Health and Medical World at a Turning Point

It is now well understood that health science and medical practice are at a turning point in both underdeveloped and developed countries. The former countries are still suffering from severe environmental pollutions and prevailing infectious diseases while the latter have serious problems with increasing incidences of and death rates from chronic diseases such as cancers, circulatory and metabolic diseases, although the Japanese people, seem to be enjoying a high standard of living and remarkable longevity.

On the other hand is the issue of growing mental health problems as we have been losing the feeling of fulfillment in daily life and at the workplace. Attention must also be paid to allergic diseases because an increasingly large number of people suffer from them, resulting in a decrease in the quality of life, and because increasing understanding of the mechanism of sensitization to allergens has overturned the existing preventive theory of maximum permissible dose in environmental and occupational health.

We all know that these ineluctable, intractable problems can never be resolved by workers in a single or even a few scientific and professional fields, but that comprehensive approaches in environmental/occupational health and social/preventive medicine, will make a great contribution to developing well-balanced, humane solutions. Incorporating all these academic and professional subjects into the comprehensive scope of its activity, the Japanese Society for Hygiene, one of the oldest medical societies in Japan, has been publishing its official journal, the Japanese Journal of Hygiene, since its establishment.

The editorial board members further intend to publish original and review articles written in English in the new official journal, Environmental Health and Preventive Medicine, in order to present the results of our research and practice to a wider, international readership. We also invite graduate students and young researchers to send us original papers, and we will be happy to help them improve their research ability. The longest journey begins with a single step. This is also true with our new journal. Much depends on the eagerness of the members of the Society.

The Western and Eastern Worlds have almost completely different conceptual paradigms in understanding of health, environment, mankind and nature. We hope all the academics and professionals in these and related fields make use of this journal to promote academic quality in both Western and Eastern cultures. We profoundly believe that such communication will lead to increased understanding of the above mentioned themes in the health and medical world and to solutions to the many serious problems facing us today.

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