

News and Notes

PMDC TO DISCUSS MEDICAL ETHICS

The Fifty Fifth Session of the Pakistan Medical and Dental Council was held on 14 and 15 April 1979 at Hotel Intercontinental, Karachi, which was attended in addition to others by the Director General Health, Government of Pakistan, Director General Medical Services, Army Medical Corp, Provincial Health Secretaries, the Dean of the Medical Faculties of all the Universities, Principals of all the Medical/Dental Colleges in Pakistan, Representatives of the registered medical Practitioners from all the three Provinces, etc.

The Council disposed off a heavy agenda which included taking stock of the medical education in the country, approval of the Regulations for the appointment of Professors, Associate and Assistant Professors in Medical/Dental Colleges, consideration of the inspection reports of the undergraduate and postgraduate Medical/Dental Institutions inspected during the last six months by the inspection team of the Council for the purpose of recognition of the degrees like MBBS, MDS, M. Phil, etc., revision of code of medical ethics.

CONVENTION OF FAMILY PHYSICIANS

A convention of family physicians is proposed to be held this year. To organise the same it is initially proposed to invite involved and interested doctors from all over the country in small number as nucleus of an organising committee.

They will be expected to identify the problems, suggest their solution and follow up as well as suggest format, venue, content, timing and other details for this most important conference.

All family physicians whatever their affiliation if they believe in better status, importance and interested in the affairs of general practitioners are most welcome to send in their proposals, suggestion or criticism on the subject at their earliest convenience. We are faced with a critical period and struggle for survival complacency may prove suicidal.

Courses in chest diseases are radiology for members of the College of Family Medi-

cine will be held from 10th April, 1979. Registration to attend these courses are invited on first come first served basis. The seats are limited. All enquiries to be directed to college office at PMA House between 3-6 p.m. week days.

GLOBAL DRIVE TO OUT DISEASES

A worldwide drive to ensure that by 1990 all children will be immunized in infancy against the six major childhood communicable diseases has been launched by the World Health Organization.

Similar to the remarkably successful effort to wipe out smallpox, the programme aims to establish universal procedures which would ensure the routine vaccination of children in even the most remote villages of Africa, Asia, Latin America, and other areas. The six target diseases are diphtheria, pertussis, tetanus, measles, polio and tuberculosis.

While the diseases are now infrequent in the major industrialized nations, they continue to kill some five million children a year in the underdeveloped countries where only 10 per cent of the 80 million babies born there annually are immunized, says Dr. Ralph Henderson, in charge of the WHO programme. Another five million are handicapped for life with such complications as blindness, deafness, and mental retardation.

The WHO drive is not a crash campaign, Dr Henderson emphasized, but an attempt to build a continuing system for the vaccination of all babies during their first year, according to standard immunization schedules. Nevertheless, it is unlikely any of the diseases will be eradicated in the near future, he said.

A major problem will be preventing tetanus, Dr. Henderson said, which in some areas kills one in ten of all newborns. Unsanitary practices, such as the ritualistic smearing of the umbilicus with cow dung in some cultures, play a major role. One way around it, he suggested, would be to immunize the mother prepartum, so that she passes on her immunity to the child.