

The current issue marks the completion of first half or 1½ years of the term of the present Journal Committee.

In setting our task and policies at the time of assuming charge of this publication, we consciously defined our role in maintaining the high standard established by previous committees, to enhance the prestige of the Journal amongst the medical publication community and to fulfil the major objectives of publishing communications relevant to the national and your needs. The identification of these tasks and formulating policies have been easy, as these are the usually accepted goals but the fulfillment and achievement of the same has been dauntingly difficult.

The country went through several crises—political, economic, social and so forth—and even though these apparently may not appear to involve us, in actuality these events affected every aspect of successful publication. Publication costs continued to escalate everyday and the economic crunch affected the generation of resources. Restriction on funding by Research Agencies seriously hampered the members' ability to sustain or initiate Research Projects which form the core substance of our Journal.

In spite of the problems inherent with publication, we are happy to inform you that several of our commitments have been fulfilled. These include a change in the format, increase in number of pages, improved print quality and punctuality. Even though the contents of our Journal have remained a subject of intense debate, the quality of publication has been rated to be

amongst the four best in the country by an Indian Council of Medical Research survey which took into account the scientific content, print quality, regularity, indexing, circulation, etc.

The international standing of 'Indian Pediatrics' has also shown a perceptible improvement. Uptil January, 1990 the Journal was being indexed by only three indexing services. At present, it is being indexed by eight including Current Contents and Cumulative Index Medicus. This not only enhances the Journal's prestige but provides an immediate opportunity for citation and recognition of the invaluable work of our contributors.

At one time, we had considered sharing the financial burden with the subscribers and the Academy. However, sustained efforts by our members and the Journal Committee has helped generate adequate funds to keep us viable and also to effect palpable changes in its quality. Publication of monographs of topical interest was an innovative fund raising experiment adopted by us. The tremendous response to the two recent books—'Pediatric and Neonatal Emergencies' and 'Tuberculosis in Children'—has necessitated reprints and prompted us to plan for more such publications.

However, we continue to face problems whose solutions are not in the ambit of the Journal Committee. The publication time of an accepted manuscript still remains long. The articles received for publication are often related to repetitive rather than competitive research. This has resulted in a high rejection rate and also, the need for

repeated editing by the contributors. Leading Indian research work continues to be published in International Journals in preference to our own. We feel that the publication of such scientific work will enhance the Journal's reputation in the International community. In our continued efforts

to improve the Journal's acceptance, we solicit your active support and constructive criticism.

R.K. Puri,
Editor.

H.P.S. Sachdev,
Publication Secretary.