

ABOUT OURSELVES

In October, 1955 Group Captain E. A. R. Ardeshir, the President of the Society was promoted to the rank of Major General, on reversion to the Army. He is now D. D. M. S., Southern Command. We offer him our congratulations and best wishes in his new appointment.

We welcome Group Captain S. P. Bhatia, our new D. M. S. (Air), as the new President of the Society. The Society is assured further progress under his able guidance.

Annual Meeting.

Third annual meeting of the Aero Medical Society was held at New Delhi from 20th to 23rd. February, 1956. The meeting was attended by a distinguished gathering which included Air Marshal S. Mukerjee, Chief of the Air Staff, Air Vice Marshal A. M. Engineer, Dy. Chief of the Air Staff, Air Commodore S. N. Goyal, Prof. M. S. Thacker, Director Scientific and Industrial Research, Shri J. M. Shrinagesh, General Manager, I. A. I., Lieut. General D. R. Thapar, Colonel Commandant, A. M. C., Lieut. General B. Chaudhuri, Director General, Armed Forces Medical Services, Major General B. M. Rao, D. M. S. (Army), Major General P. P. Chowdry, D. D. M. S. Eastern Command, Major General E. A. R. Ardeshir, D. D. M. S. Southern Command, Surgeon Capt. B. L. Taneja, D. M. S. (Navy), high ranking officers of the Army Medical Corps and Directors of Air H. Qrs.

After a short welcome address by Group Captain S.P. Bhatia, D.M.S. (Air), Air Marshal S. Mukerjee, Chief of Air Staff inaugurating the meeting said, "Our Aviation problems-physical, psychological and physiological, need to be solved by our scientists, doctors and our engineers. I would like some work to be carried out regarding special diet that our Jet Pilots should eat". The Air Chief stressed the importance of pilot-medical officers relationship and said "A pilot may hesitate to confide his difficulties of a personal nature to his own Flight or Squadron Commander or even to his colleagues which he will unhesitatingly discuss with Squadron Doctor." "The Air Marshal said "One trustworthy friend which a pilot has in the Squadron is invariably the Squadron Doctor."

Dr. M. S. Thacker, Director, Council of Scientific and Industrial Research speaking on "Human Factors in Flight" said that the Government recognised the importance of aeronautical research within the country. A generous share of the available funds had been allocated for research in this field in the Second Five Year Plan.

Lt. Gen. B. Chaudhuri, Director General Armed Forces Medical Services in his address stressed the importance of perfect understanding between a service doctor and service personnel especially in the Air Force.

Lt. Gen. D. R. Thapar, former Director General Armed Forces Medical Services, recalled the many doubts at the time of formation of independent Medical Services of the Air Force and Navy. He said that many a "hard" considered these young services as an unproductive venture and tried to absorb them in the Army Medical Corps. Their fears, as all of us can see now, have proved false.

Medical Service of the Air Force has made good and its one healthy child, the Aero Medical Society, has acquired enough strength and importance during the past three years to be called a worthy off-spring of which we can all be justly proud.

Major General B. M. Rao, D. M. S. (Army) said that "Doctors of the Army, Navy and the Air Force are specialists in their own branch of the Service. He said "longer they stay with their own service the better will it be for the service concerned. There should thus be no question of their transfer from one service to the other as it has been hitherto". General Rao also mentioned "in the Army the Medical Officer is privileged to be one who held the highest rank next only to the Commander". He hoped that "this fact will not be lost sight of during the expansion of the IAF, and that the Medical Officers will be given the same respect of the rank which we have in the Army".

Shri J. M. Shrinagesh, General Manager, Hindustan Aircraft Ltd., Bangalore, speaking on aircraft construction in relation to aero-medical problems said that aircrafts are made to meet certain operational requirements service or civil. He mentioned that designing and manufacture of aircraft have two aspects:

1. The machine should be capable of flying to operational specifications.
2. The design must offer a solution to all the human problems likely to be encountered in the operational use of the aircraft.

At present, in India, the manufacturer is provided with certain operational specifications. These specifications are not dictated by human limitations. The design of aircraft at present does not take into consideration this important factor. Therefore, the ultimate performance of the aircraft which have been manufactured so far suffers. He gave an example of the pilot's seat in the HT 2 which in the initial stages was low and prevented a good view. This defect was discovered at a very late stage and the whole manufacturing line had to be held up for a considerable time before this defect could be rectified.

He recommended that:—

1. Designers of aircrafts should be given not only operational specifications of new aircrafts, but also specifications required from the human angle, the aero medical specifications.
2. Research organization should be set up which would give practical shape to the aero-medical requirements. There is need for such an organisation to be located close to the aircraft industry and it should work in close liaison with the manufacturer. H.A.L., he said, is prepared to provide equipment and material to carry out research on aero-medical problems.

Interesting papers were also read by Dr. Inderjit Singh, Prof. of Physiology, Medical College, Agra, Wg. Cdr. M. Y. Alurkar, Wg. Cdr. M. M. Shrinagesh, Wg. Cdr. R. Arunachalam Sqn. Ldr. Jones and Sqn. Ldr. B. Bhatia, Flt. Lts. Bajwa and Majumdar. Some of these papers are published in this issue of the Journal.

Annual Dinner.

Annual Dinner was held at the Air Force Officer's Mess, New Delhi, on 23rd February 56. The C.A.S. was the chief guest. D.G. A.F.M.S., P.S.O's, and all Senior Medical Officers attended the Dinner.

Branch Society: A branch of the Aero-Medical Society was formed at Bangalore on 3rd June, 55, under the Chairmanship of Wg. Cdr. M. Y. Alurkar. The Bangalore branch has held several interesting meetings since its inauguration.

Advance Aviation Medicine Course.

The undermentioned officers attended Advanced Aviation Medicine Course in the U.K. and U.S.A.

Wg. Cdr. R. Arumachalam.	} U.K.
Sqn. Ldr. S.K. Muhury.	
Sqn. Ldr. J.R. Kumar	
Flt. Lt. K. K. Majumdar	
	U.S.A.

Study Leave.

Squadron Leader H.N. Dutta, Sqn. Ldr. J. K. Sehgal proceeded on Study Leave to the U. K. for Post graduate studies in Pathology and Hygiene respectively.

Visit of DMS (Air) to U.S.A. and U.K.

Group Captain S. P. Bhatia, Director of Medical Services (Air) accompanied by Sqn. Ldr. B. Bhatia, attended the 27th Annual Meeting of the Aero Medical Association at Chicago, from 16th to 19th April, 1956. The D. M. S. also visited several Medical Installations of the United States Air Force. In the U. K. he visited some R.A.F. Medical Establishments.