

Seënwense

Season's Greetings

Die Redakteur, Bestuurder en Personeel

The Editor, Manager and Staff

van die

of the

Suid-Afrikaanse Mediese Tydskrif

South African Medical Journal

wens u

extend to you

'n geseënde feesgety

the compliments of the season

en 'n voorspoedige nuwe jaar toe

and best wishes for the coming year

Hierdie Uitgawe : Kwashiorkor

Wanvoeding in al sy fasette is so 'n uiters belangrike probleem dat ons graag hierdie hele uitgawe van ons Voedingsbylaag aan dié onderwerp wy. Nie slegs in Suid-Afrika nie, maar ook in die buiteland is daar 'n toenemende gewaarwording van die langtermyn-effekte van kinderwanvoeding en ondervoeding. Die saak kan nie net vanuit die oogpunt van voedingsvoorligting en voedselverskaffing benader word nie—die toekomsgevolge van foutiewe kindervoeding moet gedurig voor oë gehou word.

Die twee omvattende artikels wat in hierdie uitgawe verskyn, verteenwoordig langtermyn-studies

oor kwashiorkor in Suid-Afrika en ons het geen twyfel dat iedere leser daar waarde uit sal kan put nie. Die huisarts op die platteland en veral in die tuislande wat voortdurend met gevalle van kwashiorkor te doen kry, het in hierdie **Tydskrif** 'n oorsigsblik wat hom in staat sal stel om sy eie benadering tot die probleem pragmaties te beplan. Owerhede wat belas is met die verskaffing van byvoeding of die daarstelling van klinieke om die saak die hoof te bied, kan in hierdie uitgawe 'n samevatting vind van die langtermyn-effekte van enige beleidsrigting wat hulle wil instel.

Benevolence at Christmas

This issue of the **Journal** appears on Christmas Day and, whatever our religion, a spirit of companionship and goodwill prevails. With the end of the year in sight we will also have that moment of quiet meditation—however fleeting it may be. To the host of inspiring thoughts and worthwhile causes that will flash before the 'inward eye', we would like to add the Benevolent Fund of the Medical Association.

The organization and administration of this fund is one of the special services rendered by the Association to its members and their dependants. With 'peace on earth' in mind, we do not want to touch on the present discussion of doctors' incomes, but simply want to remind our colleagues and others that, strange as it may sound, a doctor, his widow or his dependants can be left in necessitous circumstances. For these people the Benevolent Fund is an important source of additional help.

The Benevolent Fund is a registered Welfare Organization (No. 910), but no appeal for support is made to the public, nor is this considered the right thing to do. To care for necessitous colleagues and their dependants is our right and privilege and it has been so since the days of Hippocrates. The Fund was established to combine our efforts and to direct assistance to the most deserving cases.

At present the Fund is being administered on the following lines: the capital of the Fund is invested and the interest on this money, and an equal amount from the contributions made to the Fund in the course of every year, are used to pay grants to the beneficiaries of the Fund. Grants are made by the Federal Council, each recommendation being carefully scrutinized. Although the dependants of deceased members of the Association are given preference, help is sometimes afforded to the dependants of those who were not members of the Association.

To those who have made regular donations and contributions in the past, we express our sincere thanks. We are also indebted to branches who have made special efforts to raise money for the

Fund. The lists of donations published during the year in the **Journal** show that these are not hollow words. To those who have not yet spared a thought (or a rand!) for the Fund, we would like to stress the following:

In order to be able to help as many dependants as possible, it is necessary to build up the capital amount continuously. The four main sources of income to the Fund are:

1. Donations by persons or groups contributed to the Fund from time to time. No contribution is too small to be welcome; it is literally true that every little helps.

2. Contributions to the Fund are sometimes made 'in memoriam', i.e. in lieu of wreaths or other tributes. In this case a suitably worded votive card is sent to the next-of-kin.

3. Contributions are often made to the Fund 'for services rendered' by one practitioner to another. In this case an acknowledgement card is sent to the doctor who has rendered the service, indicating that his assistance has been appreciated.

4. Bequests are naturally always welcome as an additional source of income to the Fund.

To facilitate the mechanics of making a contribution, a special booklet resembling a cheque book has been prepared. By filling in a form in this booklet a prospective contributor can indicate whether he wishes to make a contribution for 'services rendered', 'in memoriam', or whether he desires to bequeath something to the Benevolent Fund. It might be advisable to keep this booklet, which can be obtained from the Secretary of the Association, P.O. Box 1521, Pretoria, in a drawer of a desk so that it is available whenever it is needed to help others through the medium of the Benevolent Fund of the Association.

At this time of the year we appeal to all individual members of the Association and to all Branches and Divisions to do everything in their power to support this Fund. Without exaggeration the simple fact is that more money is needed to enable the Committee entrusted with the administration of the Fund to discharge its responsibilities.
