

EDITORIAL NOTES.

Well Begun

Our First Annual Number has been well received here and abroad. Appreciations, some of which appear in this issue, are a source of great encouragement to us. We have made a good beginning.

Well begun, they say, is half done. This may be true of other things but not of scientific periodicals like this Journal which always need interesting articles and critical readers. With the co-operation of our keen, intelligent and versatile contributors, we can assure the growing number of our readers good fare in the issues to come.

Research in Medical Problems

Development of "anti-G" valve by BASU, in co-operation with Aeronautical Engineers at H. A. L. was an enterprising piece of work. That this was done largely on self-help basis, in the absence of proper facilities, is a tribute to the enthusiasm, devotion and keenness of our research workers.

Research in medical problems of aviation can never be stationary. It must continue as new aircrafts are developed. Every improvement in their performance raises fresh problems of human tolerance. For some years now, speeds and altitudes of modern aircraft have been far in excess of the physiological endurance of the human body. Flying at supersonic speeds, and at high altitudes, in the stratosphere has been made possible by research and development of various protective devices which help to increase human tolerance.

Study and research in this vast field requires not only proper co-ordination between the medical and the technological departments, but also an organisation for direction & control of research in the hands of those who understand such problems. Proper facilities must be available for testing and evaluating the usefulness of new equipments, designed by our research centres, on the ground and in the air. Well equipped research laboratories no doubt require lot of money. But money invested in research institutions is an insurance made in the cause of progress, which we can ill-afford to neglect for the future development of the aircraft industry and the safety of our flying personnel.

Penicillin Sensitivity:

So far Penicillin has been a 'life-saver' in many illnesses. Lately it has assumed the role of a 'killer' in some cases. During the last few years 'fatalities', after an intramuscular injection of Penicillin, have been reported in the medical literature besides many other allergic manifestations.

Usefulness of Penicillin is so great that there is need for devising a safe, quick and ready method of injecting the drug without having to resort to skin tests for sensitivity. Views expressed on this subject, therefore, by WATS, in his article which appears in this issue, are worthy of consideration.