

EDITORIAL

SINGAPORE MEDICAL JOURNAL — — — INTO THE EIGHTIES

As we step gingerly into a new decade it may be appropriate for us to pause a little to reflect and then to consider the direction which the SMJ will take in the future. Not many of us are aware that the Singapore Medical Journal is a "third generation" medical publication in this country. The first medical publication in this country was the Straits Medical Journal printed some 70 years ago. This was then superseded in 1948 by Proceedings of the Alumni Medical Association. Besides being a journal in the usual sense of the word, the Proceedings also contained a record of the discussions of a body of local medical graduates collectively called the Alumni Association. This publication continued until 1960 and was then replaced by the Singapore Medical Journal, the first volume of which appeared in the same year with Dr. Gwee Ah Leng as the Editor. This change in name was a welcome step, as it now conferred upon the journal a truly national bias, for although the Alumni Proceedings were in fact already a national journal, their very name suggested that they were only the proceedings of a select society.

Throughout these two decades the Singapore Medical Journal has undergone a steady change. Rather than reporting odd cases of clinical and pathological interest local doctors are reporting results of more systemized studies. Overseas contributions have been a regular feature of the journal contents. One feature that has not changed however is the number of issues published per year — namely four. This has resulted in a large backlog of articles. At the time of writing we have more than forty scientific communications waiting for publication. At current publication rates where each issue contains 10 to

12 articles, some authors will have to wait a year to see their articles in print. This obviously is unsatisfactory. The Council of the Singapore Medical Association has decided to publish the journal bi-monthly making it a total of six issues per year. At the same time the Editorial Board will be more selective and priority will be given to scientific articles rather than single case reports. Alert readers will also notice the introduction of a Proceedings supplement with the September 1979 issue of the Journal. We hope to continue this trend and the SMJ welcomes publications of important workshops and scientific forums as supplements of its regular issues. Some time in the new year a commemorative issue will be published in conjunction with the 75th Anniversary celebrations of the founding of the Medical Faculty in Singapore.

We start the New Year therefore with enthusiasm and renewed determination to provide for our readers articles of general and special interest. We are indebted to the contributors who throughout the past two decades entrust to us publications of the results of their labour and the faithful readers and advertisers, whose continued support makes publications of the Singapore Medical Journal possible. We are confident this support will continue and the Editorial Board in this season of goodwill extends to you our greetings and best wishes for the future.

REFERENCE

1. GWEE A L : The Singapore Medical Association and the Singapore Medical Journal, Medical J of Australia 1 : 787, 1962.

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