

## ASSOCIATION NOTES

## THE SIXTH SINGAPORE-MALAYSIA CONGRESS OF MEDICINE

Organised by the  
ACADEMY OF MEDICINE, SINGAPORE

This Congress will be held in the Republic of Singapore in August, 1971. Intending participants are informed that papers concerning all aspects and branches in Medicine will be acceptable for the scientific sessions. Each paper will be of ten minutes duration with five minutes for discussion. It is further proposed to hold Symposia on selected subjects of regional interest in the scientific programme.

Other activities of the Congress include a social programme, a Congress dinner and tours

to special areas of interest in Singapore.

The language of the Congress will be English.

All correspondence should be addressed to:

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*Secretary*

**6th Singapore-Malaysia  
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## MEDICAL COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS

The Medical Council held a Disciplinary Inquiry on the conduct of Dr. J. F. Lopez.

The case against Dr. Lopez was that he had canvassed for patients by writing to Captain D. J. Herring offering his services as a medical practitioner and that in the same letter he had stated untruthfully that Mr. Earl Lu and Dr. M. Ghosh were on his panel of doctors.

Three meetings were held on 9th March, 20th May and 9th June 1970.

Dr. Lopez was represented by Mr. D. Marshall while the Solicitor for the Medical Council was Mr. Sachi Saurajen. Mr. M. Karthigesu was Assessor for the Council.

The Council was of the view that any doctor writing to any one offering his services would be committing an unprofessional act. Further any doctor who falsely states the composition of his panel would be likewise committing an unprofessional act. Both acts, in the view of the Medical Council, would amount to infamous conduct in a professional respect.

In defence the practitioner indicated that he had written to Captain Herring on the urging of his friend Mr. A. Jumabhoy of Messrs. R. Jumabhoy & Sons (Pte.) Ltd. M/s. R. Jumabhoy & Sons Ltd. was the agent of a shipping company who had previously engaged Dr. Lopez as its medical attendant. Although the authority to appoint the medical attendant for the ship-

ping company had been taken away from Mr. Jumabhoy and placed in the hands of Captain Herring, Dr. Lopez was perhaps unaware of the changes. He was probably under the misapprehension that Mr. Jumabhoy still retained some connection with the appointment of doctors.

It was further argued that a single act of solicitation to patients should not come under the definition of canvassing.

On the second charge the defence was that the use of the word panel was unfelicitous and meant to imply a list of doctors which may be called upon by Dr. Lopez for consultation. Evidence was brought to indicate that the letter had been hurriedly written and that Dr. Lopez had realised his mistake almost immediately. He had made amends to it by writing a correcting letter the day following the first letter and contacted Mr. Earl Lu and Dr. M. Ghosh in person to make the corrections.

The Council did not accept the defence argument that canvassing requires repetitive offences. Although it was accepted that Mr. Jumabhoy might be implicated in Dr. Lopez writing to Captain Herring, it did not explain why the practitioner had written a letter to solicit for patients.

The Council determined that Dr. Lopez was guilty of sending a soliciting letter and hence guilty of canvassing. The Council further

determined to postpone judgement for a year and at the end of which it would consider testimony on the conduct of the practitioner. With regards the second charge, there was conflicting evidence about the dates and actions regarding the correcting letter and the personal contacts purported to have been made by

Dr. Lopez. As there was considerable doubt on the facts of the second charge, the Council decided to give the practitioner the benefit of the doubt. The Council, however, holds the opinion that the statement itself was improper but taking all circumstances into account decided not to erase his name from the Register.

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