

SALUTE TO A PIONEER

Someone has remarked that truly great men are not those in whose presence you feel small but those whose presence elevates you to a level higher than what you truly are. Such great men are rare and the combination of a great man and a pioneer rarer still. I have in mind such a man who is also one of the founders and ex-President of the cardiac society Dr. Shauket Ali Syed, who retires from the directorship of the only established cardiac institution of this country—an institute that he built literally from ground upwards.

If one looks at cardiology as it is in Pakistan today, one can clearly see Dr. Syed's impact. The only epidemiologic works available in the country are his brainchild. Many prominent and well-trained cardiologists came back to Pakistan only because of Dr. Syed's encouragement and tolerance of fiery young blood and finding a place for them in The Institute. All of them, even those not in The Institute, are making contributions to the health care of this country. The Institute itself is a marvel of health care delivery and sophistication in our generally backward country.

Now that he is not the director, The Institute is poorer by his absence. But, The Institute has been built wisely and on secure foundations by a dedicated staff and will keep up the traditions of being pioneer and pace-setter that were established during Dr. Syed's tenure.

EDITOR