

Presidential Message

6th AUSTRALIAN ORTHODONTIC CONGRESS SYDNEY 5th-9th AUGUST 1974

Only as far away in time as it takes to complete a routine full fixed appliance treatment, Melbourne hosted the 5th Australian Orthodontic Congress. It is hard to believe that in little over twelve months the 6th Australian Orthodontic Congress will be in full swing in Sydney. The second number of the A.S.O. Newsletter describes the origin of our congresses which have steadily grown in size and scope. We have come a long way from the few tentative steps of the 1st Australian Orthodontic Congress in Sydney. The rather makeshift facilities of the lecture centre of the 1961 Congress are clearly unsatisfactory and inadequate for our present membership. The Hotel Metropole where we joined in social conviviality is long since demolished, being replaced by the C.A.G.A. centre skyscraper, under periodic construction, opposite the University Club. Dr. Halliday, who threw his Wahroonga home open for an evening's entertainment by the state branch, is now resident in the U.K. The first Stanley Wilkinson Oration was delivered by P. R. Begg during this congress.

For the 6th Australian Orthodontic Congress certain basic questions had to be answered. Firstly to ensure concentrated planning, a special committee was established to prepare for the Congress. The venue was important and the merits of facilities and locations in central Sydney and in nearby centres were considered along with the possibility of holding the meeting afloat cruising to say Fiji or a similar destination. After much investigation the 1st Floor Conference Centre of the Wentworth Hotel, Phillip Street, Sydney was reserved for our exclusive use from Sunday 4th August until Friday 9th August 1974. Winter Sports enthusiasts will know that the snowfields are sixty minutes away from the Congress venue, by plane. They will no doubt be making advance reservations for the skiing season is relatively short and August is peak demand time.

The invitation to the principal lecturer was extended to Dr. Brainerd Swain of Morristown, New Jersey and his acceptance was readily forthcoming. Dr. Swain, well known for his chapter on the Begg Technique in Graber's text is a much sought after lecturer all over the world, as readers of the American Journal of Orthodontics will have seen. Dr. Swain will present four lectures at the Congress and seems keen to make a major contribution to its success.

An honorary member of our Society, Dr. Alex Roche formerly in charge of the growth unit in Melbourne and now of the Fels Research Institute, Ohio, will return to Australia especially to lecture to the Congress on aspects of growth and development.

Other lecturers from Australia and New Zealand will participate. Congress facilities will provide very adequate space for silent clinics which we hope will be filled by special displays, not only by case reports, which nevertheless are welcome. There is barely twelve months time to think, plan, and prepare.

A large display space will be available for a specific trade exhibition, conveniently situated adjacent to the main lecture auditorium. It is planned to have an Open Day — or rather afternoon — when our dental colleagues will be welcome to visit the silent clinics and trade exhibition. Wednesday is also Meeting Day. An early start should allow adequate time for discussion and debate and still permit the other traditional activities of the sports day to proceed.

All in all it promises to be an exciting Congress and one which I hope will bring most of our Society together again for mutual fellowship and scientific advancement.

J.F.R.