

This Conference shows that ideological differences can be dissolved where there is a will and a willingness to do so when the purpose is human suffering.

Sir William Osler, the great Canadian doctor and philosopher, fifty years ago summed up world problems in these words:

"Humanity has but three great enemies: fever, famine and war. Of these, by far the greatest, by far the most terrible, is fever."

These enemies have still to be mastered although much has been done in the prevention or alleviation of human ills. The medical profession, in a professional co-operation among all nations, has swept aside the barriers of geography or political philosophy.

In plans such as the Colombo Plan and the like, countries have joined to remove the threat of famine and to raise their economic standards everywhere in the world.

However, in the field of International relations many nations of the world have not yet learned the need of world co-operation to the end that war will be prevented and peace assured.

The attainment of peace rests not on statesmen and politicians, but on all of the people of every country, and in gatherings such as this a worthwhile contribution is made to the establishment of a climate of peace through understanding, co-operation and tolerance.

The almost limitless march of science in the last few decades, fostered in a consciousness of human brotherhood which transcends national boundaries, has achieved miracles for mankind in this century.

The great paradox of this age is that the developing social consciousness at work in medical science and in such institutions as the World Health Organization, and in the international schemes to assist the economic development of under-developed nations, has not been matched in the realm of political relations.

No Alternative

Furthermore, the march of science while dethroning disease and famine as the most terrible scourges of man has raised war to the first of the evils confronting mankind. It has been truly said that there is now no alternative to negotiation and no alternative to peace. War is no longer a scourge but the instrument of annihilation.