PROCEEDINGS OF THE INDIAN SOCIETY FOR THE STUDY OF REPRODUCTION
FIRST REPORT

SHANTA S. RAO

(Received 29th April 1965)

During the VIth International Planned Parenthood Federation Conference held at Delhi in February 1959 it was noticeable that only two Indian workers attended the Scientific Session, whereas there were many visitors from abroad, including zoologists, veterinary research workers, biochemists and physicians. The relative lack of participation by Indian scientists seemed evidently to be due to the fact that the organizers were not aware of the important research on reproductive physiology that was being carried out in many different institutions in India, i.e. departments of physiology, pharmacology, obstetrics and gynaecology of medical colleges, university departments of zoology, veterinary colleges and medical research institutions. Many of us thought that this omission was due to the fact that at that time (1959) there was no common forum in India at which zoologists, biochemists, clinical research workers, physiologists, veterinary research workers and pisciculturists could meet to discuss reproductive physiology and so the idea of an Indian Society for the Study of Reproduction was born.

The idea gathered momentum when Lady Rama Rau, the ex-President of the Family Planning Association of India and the present President of the International Planned Parenthood Federation, and Mrs Avabai Wadia, the present President of the Family Planning Association of India, suggested that a Scientific Seminar on Physiology of Reproduction be organized at Hyderabad during the IVth All India Family Planning Conference. The F.P.A. requested Dr P. M. Bhargava and Dr Mrs Shanta S. Rao to convene such a Seminar under the Chairmanship of Dr V. R. Khanolkar, at that time Director, Indian Cancer Research Centre, and Vice Chancellor, Bombay University. The convenors were fortunate that Professor A. S. Parkes, Mary Marshall Professor of Physiology of Reproduction, Cambridge, accepted the invitation and attended the Seminar, but many Indian workers, who would have liked to do so, were prevented by financial reasons, and the organizers were not in a position to give the necessary help.

Of those who attended the Seminar and took a keen interest in the deliberations were Dr Moye W. Freymann of the Ford Foundation, Dr Mrs P. M. Naidu of Hyderabad, Lady Rama Rau, Smt. Avabai B. Wadia, Dr Katherine Kuder, Colonel B. L. Raina, Director, Family Planning, Government of India, and some of the delegates attending the Family Planning Conference. During the Seminar, a decision was taken to form an Indian Society for the Study of Reproduction; this was supported by Professor A. S. Parkes, who kindly
offered help on behalf of the Society for the Study of Fertility and suggested that the new Society could also consider the *Journal of Reproduction and Fertility* as its official organ. The suggestion was gladly accepted.

Dr Khanolkar, the Chairman of the Seminar, requested Dr P. M. Bhargava, Dr Mrs P. M. Naidu, Dr C. R. Sane and Shri M. S. Joshi to draft a Constitution to be adopted by the new Society. The draft was circulated to about twenty of the active workers in the country and sixteen of them expressed approval of the draft.

On 11th May 1961, a meeting was convened at the Indian Cancer Research Centre to elect the first Executive Committee of the Indian Society for the Study of Reproduction and the following were unanimously elected:

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<tr>
<th>Name</th>
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<tr>
<td>Dr V. R. Khanolkar</td>
<td>President</td>
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<td>Dr G. M. Phadke</td>
<td>Vice-President</td>
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<td>Dr Shanta Rao</td>
<td>Secretary</td>
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<td>Dr P. M. Bhargava</td>
<td>Joint Secretary</td>
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<td>Shri M. S. Joshi</td>
<td>Treasurer</td>
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<td>Dr B. N. Purandare</td>
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<td>Dr S. N. Kothare</td>
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<td>Dr C. R. Sane</td>
<td>Executive Committee Members</td>
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<td>Dr P. N. Shah</td>
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Dr Bhargava was unable to accept the office of Joint Secretary and later Dr S. N. Naik was nominated as the Joint Secretary. The members present at this meeting and also Dr P. M. Bhargava and Dr Mrs. P. M. Naidu were considered as the Founder Members of the Society. Later, at a meeting of the Society at New Delhi on 10th April 1962, Dr M. W. Freymann was nominated as an additional Vice-President and Dr S. J. Segal as a Joint Secretary.

On 22nd May 1963, the Society was registered under the Societies Registration Act, 1860 (Act XXI of 1860). The Society was further registered under the Public Trusts Act 1950 on 23rd September 1964 at the hearing fixed by the Charity Commissioner. The newly elected Committee then took office.

Since its inception, the Society has organized one group discussion, nine scientific meetings and two All India Seminars on the Physiology of Reproduction, as detailed in the appendix. The 1st Seminar was convened by the Secretary of the Society and attended by several foreign and many Indian participants. The 2nd Seminar was held during the All India Obstetric and Gynaecological Congress at Ahmedabad last December and convened by Dr P. N. Shah.

*The Bulletin of the Society*

In one of the early Executive Committee meetings, the idea of establishing a Bulletin of the Indian Society for the Study of Reproduction was mooted. This Bulletin was to publish the proceedings of the annual seminars organized by the Society and also serve as an abstracting and reviewing journal. Dr S. Israel was asked to act as Editor. Soon after, Dr Israel had to leave for the U.S.A. on a Worcester Foundation Fellowship and Dr Mrs K. D. Virkar was asked to take over editorial responsibilities. Much discussion has taken place about the scope of the Bulletin, and there has also been a suggestion that an
Indian Journal of Reproduction should be established instead of a Bulletin.

Unfortunately all these ideas have remained as such because the Society does not as yet have any funds to support a publication. It is hoped that this situation will be remedied in the near future.

I would like to take this opportunity of thanking the following for the help they have given the Society: the Health Ministry, Government of India, for making available the financial assistance to hold the All India Seminar on Physiology of Reproduction at Bombay in February 1963; and the Federation of Obstetric and Gynaecological Societies of India for supporting the IIInd All India Seminar on Physiology of Reproduction at Ahmedabad in December 1963. We are also much indebted to the Family Planning Association of India, in particular, Lady Rama Rau and Mrs Avabai B. Wadia for the unstinted help they have given the Society in its formation.

The Society gratefully acknowledged the Book-grant from the Population Council and donations from Sarabhai Chemicals, Schering Asia and N.V. Organon.

I should also like to thank the members of the Executive Committee and all those who have helped me in my work as the Secretary of the Society.

OFFICE-BEARERS OF THE INDIAN SOCIETY FOR THE STUDY OF REPRODUCTION

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<tr>
<th>Name</th>
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<tr>
<td>Dr V. R. Khanolkar</td>
<td>President</td>
<td>Indian Cancer Research Centre, Parel, Bombay 12</td>
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<td>Dr Katherine Kuder</td>
<td>Vice-President</td>
<td>The Ford Foundation, 32 Ferozshah Road, New Delhi</td>
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<td>Dr R Roy Chaudhuri</td>
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<td>Institute of Post Graduate Medical Education and Research, Chandigarh</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dr Shanta S. Rao</td>
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<td>Department of Zoology, University of Delhi, Delhi 6</td>
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<td>Dr P. N. Shah</td>
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<td>All India Institute of Medical Sciences, Ansari Nagar, New Delhi 16</td>
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SCIENTIFIC MEETINGS HELD UNDER THE AUSPICES OF THE INDIAN SOCIETY FOR THE STUDY OF REPRODUCTION

1. 10th July 1961

Lecture on 'Initiation and Maintenance of Testicular Function' by Dr Sheldon J. Segal, Assistant Medical Director, Population Council, New York, at the Auditorium of the Tata Memorial Hospital, Bombay 12.
2. 11th July 1961
   Lecture on ‘Application of Immunologic Methods in Reproduction Research’ by Dr Sheldon J. Segal, Assistant Medical Director, Population Council, New York, at the Auditorium of the Tata Memorial Hospital, Bombay 12.

3. 1st February 1962
   Lectures on ‘Nature and Determination of Sex’ by Professor Emil Witschi, Professor of Embryology and Endocrinology, State University of Iowa at the Durbar Hall, Haffkine Institute, Bombay 12, under joint auspices with the Critics Club, Haffkine Institute.

4. 16th April 1962
   Discussion Group Meeting on Physiology of Reproduction at the Indian Cancer Research Centre with Professor A. S. Parkes in the Chair.

5. 25th September 1962
   Talk on ‘My impressions about the IV International Conference on Fertility and Sterility held at Rio de Janeiro, South America’ by Dr C. L. Jhaveri in the Auditorium of the Tata Memorial Hospital, Bombay 12.

6. 12th December 1962
   Lecture by Dr H. O. Burdick on ‘Some Facts about the Physiology of Fallopian Tubes’ at the College of Physicians and Surgeons, under joint auspices with the Indian Medical Association, Bombay Obstetric and Gynaecological Society. Dr Gool N. Vazifdar presided.

7. 21st to 23rd February 1963
   Seminar on ‘Physiology of Reproduction’ at the Greens Hotel and University Club House Auditorium, under joint auspices with the Indian Council of Medical Research and the Family Planning Association of India. The following papers were presented:
   ‘Endocrine mechanisms in reproduction in Arthropods’ by Dr K. K. Nayar, Professor of Zoology, University College, Trivandrum.
   ‘Histochemistry of the pituitary gland of the palm squirrel, Funambulus pennantii’ by Dr M. R. N. Prasad and Dr G. K. Dhaliwal, Department of Zoology, University of Delhi.
   ‘The influence of progesterone on gonadotrophic secretion of the pituitary’ by Dr M. T. Clegg, Department of Animal Husbandry, University of California.
   ‘Effects of quebrachamine on the reproductive system of the common Indian male toad, Bufo melanosticus Schneider’ by Dr J. P. Thapliyal, Department of Zoology, Benares Hindu University, Varanasi.
   ‘Effect of adrenal cauterization and administration of pituitary extracts of DOCA on ovulation and spawning in the skipper frog, Rana cyanophlyctis (SCHN)’ by Dr Appaswamy Rao and Dr H. B. Sarkar, Department of Zoology, University of Mysore, Mysore.
   ‘Endocrine influence on yolk deposition in the insects’ by Dr Maya Menon, Department of Zoology, University College, Trivandrum.
   ‘Study of the normal process of involution of the uterus in Murrha buffalo-cows’ by Dr C. R. Sane, Professor of Obstetrics and Gynaecology, Bombay Veterinary College, Bombay.
   ‘Studies on certain aspects of control of fertility in the bovine female’ by Dr S. N. Lukutke, Indian Veterinary Research Institute, Izatnagar.
   ‘Sterilization of males by scrotal inunction of cadmium chloride’ by Dr A. B. Kar, Assistant Director, Central Drug Research Institute, Lucknow.
   ‘Cytological and cytochemical studies in gametogenesis’ by Dr T. P. Bharadwaj, Department of Pathology and Bacteriology, S.M.S. Medical College, University of Rajasthan, Jaipur.
   ‘Reproductive segments in the kidney of house lizard’ by Dr M. R. M. Prasad and Dr M. K. Sanyal, Department of Zoology, University of Delhi, Delhi.
   ‘Presence of autoantibodies against spermatozoa in the blood of patients having obstruction in the vas deferens’ by Dr A. M. Phadke and Dr K. Padukone, Family Welfare Bureau, Bombay.
   ‘Immunology and reproduction—A. Antigenicity of human testis, sperm and seminal plasma. B. Antibodies in seminal plasma, cervical mucus and serum’ by Dr Seymour Katsh, Associate Professor of Pharmacology, University of Colorado Medical Center, U.S.A.
   ‘Immunological studies with spermatozoa’ by Dr Shanta S. Rao, Reproductive Physiology Unit, Indian Cancer Research Centre, Bombay 12.
   ‘Variations in semen quality in relation to season’ by Dr A. Roy, Professor of Physiology, U.P. Veterinary College, Mathura.
   ‘Protein and nucleic acid metabolism of spermatozoa and its possible biological significance’ by Dr P. M. Bhargava, Dr K. A. Abraham and Dr P. T. Iype, Regional Research Laboratory, Hyderabad.
‘Effect of steroid in the metabolism of spermatozoa in the transformation by semen’ by Dr I. G. White, Department of Veterinary Physiology, University of Sydney, Australia.

‘The distribution pattern of lipids and lipase in the testis and its metabolic significance’ by Dr J. C. George and Dr P. M. Ambadkar, Department of Zoology, M.S. University, Baroda.

‘Effects of distension of vagina and uterus on blood pressure’ by Dr V. V. Subbarao, Department of Physiology, S.M.S. Medical College, Jaipur.

‘Influence of calories and tumour on pregnancy in rats’ by Dr S. K. Roy and Dr J. H. Leatham, Central Drug Research Centre, Lucknow.

‘Some aspects of ovulation in some mammals’ by Dr L. S. Ramaswamy, Department of Zoology, University of Rajasthan, Jaipur.

‘Studies of the mechanisms of decidualization’ by Dr M. C. Shelesnyak, Weizmann Institute of Science, Rehovoth, Israel.

‘Clinical trials with oral contraceptives’ by Dr Margaret Jackson, Mount Jocelyn, Crediont, Devon, England.

‘Effect of norethisterone acetate (Anovlar) on human vaginal epithelium and cervical mucus’ by Dr Shanti Shahani, Endocrinologist, Topiwalla National Medical College and Nair Hospital, Bombay 8.

‘Some experiences with nor-ethynodrel in Indian women—Analysis of 276 cycles in 38 women’ by Dr P. N. Shah, Chief, Endocrinology Group, Indian Cancer Research Centre, Bombay 12.

‘Physiological and clinical aspects of cyclical administration of lynestrol and an estrogen’ by Dr M. N. G. Dukes, Head of Research Bureau, N.V. Organon, Holland.

‘Our trials with oral contraceptives’ by Dr Frank Novak, Klinika Ginekologij o poročenstvo, Univerze V. Ljubljani.

‘A preliminary report on experience with Anovlar’ by Dr R. A. Vaidya and Dr B. N. Purandare, K.E.M. Hospital, Parel, Bombay 12.

‘Effects of the long-term use of ovulation inhibitors on the excretion of ovarian steroids’ by Dr Rodney P. Shearman, Department of Obstetrics, Queen Elizabeth II Research Institute for Mothers and Infants, University of Sydney, Sydney.

‘Clinical trials of approved oral contraceptives’ by Dr Eleanor Mears, Medical Secretary Family Planning Association, London.

‘Oral contraception in Latin America’ by Dr Edris Rice-Wray, Director of Research, Association Mexicana Pro-Bienestar de la Familia, Mexico.

‘Current problems in oral contraception’ by Dr G. R. Venning, G. D. Searle Co., Bucks.

8. 3rd April 1963

Meeting to felicitate Smt. Dhanvanti Rama Rau on her election as President, I.P.P.F., and a forum on ‘Family Planning and Population Control’ at the Green’s Hotel under the joint auspices with The Maharashtra State Family Planning Board, Family Planning Association of India, Indian Medical Association, Demographic Training and Research Centre. Smt. Vijayalakshmi Pandit, Governor of Maharashtra presided. Smt. Avabai B. Wadia, President, Family Planning Association of India, Shri M. D. Chaudhari, Minister of Health, Government of Maharashtra, Dr V. R. Sathe, Vice-Chancellor, Bombay University, Shri G. D. Ambekar, President, Indian National Trade Union Congress (Bombay), Dr C. Chandrasekaran, Director, Demographic Training and Research Centre, Shri Sohrab Godrej, Director, Godrej & Boyce Mfg. Co., Dr Sushila Gore, Medical Officer-in-charge, Family Planning Training and Research Centre, Dr C. L. Jhaveri, President, Bombay Branch, Indian Medical Association gave lectures on the occasion and Dr Shanta Rao proposed a vote of thanks.

9. 30th August 1963

Symposium on ‘Tissue Banks’ at the Birla Matushri Sabha, under joint auspices with the Indian Medical Association, The Indian Red Cross Society, and the Bombay Hospital. Dr C. R. Sane spoke on ‘Preservation of semen’.

10. 12th December 1963

A seminar on ‘Physiology of Reproduction’ at Ahmedabad, under joint auspices with the Federation of Obstetric and Gynaecological Societies of India. The following papers were presented:

‘Chemical induction of ovulation’ by Dr Shanti Shahani.

‘Acceptability and applicability of oral contraceptives in India’ by Dr R. A. Vaidya, Dr M. S. Sanghvi, Dr L. P. Shah and Dr B. N. Purandare.

‘Effect of an oral progestin (Enovid) on corpus luteum function’ by Dr Sabita Sujan.

‘A non-biological test for pregnancy—Analysis of 200 urine samples’ by Dr S. N. Naik and Dr Prabhaker N. Shah.

‘Immunological studies with gonadotrophic hormones’ by Dr Shanta S. Rao and Dr Savitri K. Shahani.
Proceedings

'A study with cervical cap' by Dr B. N. Purandare, Dr Shoba J. Joglekar, Dr A. N. Saraf and Dr P. V. Dandekar.

'A modified Gräfenberg ring for conception control' by Dr M. D. Adatia and Dr S. P. Ravel.

'Observations on the use of Margulies polyethylene intra-uterine contraceptive spiral among women in India' by Dr Sabita Sijan and Dr R. K. Virrick.

11. **2nd January 1964**

   Lecture by Dr Hannah Peters on 'The effect of radiation on the development of the ovaries in mice' at the Indian Cancer Research Centre, Bombay 12.

12. **3rd March 1964**

   Lecture by Dr R. K. Meyer at the Indian Cancer Research Centre, Bombay 12, on 'The effect of oestrogens on the endometrium'.

13. **18th March 1964**

   Talk by Dr T. Hayashida on 'Immunological studies with different pituitary hormones' at the Indian Cancer Research Centre, Bombay 12.