

Foreword

In mid 1956 — a Bulletin from the Kandang Kerbau Hospital was launched under the editorship of Professor Benjamin H. Sheares, MD., MS., FRCOG. In it was described the hope that "This Bulletin will fill the needs of post-graduates who are preparing for the higher examinations in Obstetrics and Gynaecology, and also that it will find enthusiastic acceptance by other readers who have, perforce, to practice these specialities." Professor Sheares also stressed its objectives by the following words: "If this Bulletin faithfully mirrors our progress in our speciality and improves its scientific and editorial standards in the years to come, it must translate this progress into better care for women wherever Obstetrics and Gynaecology are practised in this part of the world. It will then realise the vision of its sponsors and justify the efforts of the many who have helped to bring it into being."

For many reasons beyond control, the Bulletin floundered in 1958. One of the major reasons involved was the departure of the many post-graduates from the shores of the State. The Kandang Kerbau Hospital had suffered a serious set-back because its request for recognition of its training standards for the MRCOG at that time, was turned down by the Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists in London. Because this country had been born into the British Commonwealth, it seemed only right that like its other sisters in the Commonwealth, it should gear its standards (in Medicine in general) and in Obstetrics and Gynaecology in particular, to the prevalent

standards of the United Kingdom; and no one doubts the wisdom of this decision.

Over the past four years, the body of post-graduates who had left the State in 1959 and 1960 staged a return with the speciality diploma of the MRCOG. Some had even done better to acquire also the Fellowship of the Royal Colleges of Surgeons of the United Kingdom. Through their efforts and through the sympathetic understanding and help of the present Administration of the State's Ministry of Health, a phase re-organisation was carried out in the Kandang Kerbau Hospital. The objective was to convince the Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists that this institution was worthy as a post-graduate institution and that its training merits status for the MRCOG examination. The Post-Graduate Committee of the Kandang Kerbau Hospital was formed out of this desire. The year 1963 was a year of joy. The Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists in the United Kingdom graciously granted recognition to this institution and accepted its candidates as worthy to appear for the MRCOG examination. Three assigned posts of the Department of Obstetrics and Gynaecology of the University of Singapore were accorded 24 months recognition, and 6 assigned posts of the Government Units were accorded 18 months recognition. It would mean that Government Units' trainees would have to complete a further 6 months training in the United Kingdom before they appear for the MRCOG examination — a very desirable condition because to send a

candidate abroad merely to take examinations and acquire diplomas would appear to have some short-comings at this time.

The Post-Graduate Committee of the Hospital assists the administration in the total organisation of the Hospital's activities and makes recommendations on major policies involving academic and research. The Committee views one of its principal functions as that of looking after the welfare and interests of all post-graduates who are preparing to read for the Diploma in Obstetrics as well as the Membership Diploma of the Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists. At the same time, it concerns itself with the interests of the Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists to ensure that not only standards of training are maintained but also, improved from year to year. It considers that its functions have become more vital with the political accomplishment of the nation of Malaysia and it hopes to promote objectives as envisaged by Professor Sheares. The decision to revive the Bulletin has been made after much thoughtful deliberations. The aims and objectives of the Bulletin remain unchanged, but the area of influence is to be widened to cover entire Malaysia. The Bulletin is not designed to supplant existing medical journals of Malaysia. Far from it — the purpose is to augment academic publications in the field of the Specialities of Obstetrics, Gynaecology and Neonatal Paediatrics. The

Bulletin gathers publication material from selected notabilities of the aforementioned Specialities. They represent material from series of post-graduate lectures which have been delivered by the notabilities and which had been organised by the Post-Graduate Committee for the benefit not only of the trainees and the entire medical staff of the Hospital, but also members of the Singapore Obstetrical and Gynaecological Society. The post-graduate lectures conducted twice a year viz: from March to June, and again from October to December, are supplemented in turn by the lectures which are given once a month by various personalities to members of the Society, and which have been sponsored either by the Society or the University's Committee of Post-Graduate Studies. It is hoped that the Bulletin as such, will bring to the door-step of the individual member of the Medical Profession in the nation of Malaysia, academic material that doctors and surgeons might not have had the opportunity of hearing.

Acknowledgements

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Editor