. Director of Medical Services.



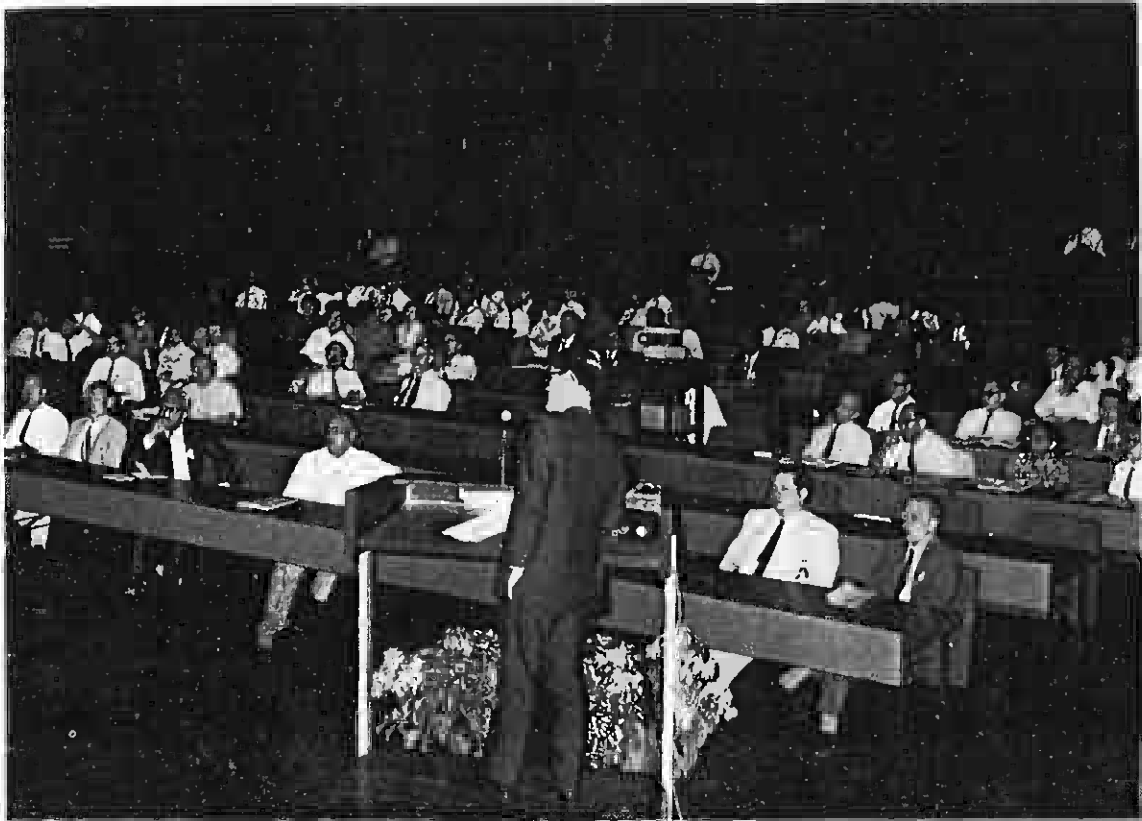
The Minister in his opening address declares the Convention open. On Stage, second row, are some of the foreign delegates.



Part of the audience listening attentively to the Minister's opening address.



The S.M.A. President presenting the certificate of Honorary Membership to Prof. E. S. Monteiro. Looking on, from left, is the Director of Medical Services, Dr. Ho Guan Lim and Dr. Phoon Wai-On, President of the Society of Occupational Medicine.



A section of the Scientific Session.



The main table at the Convention Dinner. From left is: Mrs. Arthur Lim, the Minister Mr. Yong, Dr. Arthur Lim, Mrs. Yong and Prof. E. S. Monteiro.

Some of the scientific papers presented at the Convention were reproduced in other pages of this issue of the journal.

On the same day between 4.30 and 7.00 p.m., and on Monday 25th March, 1968, between 8.00 a.m. and 12.30 p.m., foreign delegates were taken on tours of "Landscapes of Singapore", the famous industrial and housing complexes, and followed by a buffet lunch, a film show and rounded off with tours of the Kandang Kerbau Hospital and the Outram Road General Hospital.

While the days of Monday 25th and Tuesday

26th March, 1968, were indeed a hive of activity for the foreign delegates, and while the medical exhibition was also in progress, the evenings of the two days were taken up with forums on Koro, Cancer and Occupational Health. All the forums were also held at the Singapore Conference Hall.

Between 4.00 and 7.00 p.m. on Tuesday, 26th March, 1968, foreign delegates were given a farewell cocktail reception by the Singapore Medical Association, at the Medical Centre.

On all accounts the Convention and the Medical Exhibition were a grand success!
