OPEN LETTER

Sir,

In the general (Business) Meeting of the MNA today speakers with the exception of a few blamed the Constitution (i.e. the Rules Books of our Association) instead of blaming those members of the Executive Committee, NMA Council and NMA who had not bothered to or had not desired to follow the Rules Book.

If the real reasons which unnecessarily created the crisis had been discussed, and blame was placed where it really belonged, the meeting would not have been mocking our Constitution.

That I had been involved in the revision of the Constitution has nothing to do with my sorrow over the last 2 years. A Constitution must be followed whole heartedly because an Association is based on its Constitution, which is the Association's Rules Book. If the Constitution is to be followed according to convenience, then that Association can not be taken seriously. An Association should change its rules in the proper way but the rules as they stand at any time must be followed. I would follow any amended rules in our Constitution and will defend the amendments when passed constitutionally but I will fight if anyone

tries to introduce amendments in the wrong way. How seriously an Executive Committee or an NMA Council is to be taken depends on seriously these two bodies follow the procedures laid down.

When some doctors suggested in the meeting that it was not question of having to pay one rupee for readmission as passed by Council, but the shame of readmission, I decided to leave the NMA to show everyone that if my name had, for the fault of the Executive Committee, automatically terminated even for outstanding dues of 13 months, I would of course have pointed out their fault to the Executive Committee but I would not have blamed the rules in the Constitution. If I thought the rule needed to be changed, I would have according to the rules of Constitution, submitted amendments in time. I would have applied for readmission even though I would not have been able to stand for election for 2 years. If the readmission fee had been reduced to one rupee I would have thanked the Council for helping me to save 14 rupees.

I am paying all dues upto end of Chaitra 2029. In order to show that three is

no shame in readmission according to rules please remove my name from membership starting from 1st Baisakh 2030. My I have a letter informing me that from 1st Baisakh 2030 my membership has terminated and that there are no dues remaining to be paid.

When you inform me that the Executive Committee and Council are able to follow all the rules of the Constitution, then I shall apply for readmission and shall pay whatever the readmission fees are. I will of course not stand for any elections after that for as long as the Constitution does not allow me to do.

As I said above, all this has nothing at all to do with the fact that I had been involved with the present revised and amended Constitution of our Association. Even when the present Constitution is totally changed after following the correct procedures, I would consider it blasphemy if any NMA member refuses to follow anything in that totally new Constitution.

Even when I am not a member, I would be prepared to render service to this Association of doctors in Nepal if I am asked to do so. Co-operation is available when co-operation of soughth. And as you know, if I have accepted any responsibility I have been interested only in fulfilling my responsibility.

May I say that I have since my return from England enjoyed working for the NMA

even in the last 2 years as my letters to the various Office Bearers will testify.

I hope that the new Executive Committee will not shirk responsibility by passing the buck to the Council or the General Meeting, but will give its opinions on all matters concerning NMA, whatever the Council or the General Meeting may latter decide. I also hope that the Committee will encourage development of NMA policies on all matter concerning medicine in Nepal by appropriate discussions of members at various levels so that the NMA will begin to function as it should, and the Journal editorials concerning policy matters will then voice the Association policy itself.

I understand that the new council has reduced the annual subscriptions from Baisakh 2030 to Rs. 24:—

a) Has my proposal to the NMA Council Submitted 6 months ago to reduce the subscriptions to Rs. 36/- yearly been discussed at all!

b) The branch members must pay Rs. 18 every year to the centre with Rs. 24 as annual subscriptions the branch will get only Rs. 6/- for year. No branch will be able to function with Rs. 6/-. Then are the Branch members to pay higher subscriptions ?

c) Can the NMA be run, including free journal, on Rs. 24/- annually?

Moin Shah F.R.C.S.