

## PROBLEMS OF SEX IN GENERAL PRACTICE

### WELCOME

**Dr J. J. Sheehan, M.B., B.Ch., B.A.O.N.U.I. (*Provost, East of Ireland Faculty*)**

**I**T IS my pleasant duty to introduce to you the chairman of the symposium, Dr Stafford-Clark, consultant psychiatrist of York Clinic, Guy's Hospital, London, whom you all know already in various ways. Dr Stafford-Clark will explain to you the manner of running this symposium and the methods by which questions can be asked, and I propose immediately to vacate this chair and hand over to him.

**Dr Stafford-Clark;** Provost, ladies and gentlemen, first of all we bid you welcome. I do this in my role as chairman; I am not your host. The Geigy Pharmaceutical Company Limited, the Council of College of Ireland and Trinity College are collectively our hosts, and we are all very grateful to them. You may ask, perhaps, whether the title of this conference is one which you would have chosen. We have chosen it because 'problem', although a much overused word, is the right word for the kind of thing we are talking about. We are not talking about perfect sexual relationships, perfect understanding and perfect fulfilment, although that is the aim of every human being one way or another; we are talking about things that go wrong for one reason or another, and you might pause for a moment to ask why the most fundamental human act of creation and renewal of human life should be so apt to go wrong in so many ways and for so many reasons. This is one of the things underlying this conference which we want to try to tackle honestly. Fear and hope characterize the average person's attitude to sex before, during and after experiences of it.