NEPAL MEDICAL ASSOCIATION SUPPLEMENT

NMA NEWS

SIXTH ALL NEPAL MEDICAL CONFERENCE, SCIENTIFIC SESSION
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WELCOME SPEECH

Santosh M. Shrestha
Chairman Scientific subcommittee

Madam Chairman,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is a great pleasure and honour for me to welcome you to the Scientific Session of this conference. I hope you will agree with me that the Scientific Session at any conference is in fact the backbone of such occasion. A conference without a strong backing of the scientific session will not have achieved anything. It is a pleasure to welcome distinguished guests from India, Germany, John Hopkins University, U.K., U.S.S.R. and other countries whose presence has made this Scientific session possible.

This has been a year of change and challenge in Nepal. We are being challenged by new leadership, new ideas, new dreams and new opportunities. Though most of our problems remain the same, there is a sense of new approach and a sense of urgency in solving them.

Most of our doctors having been trained against the background of medical care as it is possible in the industrial countries, it is therefore natural for there to be an attitude that this is the usual way in which the world's sick are, and should be, looked after, and medical care provided. This attitude is false for such lavish standard of care are exceptional. Two third of the world's population live in the underdeveloped countries. The cleavage of the world into the rich nations and poor ones divides care in sickness quite as sharply as it does in any other aspect of the human condition. In this great division of mankind the rich have

money and medical skills in comparative abundance, the poor have not. So in developing countries Medical care requires the adaptation and development of its own particular pattern. We, in the scientific sub-committee felt that it is time for Nepal to review its Present Health Care and to outline and evolve our own way of health service based in the realization of the politico-economic state, and the geographical impositions and the socio-cultural background. With these views in mind we have chosen the topics for Symposia on 'Basic Integrated Health Service' and on the 'Problem of Medical Man Power in Nepal'. I hope these occasions will provide a meaningful dialogue on the new approach to the management of the Health Service and the Medical Man Power Planning in Nepal.

Besides, we have many other problems. The medical practice in Nepal is itself a problem and the Nepal Medical Association has tried to put its points of view in the report on Medical Practice. This report is in the Souvenir which is with you. I hope that everyone will find time, may make time to read through it, and perhaps even may send their views and suggestions.

In conclusion I would like to thank our chief guests the distinguished writer, dramatist and philosopher Shree Bala Krishna Samal, who have given us his valuable time for the inauguration. I would not like it to be said in future that the NMA disturbed him from writing another masterpiece like 'Mutu Ko Betha'. Perhaps what he has seen of Doctors today might prompt him to write another 'Doctor's Dilemma'.

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