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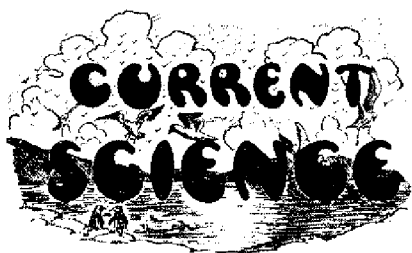
this alert, one may go to <http://www.scidev.net/register>.

The website also provides information about other SciDev.Net activities. These include the creation of regional networks in developing countries, linking together individuals and institutions that share our goals, and training workshops addressing

the task of capacity building in science and technology communication. To read an editorial summarizing our activities in 2002 and our plans for 2003, go to <http://www.scidev.net/archives/editorial/comment44.html>.

Amongst others, the website is supported by the Third World Academy of Sciences.

FROM THE ARCHIVES



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Tuberculosis in India

The Indian Medical Gazette has issued a special tuberculosis number this month. In the preparation of this number and in the selection of contributions for inclusion, the editor has had the assistance of an editorial committee of the Tuberculosis Association in India. The contributors include many of the best-known tuberculosis workers in India and the contributions deal with a number of aspects of this subject which is so vital to India's health, but the majority are clinical articles written by specialists for the benefit of the practitioner.

Two important papers deal with conditions that may easily be mistaken for tuberculosis but are not tuberculous in origin; Dr Ukil writes on chronic infections (non-tuberculous) of the lung, and Dr Frimodt-Möller and Mr. Barton describe a condition which they call 'eosino-

plile lung' that simulates tuberculosis very closely, particularly in its X-ray manifestations, and leads to much misdiagnosis. This latter condition seems to be particularly prevalent in India and has not been described in other countries.

The sufferer from tuberculosis is not immune from other chronic diseases and *vice versa*; the combination of two diseases usually adds considerably to the risks associated with either of the diseases singly. Pulmonary tuberculosis associated with diabetes is an example. Dr. Benjamin and Verghese point out that the prospects of the patient is not so fatal as it was a few years ago before insulin and many of the more successful measures of dealing with diabetes were introduced and the immediate results in their hands have been comparatively good. Dr. Jones, of the Wanless Tuberculosis Sanatorium, describes the treatment of spontaneous pneumothorax, a common 'accident' in tuberculosis, and Dr. Samuel, of the same institution, that of tuberculous empyema. Other articles are on diet in tuberculosis and on tuberculosis in women with special reference to the question of tuberculosis and pregnancy.

On the subject of tuberculosis organisation there are two particularly valuable papers, one on the control of tuberculosis in the USA, by Dr. Shah of the Public Health Department of the Punjab, who has recently spent some time in America, and the other, by Dr. Frimodt-Möller, the

Medical Commissioner of the Tuberculosis Association of India. There is much inspiration to be gained from America's experience and much to be learnt, but there is little that can be translated directly into terms suited to Indian conditions. Dr. Frimodt-Möller on the other hand outlines a policy that can be adopted in India immediately and is yet capable of expansion.

Finally, the editor, Dr. L. E. Napier, emphasizes the importance of the adoption in India of a fixed policy, as he points out that vacillation shakes the confidence of the lay public without whose wholehearted cooperation any policy will fail. He considers that we know enough about tuberculosis in general, and conditions in India in particular, to frame such a policy, whilst at the same time making allowance for future advances in our knowledge and improvement in local conditions. He supports Dr. Frimodt-Möller's recommendations with the provision that the establishment of industrial colonies for ex-patients is perhaps not really suited to Indian conditions as they exist to-day.

This is the fifth year in succession that the Indian Medical Gazette has published a special tuberculosis number. This number constitutes a valuable contribution to the subject and will be found of great interest, not only to medical men but to all interested in this aspect of the welfare of India and her people.