

## EDITORIAL

**T**HE Dental Journal is gradually evolving into a publication of acceptable standard though much area has to be covered with regard to accomodating within its columns provision for artwork and photographs. Any Journal which professes to be scientific must establish facilities for the same. The TDA does not have any income generating activit es. This needs to be explored. Its financial standing is propped up through advertisements from private companies and institutions. While it is quite in order to have the oft repeated phrase — 'foreign exchange constraints' — as an explanation from the Central Bank for its inability to bring into Tanzania Dental equipment and materials which could be beneficial to the nation as a whole, the allocation of a few thousand shillings as subvention from the Ministry of Health towards organisation of a Scientific Conference which has to cater for the needs of at least 150 delegates from all over the country is most inadequate. Surely, the Associations deserve more substantial amount of Tanzanian money in Tanzania. One can only hope and pray that with inflation and rising cost of living the Ministry will carve out more reasonable amounts for the Associations in form of subvention when the annual budget is planned. This would ensure rapport, confidence as well as a motivation between the associations and the Ministry.

The social function-organ'sed at the end of the closing ceremony at the Msimbazi community centre — despite Dr. Lweno's address about DECENCY and DECORUM turned out to be a drinking bout for many. Drinking within limits may seem proper but inebriation cannot be condoned. While the social evening is set aside for merrymaking it does not mean members should abandon their 'sense of values' and indulge in excesses. Self-control and discipline must be exercised at all levels of private and public conduct.

While the TDA, as per the convention laid down by its past Chairman and Executive Committee in the preceeding five annual general meetings, has inflated itself with the glory of formulating recommendations and resolutions, the implementation of the same has not been realised over the years. The convention of holding a meet'ng of Executive Committee of the TDA at the fag end of the year with the Ministry of Health in order to discuss the mechanics of implementation has not borne concrete results if the previous five meetings are to serve as an indicator. The Ministry of Health is fully aware of the needs of the Dental Cadre in the country. The 'bone of contention' at all Annual General Meet'ngs of the TDA is the matter centring around the issue of promotions of the Dental Cadre. If the needs of the Dental profession are fulfilled within an agreeable time-frame they will serve as an incentive and boost the morale of all dental cadre in the country. A solution in this particular context would prove to be a great encouragement for the dental personnel and create a climate conducive to better dental health care delivery in the country. The members have already had a fill of their recommendations and resolutions. "History is simply a piece of paper covered with print; the main thing is still to make history, not to write it". It is time we have meaningful action.

— Dr. K. S. GUPTA

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FACTS DO NOT CEASE TO EXIST BECAUSE THEY ARE IGNORED. — ALDOUS HUXLEY

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