

60 Years of Assorted Curiosities



INDULGE

In addition to serious medical and academic topics, *SMA News* has always held space for content of a more light-hearted nature as well. As part of our commemoration of the newsletter's 60 years, we have thus curated a wide selection of past snippets, ranging from medical humour columns to travel advertisements, to share with readers a peek into the ever-changing cultural zeitgeist of our long history. ♦



Advertising for antihistamines in 1996



As if mini-skirts were not enough, these luminous garters have been designed by Major Frederick Cook, Burnmouth's road safety officer, so that shoplifter legs - and the girls above - can be seen by motorists in the dark.

Fashion and road safety intersected in 1969 with this advertisement for luminous garters

Humour Column

Dr. Vincent G.K. Ng

My class-mate, Ong Bong Chong, hails from a kampong in Ulu Tangkak. He was invited to his first Western meal at the Hilton Hotel.

After the main course, the captain asked: "Would you like a sweet, Sir?" "Yes, Hacks please," replied Ong Bong Chong.

A passing American tourist saw a Sikh lying on his Charpoy. His curiosity was stirred.
"Are you relaxing?" the tourist asked.
"No Sir, I'm Balwant Singh" was the reply.

Dr Lim had a most unusual request one day from a patient.

"Doc, can you give me some pills to make me smart."

"Sure, take these pills three times a day and you will get smart," replied Dr Lim.

Some days later, the patient came back. "Doc, I'm still not smart."

"Take more of these pills," said Dr Lim.

Some time later again. The patient came back and said, "Doc, are you sure you are not giving me a placebo?"

"Ah, now you are smarter," was the rejoinder.

Light laughter from the July/August 1979 issue

Now twice a week to Mauritius



With flights on Monday and Saturday, we're making it twice as easy to reach the magic of Mauritius. And, with its superb natural beauty and vibrant night life, Mauritius promises to be the best of both worlds.

And now there's a choice of flights from Singapore on Saturday and Monday, and from Kuala Lumpur on Monday. So it's twice as easy to fly on to the magical Continent of Africa.

See your favourite travel agent or call us in Singapore Tel: 22220333 Kuala Lumpur Tel: 23876888.

AIR MAURITIUS

and on to Africa.

COLOMBO • DELHI • LONDON • MADRAS • MUMBAI • NEW DELHI • PARIS • PORT BLAIR • SINGAPORE • THIRUVANANTHAPURAM • TRIVANDRUM • ZAMBIA • ZIMBABWE

Airline advertisement promoting exotic destinations in 1988

SMA Supports Metrication

The S.M.A. lends its support to the Metrication Board in its "Think Metric" campaign. We believe that the time has come for some kind of uniformity in weights and measures, and that the metric system is simpler as compared to the British Imperial system.

The lack of a uniform system only leads to confusion and generates unnecessary problems. The British fluid ounce is smaller than the corresponding U.S. unit, whereas other British units of capacity are larger than their corresponding units.

Metrication affects those in the medical profession in two aspects of their work - prescription, and measurement of human beings.

As far as prescription is concerned, a slow change-over to the

metric system began about a decade ago. Tablets and mixtures now come in metric measures. Quite a number of syrups, for example, come with spoons which measure 5 ml. (or 5 c.c.). The British apothecaries liquid measures - the drachm and the grain - have since disappeared from the scene.

As to the measurement of human beings, doctors should get used to the idea of expressing heights and weights in metric. How many of us can tell offhand our weights and heights in metric units? Which of these figures would you say express your approximate height 1.75m.? or 91 cm.? or 3.6m.? To find out whether you are correct please check with the conversion table on the centre page of the Metrication Board's booklet which comes free with this issue of the Newsletter.

The temperature conversion table on the third last page is not as useful as a doctor would wish. However we have to bear in mind that the booklet is not published specially to suit the purpose of

those in the medical profession, but for the general public. The conversion table gives only the corresponding temperature for every 5° interval on both the Fahrenheit and Centigrade Scales. A conversion table at 1° intervals and 0.5°C interval is compiled below to suit our purpose:-

°F	°C	°C	°F
95	35.00	35.0	95.0
96	35.56	35.5	95.9
97	36.11	36.0	96.8
98	36.67	36.5	97.7
99	37.22	37.0	98.6
100	37.78	37.5	99.5
101	38.33	38.0	100.4
102	38.89	38.5	101.3
103	39.44	39.0	102.2
104	40.00	39.5	103.1

Compiled by the SMA Secretariat

Doctors also have to adjust themselves to "think metric" outside their profession. Tide tables will from 1st January, 1972 be expressed in metric; our speedometers and speed limits on the roads will in time be expressed in kilometers;

and when garment sizes go metric, please make sure you get the dress size of your wife or girl before you drop into a shop to buy her something. It can be very embarrassing if you have to describe to the sales assistant that "she is about your height but maybe 2 inches broader all round."

With this Newsletter comes a car-sticker "Metric is Simpler", again from the Metrication Board. The SMA appeals to Members to display the stickers.

Nationwide adoption of the metric system was no easy feat in the 1970s!