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### PRESIDENTIAL ADDRESS

*Delivered by Dato Dr. Mohd. Din bin Ahmad, President of the  
M.M.A., at the Annual General Meeting held on 1st April, 1961*

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I wish firstly to extend to all members a hearty welcome, in particular those senior colleagues whose counsel will be most beneficial to this meeting. I am deeply appreciative of the honour to me this appointment of President. I express pleasure in paying tribute to the inspiring leadership of the Past President, Dr. Rajahram and thank him for his efforts in the past year. I wish I could attain as much as he had done. Our retiring President ranks equally well with the greatest of the predecessors of the parent associations in Malaya, in his understanding of the problems and needs of this Association, in his despatch of business, simplicity of manner and above all his friendliness. Nor would it be proper for this occasion to pass without a salute to the Hon. General Secretary, Dr. Parampalam and Dr. Visvanathan, before him, who through selfless industry and hard work assisted in the notable achievements of the Association.

I congratulate those who have been selected into office for the coming year and as we all know that the activities of this body are concentrated at three centres, and as the various chairmen at these centres had in the past shown great wisdom over the affairs in their territories as well as co-operating in matters of joint interest, I hope that the same spirit will prevail in the coming year.

There are a few pleasures equal to that of singing the praise of the Association which has our affection and esteem. Though comparatively an infant it has signs of growing big and quickly. The position of membership is satisfactory and its finance is sound. In its activities it is gratifying to note that more and more members have presented papers of interest at the various clinical meetings. The practice of inviting foreign medical experts to address our meetings, whenever they are in Malaya — as was done last year will continue, I assure you. Close liaison will be maintained with the Ministry of Health on this subject.

That our association will move forward there is no doubt and as we go into the incoming year I wish to stress with all earnestness the

necessity for us to keep in mind the targets towards which we aim. It is most important that we do not through lack of vigilance and thought allow our standards to diminish or fade.

We are ourselves keen to keep in the forefront in this developing world, where medical and health problems of today certainly present as varied and stimulating an environment, in which to practise our chosen profession, as any the world has ever known. They have now accompanied the space rockets and gone deep into the seas.

When we look forward, I believe that there are certain avenues which this Association can with profit explore, in all seriousness and sincerity not only from the point of view of improving and enhancing our own standards but also from the angle of prestige, respect, and status as seen through the eyes of those outside the Association.

1. Firstly I refer to the question of membership. A great number of doctors has already chosen to join the association but I feel that we should not feel contented until a higher proportion is attained. More efforts can produce better results, the consequences can only be a stronger association both representatively and financially.
2. The second point refers to the consolidation of the efforts already made in the past year at which many hours were spent in the interest of members and the Association. A follow-through is most necessary as it will be a great pity if those efforts were not carried to their successful end. I believe we have specific committees for various specific purposes and we are also responsible for the publication of a magazine.
3. The third and last point is an important subject which deserves the closest attention and thought of this Association. That this body must in the first instance cater for the interests of its members there is no question; on the other hand however, we have to remember the other duties and responsibilities expected of such an association as ours.

Let me quote 'Sickness is an expensive business for the individual and for the nation, good health is a great asset'. On this theme our National Government has adopted policies with activities directed towards the better health of the nation. Reinforcements are being sent to hospitals, more thought and attention are focussed on the prevention of diseases so that more and more diseases will be stamped out and more

and more people rendered immune. This is a great challenge to the Ministry and I feel that this Association will be rendering conspicuous and gallant service to the country and the people should it adopt steps and activities directed towards the better health of the nation; steps of co-operation and co-ordination with the intentions and aims of Government. Can our Association assist and co-operate in this respect? I put that to you as a subject for the deepest consideration as I regard it is an important subject. Personally I feel that this Association has an important function, namely, to co-operate and assist in any national effort by the Government aimed towards the betterment of the health of the people. I hope there will not be great differences of opinion.

Another point before I conclude and this is to stress and gratefully to acknowledge the importance of voluntary organisations — particularly those related to health and medicine; although so much has been done the scope of work is almost unlimited. These organisations add to the welfare and happiness of our people and I appeal to our members to join and if possible lead these organisations, as I know one or two related to health lack support and may cease altogether.

I do not propose to weary you any further so I conclude by expressing the hope that :

- (a) those who had come to K.L. from the various parts of Malaya have enjoyed themselves;
- (b) those who competed for the tennis and golf cups will return happy and relaxed if not accompanied by cups and trophies.

Finally don't forget to attend the dinner tonight.