

**THE FEDERATION OF OBSTETRIC & GYNAECOLOGICAL
SOCIETIES OF INDIA**

Presidential Address

By

DR. S. DASGUPTA — President F.O.G.S.I.

At the very outset before assuming the prestigious charge of the President of the Federation of Obstetric & Gynaecological Societies of India, I take this opportunity of reaching you through the medium of our journal to thank each one of you, dear member, for the honour you have done me by asking me to accept this high office. My humility prevents me from making any tall promises or offering any high sounding assurances for the federation. This is on two counts. First, I am not very sure whether my capabilities would match the high expectation that will be shadowing me from the moment I assume charge in this office. Secondly, the tenure of my effectiveness as your President has already been reduced due to very unfortunate circumstances in which we have lost quite a few of our dear colleagues and great stalwarts and therefore, I am acutely aware of the sands of time running out for me to be really very effective. But this is not to say that I will run away from my share of responsibility. I assure you once again that I will do my best and I will draw on the last resources within my treasure to be of some service to our great federation.

Often I have wondered what is the source of my pride in being a member of the federation, why do I feel so proud to identify myself as a member of the federation. The answer is simple. It is because of great stalwarts and trendsetting doyens of our profession who have marched to their glory through the forum of this federation. Even

though I feel that I may measure small compared to the long shadows of glorious contributions they had cast on the horizon of the obstetric and gynaecological world of India I am proud to be basking under the sunshine of their achievements. Another reason why I am so conscious of my membership of the federation, because this federation has provided me the opportunity and occasions to reach out to innumerable member obstetricians and gynaecologists of our country. I consider this experience a rich harvest of my toil in my career as a professional in our country. I have learnt from every member that I met in many conferences, I have added to my experience from every individual and expert that I have come across and had the opportunity of discussing a wide spectrum of problems with them. I have enriched myself by listening to the various deliberations, presentations and contributions in our science coming from the members of our federation. All these make me feel so happy that I once again consider it a great event in my life to be called upon by our members to assume the President's office of our federation.

The question naturally arises as to how can I be worthy of the confidence reposed by all of you on me. My immediate predecessor, Dr. S. N. Daftary, with his untiring and highly imaginative efforts has set such a dynamic pace in the functioning of our federation that it will take some time to catch up with his pace as his successor.

At the moment of my taking charge, there are 17 committees specialised and committed to the numerous areas in our science which need to be given a boost by way of research, promotion of seminars and workshops and by now, you must be pleased to note that these committees are functioning quite effectively in varying degrees. So I consider it my first duty to look after the proper functioning of these committees and stimulate further activities in these bodies. If I am able to return to you by December this year with a satisfactory report of the activities of these committees, I will consider my efforts worthwhile. But at the same time, I feel that we will not extend our undertakings by increasing any more committee in the current session. I only mean that we must set our house in order before we can stretch ourselves to further commitments.

I have a dream. And that dream is to have an institution which would be the fountainhead of knowledge in our profession and remain as a hallmark in the nation's history of medical education. What I am referring to is the newly born Indian College of Obstetricians & Gynaecologists which has been formed under the banner of our federation not very long ago. We remain deeply indebted to the chairman of the ad-hoc committee, Dr. C. L. Jhaveri, whose contributions probably will go down in the history as unparalleled untiring and pace setting, financially and otherwise. Dr. Jhaveri deserves to be credited with the great achievement of consolidating on the grounds which would form the foundation of this great college that would be the greatest gift of our federation to our posterity. But we should not rest on our laurels and my dream is to see this college effectively functioning academically and educationally before I lay down my office and hand over the charge to the President-elect of our next session,

Dr. S. Khandwala. While on this subject I can share my thoughts with you by stating that I wish this college to be considered as one of the institutions in the world to reckon with. This is possible only if we have a good academic council under the leadership of the President, FOGSI, a highly effective examination board dedicated only to elevating the standard of examinations and promotion of talent search. Lastly, the college should be the organisation which would help every member far and wide in our country to avail of a good institution to train himself and herself in any specialised areas of obstetric and gynaecology. Lot of schemes for training and education can be decentralised and our college can take care of the planning.

Before I conclude, ladies and gentlemen, I note with considerable dissatisfaction as much as you do that our country at the turn of this century is still looking out for a standard of health care which should guarantee a safe motherhood and ensure a sound health for the newborns who would be the future citizens of India. Considerable improvement in maternal mortality and perinatal mortality has already taken place in our country in many urban areas but the rural areas still remain in the wilderness of misfortune and tragedy. In many states our members are giving excellent account of themselves by moving out of the metropolis to the periphery and sharing the benefits of the march of science with our unfortunate patients who would otherwise have been in dire straits during their problems arising out of the unsupervised child bearing. But we have to extend the services as much as possible and this can only be done by the various activities of our various committees which should build an effective interface between the custodian and takers of the medical services for our less fortunate citizens of India.