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EDITORIAL

SOME THOUGHTS ON SCIENTIFIC SEMINARS

I have been attending Homoeopathic Conferences and Seminars from 1938. In most I was a delegate. Mixing with the "lesser fry" in the auditorium, I could get a lot of information about our common problems, practical difficulties, how each one tried a method and of course a lot of comments on the shortcomings of organisers. And being a friend of the leaders on the dias, I could get their views too.

I have benefited greatly from attending conferences, getting some wonderful tips every time. Once I could "catch" the late Dr. Subodh Mehta, for just fifteen minutes. Among other tips, he told me that *Berb. vul.* which I was trying for Kidney stone, would work best only in Mother Tincture, drop doses. This one tip has helped to cure almost every case of this trouble (of course I do use the constitutional remedies like *Sulph, Calc, Lyc, Thuja* etc.).

In Trivandrum this year, I thought my going there was a waste of time and money. But what a luck—to spend one evening with Dr. Ramanlal Patel at Kottayam! He is a modern Viking or explorer of our system—searching for new wonders and finding them! I collected quite a few tips from him.

I wish only to point out that we get more information and knowledge outside the actual conference lectures. Really we can prove a Bible statement, "seek and thou shalt find".

Now, today's back bencher delegates may have to be the organisers tomorrow as new branches and Units or District centres are formed of the HMAI. I hope they will enjoy and like the following few tips from one among them.

1. Name :—Seminar or conference ?

Dr. Sankaran once told me that only an All India Conference (not seminar) gets "single fare return journey Railway Concessions facility". I have not confirmed this from Railway authorities. But if it is correct, it is better to call every Seminar as a Conference.

2. For best publicity, two things are needed :

- (a) the presence of a Minister (of any portfolio).
- (b) Good grace of A.I.R. and news agencies.

For better co-operation, it is better to add "...and family welfare" Conference—and ask one member to talk on Family Planning or to arrange a film or talk in the conference by the concerned Department. This brings the Health Minister too.

3. How to make the leaders of our system to attend ? Very simple. If you want the famous Dr. X to come, make him a chairman of some session and make him talk. Remember, every big man comes mainly to talk, not so much to listen. To keep the speakers with limits of time is extremely difficult, even with a "Bell" provided to the chairman. Best thing is to request them to write their speeches, and tempt them to send it early by offering to print the speeches *received early*.

4. SESSIONS : The hours should be flexible. It is better to revive the old "Resolutions" Session to be the last, so that most of the delegates coming from distances can skip out for sight seeing. Buses may be arranged for this, and to see nearby tourist spot. The local organisers and office bearers can meet and finish the "Resolutions" and "Valedictory" sessions quicker, as there will not be many speakers.

5. **CATERING** : It is not a big problem, as good contractors come forward, and delegates do not mind paying for good items. Local menu alone should be served, of high quality.

Now a few ideas to delegates.

1. Attend the conference determined to learn something ; even one new technique may mean much for your practice.

2. Locate *good* prescribers—they may not all be on the dias. Beware of tall claims, cent per cent success. Oldish doctors from small towns are usually better prescribers for *acute* serious problems.

3. **ASK**—how the Doctor manages a particular problem say that you are not very successful. Every one, when asked for advice feels friendly and good—and you can get the best of his bag of tricks easily in five minutes.

4. Enjoy your trip : make friends ; be in touch with and correspond with the newly made, like-minded, friends. You might even meet a fine Doctor from your own town, you did not know before !

5. If time and purse permit, visit nearby places. Take your family or at least wife along.

6. And most important : Never think you will lose money and practice by your absence of a few days. You might earn double, the very next month. Try it out !

—S.P. Koppikar



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 "OUR HEARTIEST DEEPAWALI GREETINGS  
 TO OUR READERS".  
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