

## LET DOCs GO ABROAD-PMDC

Pages with reference to book, From 218 To 219

The Pakistan Medical and Dental Council has strongly favoured the lifting of restrictions on doctors' going abroad and asked the federal government to abolish the system of "no objection certificate" restrictions, the council noted, will become irrelevant because doctors will be in surplus throughout Pakistan after about two years.

The Council adopted the recommendation at its two-day 58th session held under the Chairmanship of Dr. Habib Patel, President of the Council, early this month in Karachi.

The Council observed that Pakistan was now producing 5,400 doctors every year and after 1982 only 500 doctors would be required for Government and district hospitals and health centres in the country. The Army Medical College will be producing its own medical graduates by that time.

The Council took note of the fact that the Indian doctors were replacing the Pakistani doctors in the Middle East countries and according to reports from various officials and commercial sources, they were doing a lot of anti-Pakistan propaganda and creating goodwill for India in the absence of Pakistani doctors.

Under these circumstances, the abolition of the system of issuing NOC to doctors and allowing them to go to Middle East or anywhere they like, has become more imperative.

### **MEASURING SMOKE IN THE ATMOSPHERE**

When air is drawn through a filter-paper, smoke particles suspended in the air are retained on the paper, forming a stain. "Smoke" is considered to include particles of roughly 10  $\mu\text{m}$  diameter or less. The density of the stain depends partly on the mass of smoke particles collected and partly on the nature of the smoke. The concentration of smoke in the atmosphere can be estimated by drawing a known volume of air through a filter-paper and measuring the density of the resulting stain with a photoelectric reflectometer. Usually, about 2  $\text{m}^3$  of air are sampled per day. A calibration curve relating the density of the filter stain to the weight of smoke particles deposited on the filter-paper has been established for "standard urban smoke". Thus the concentration of smoke per unit volume of air can be calculated and expressed in terms of the "standard smoke" equivalent.

### **NO ASPIRIN DURING PREGNANCY'**

Women should not take aspirin during pregnancy because the drug could cause 'blue babies'-children suffering from a shortage of oxygen in the blood, a Canadian specialist warned.

Dr. Richard Row, Director of Paediatric Cardiology at Toronto's hospital for sick children, told a medical conference that the evidence that aspirin caused sometimes fatal condition was incomplete.

"But the red flag is up as far as I am concerned. On the evidence before us it would be unwise for women to take aspirin at any time during pregnancy until we get further clarification," said Row.

Row was addressing the World Congress of Paediatric Cardiology, attended by some 1,000 specialists in children's Heart and lung disease.

### **BOOK ON MEDICINAL PLANTS**

Pakistan Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (PCSIR) has published a book 'Compendium of Medical Plants'. The book has been edited by M. Ikram and S. Fazal Hussain of the Natural Drugs and Fine Chemicals Division of PCSIR Laboratories, Peshawar.

The publication carries a detailed survey of the commonly available medicinal plants all over the country with their generic as well as local names and the diseases for which they are commonly used in folk medicines. One section of the book provides the details of chemical constituents carried by a number of these plants along with authenticated references of concerned research papers already published in this connection.

The survey also indicates that a large number of medicinal plants are being imported, thereby incurring

huge foreign exchange expenditure while there is a great potential for either cultivation or regeneration and propagation of these plants in the country. The examples of countries like China and Nepal are cited in this section to show the boost provided by these plants to the national economies of these countries.