

MEDICAL CURRICULUM REVIEWED

Pages with reference to book, From 196 To 198

The 57th two day session of the Pakistan Medical and Dental Council considered measure relating to medical education system and other relevant problems. The council reviewed curriculum for undergraduates examination-system of Medical students; organisation of various department in medical colleges; regulation for the appointment of professors, Associates Professors, and Assistant Professors in the undergraduate and postgraduate colleges; procedure for admission into the medical and Dental colleges and control of quackery etc.

The Council also finalised recommendations to improve the system of Medical and dental education in the country and control of quackery in its concluding session.

The council also considered the inspection reports of undergraduates and post-graduate medical institutions inspected during the last six months by the inspection team of the Medical Council which includes, Punjab Medical College Faisalabad, National Institute of Cardiovascular Diseases Karachi, Chandka Medical College, Larkana, Dental Section of Liaquat Medical College, Hyderabad, Dow Medical College, Karachi, Quaid-e-Azam Medical College Bhawal-pur, and Army Medical College, Rawalpindi.

The Council session was attended by the Director General Health, Government of Pakistan, Surgeon General Army Medical Corps, Representative of Army Dental Crops, Secretaries of Health Departments.

PAED SURGERY 3RD MOOT

Third National Conference of Paediatric Surgery is proposed to be held at Multan on November, 27-28. Further information can be obtained from Prof. Abdul Hameed, Chairman of the Conference c/o. Department of Paediatric Surgery, Nishtar Medical College, Multan.

BCG INJECTION AS MALE CONTRACEPTIVE

BCG, vaccine which has been used against tuberculosis may be effective as a male contraceptive.

This has been stated by Prof. G.P. Talwar of the All India Institute of Medical Sciences after a series of experiments.

Experiments involving a single intra-testicular injection of BCG into dogs and rams had eliminated sperm production in about four to six weeks and the effect lasted about eight to nine months.

Prof. Talwar and his team are stated to be trying to establish whether the vaccine could be used safely in men and whether the process could be reversed at will when required.

AUSTRIAN DOCTOR DEVELOPS PROCESS TO MEASURE BLOOD FLOW

Arteriosclerosis-in the vernacular "hardening of the arteries"-is a civilization disease which is increasing and responsible by no means least for the rising number of strokes. Research into its causes is therefore incessant although hitherto it has remained without palpable success. Now a young Austrian scientist has hit on a development that could lead this research along new paths.

Dr. Gerd Riha, of the Institute for Generic Electrotechnology, a department of the Technical University Vienna (Principal, Dr. Fritz Paschke) has evolved a process with whose help the flow of blood in the vessels can be measured from outside the body quickly, innocuously, and exactly.

The method's great advantage is that it requires no operation and can therefore be applied bloodlessly. Its principle is identical with radar measurement where the rays emitted by objects are reflected and then intercepted again.

The time taken between emission and interception of the supersonic waves permits a conclusion as to the thickness of a blood vessel. "Bombard" the erythrocytes diagonally and, allowing for the Doppler effect, their speed can be calculated.

With these kind of tests it is hoped soon to establish whether arteriosclerosis is the result of an

abnormal, pathological flow of blood into the vessels or whether such only ensues in consequence of an existent hardening of the arteries.

NEW WHO PUBLICATION

Environmental Health Criteria 14: Ultraviolet radiation. Published under the joint sponsorship of the United Nations Environment Programme, the World Health Organization and the International Radiation Protection Association, Geneva, World Health Organization, 1979 (ISBN 92 N 154074 5). 110 pages. Price: Sw.fr. 10.-. French edition in preparation.

Exposure to ultraviolet radiation (UVR) occurs from both natural and artificial sources. The sun is the principal natural source. Artificial sources are widely used in industry and, because of its germicidal properties, UVR is also used in hospitals, laboratories and schools. It has a therapeutic application for prevention of vitamin D deficiency, the treatment of skin diseases, and cosmetic purposes. Artificial UVR sources are available as consumer products. The migration of people between areas of different UVR exposure levels, for occupational or recreational reasons, gives rise to unforeseen exposure. Exposure to natural UVR may be increased owing to possible depletion of the stratospheric ozone layer. The effects of UVR on man may be beneficial or detrimental. Beneficial effects include UVR's important role in the synthesis of Vitamin D in the body, and subsequent effects on mineral metabolism. Its harmful effects involve primarily the skin and eyes and it is considered as a precursor of malignant skin tumours, squamous cell carcinoma of the conjunctiva, and cataract.

The volume is based primarily on evaluation of original publications and reviews; the references to these are contained in a bibliography of some 300 items. Following a summary of the major issues and recommendations for further study, the subjects covered include the properties and measurements of UVR, its biological effects, and beneficial and harmful health effects on man. The book provides an evaluation of the health risks to man and finally describes the range of exposure limits to UVR, existing protection and control measures such as containment of UVR sources, and methods for personal protection.

The report was prepared by experts from various countries and international organizations, and takes into consideration comments received from national institutions collaborating with the WHO Environmental Health Criteria Programme, and from the United Nations Environment Programme, the International Labour Organisation, the World Meteorological Organization, and the International Atomic Energy Agency.

The publication will be of interest to departments of health, housing and town planning, occupational health and the environment, to dermatologists and oncologists, to national regulatory agencies, and to public health workers.