

Only three weeks after my return from Geneva I had an invitation to one of the prestigious Ciba Symposia, the 85th, and the first to be held in conjunction with an Ethiopian Foundation, in Adis Abeba. It was also unique that I received an invitation as a member of the press to one of these usually private Symposia. [See Title 97]

After six months as Science Correspondent, a certain routine had developed in spite of the daily new aspects of science which I had to report, explain and comment for the general public, the readership of the newspaper I served. I arrived at my office at about 10 o'clock, a very early hour for most journalists, coming by Landrover from my flat in Hanover Terrace. Daily parking was then no difficulty in a multi-storey park house and very cheap.

I found on my desk not only the normal mail, but already many other news items which had arrived overnight by telegram from abroad. They came from the great news agencies to which the *Daily Telegraph* subscribed. Apart from the standard English ones, like Reuters and Associated Press, there were the American and Commonwealth Agencies whose items, in the opinion of the Foreign Editor and his staff, were of scientific merit. Not all were important and many ended in my huge wastepaper basket, 1 m high and 50 cm diameter.

I also received a large number of press releases from industry and government organisations who thought that they might be publishable by a science correspondent. Later on, the European Universities, following the American example, also issued their quota of news releases, which I often found really worthwhile. It was a daily chore to sort them all out, and to evaluate the invitations which I received to press conferences and press visits. If it was a notice of a scientific conference I received, and I thought it might yield interesting material for the newspaper, I would just attend it, if it was in London or England. I would of course inform the News Editor of this fact and warn him that there might be a story for next day's paper.

If the conference took place abroad, and travel expenses were involved, I would discuss it with the Foreign Editor, Mr Ricky Marsh, and he would either give, or withhold, his blessing. Expenses were always submitted on a weekly basis and paid in cash, as the sums were relatively small. For entertainment at my Club, the Savile Club, there was never any question of whom I entertained. They were invariably scientists from whom I either hoped to receive information immediately, or possibly later, in which case he, never she, would be classed as a 'contact', a much used expression by all journalists for the justification of a lunch. I doubt if this has changed.