NEPAL MEDICAL ASSOCIATION
SUPPLEMENT

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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, Johns 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 thirds of the world's population live in the underdeveloped countries. The cleavage of the world into the rich nations and poor ones devides 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 on the realization of the socio-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 Powers 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, diplomat and philosopher Shree Bala Krishna Samt, 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 forming another masterpiece like 'Mutu Ko Bitha'. Perhaps what he has seen of Doctors might prompt him to write another 'Doctor's Dilemma'.
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