

## EDITORIAL NOTES

Incapacity, carelessness and neglect, commonly known as "Pilot error", are major causes of aircraft accidents. These human failings and accidents which result from them, are preventable. Ignorance or lack of understanding of human and medical problems of aviation inevitably leads to aircraft accidents. Modern aircraft is an expensive and highly complicated machine. It needs constant supervision and maintenance of minute technical details to make it air-worthy. Human body is even more complex. Physical, mental and social well-being of flying personnel demands proper care and understanding. Indifference towards "care of flying personnel" does not pay. It only leads to aircraft accidents and loss of human life.

### Annual Meeting.

Second annual meeting of the Aero Medical Society was held at New Delhi from 21st to 24th January, 1955. The Conference was inaugurated by Air Vice Marshal A.M. Engineer, Deputy Chief of Air Staff. Prominent among those who attended the opening session were Shri M.K. Vellodi, Defence Secretary, Air Commodore Arjan Singh, Air Commodore P.C. Lal, Brigadier Sarup Narain, Director of Research and Health; Brigadier Dev Dutt, Dy. D.G.A.F.M.S. Dr. Sohan Lal, Chief Psychologist, Colonel Dracup, Dy. Director of Hygiene & Pathology and Commander Pinto, Dy. Director of Medical Services, Navy. Group Captain E.A.R. Ardeshir, Director of Medical Services, presided.

In his welcome address Group Captain Ardeshir said "the Aero Medical Society was formed to encourage study of medical problems which would help to increase efficiency and safety of those who fly". Giving an example of medical problems the Doctors are called upon to solve, he said modern aircraft travelled so fast that visual impressions are not clearly registered in the mind. Solution of such problems helps to increase the operational effectiveness of these aircraft.

Air Vice Marshal Engineer complimented the Society on the progress made in the last two years. He said "The Journal published by the Society is of interest not only to medical officers, but also to others who are interested in flying." He emphasised the vital necessity for Aviation Medicine to keep pace with the current developments in aviation, and the urgent need for the establishment of training and research facilities in this subject in the country.

A number of scientific papers were presented. Among those who gave talks were Dr. Sohan Lal, Air Commodore P.C. Lal and Wing Commander Ajit Nath. Two eminent psychiatrists, Dr. Rees from the U.K. and Dr. Fremont-Smith of the U.S.A. who is the President of the World Federation of Mental Health, happened to be in Delhi and very kindly attended the session. They stressed the importance of aero-medical research which has a very intimate connection with the mental health of the flier. They were of the opinion that with the help of medical research, flying is being made more and more safe and this alone goes a long way to build up the morale of pilots.

An interesting display of aircraft used for casualty evacuation and aero-medical equipment was organised by Wg. Cdr. M.M. Shrinagesh, which was seen by a large number of officers.

Air Marshal S. Mukerjee, Chief of Air Staff addressed the Senior Medical Officers on the concluding day. He stressed the need for making the IAF self sufficient in research and development of all types of aero-medical equipment and devices required by our pilots and aircrews. For this purpose adequate funds and facilities will be made available. He hoped the IAF would very soon have a Centre for research and training in Aviation Medicine.

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“Aviation is inherently safe but to an even greater extent than the sea, is terribly unforgiving of any incapacity, carelessness or neglect.”

(Unknown Author)