

HEALTH CENTRES

THESE are exciting days in the Health Centres for many reasons.

Firstly, schemes are now in action which will lead to the eventual Bahrainisation of the Medical Service. On 1st September, the initial cohort joined the Family Practice Residency Programme, from which the members should be accredited by A.U.B. as Junior Family Physicians in August 1982. The pioneers are Dr. Fawzi A. Ameen, Dr. Tawfiq A. A. Najeeb, Dr. Kadhim J. Al Halwachi, Dr. Amal I. Salamah and Dr. Abdul Hamed Alwahdi. These were joined by two doctors, recently recruited to the Health Centre Staff and especially selected for the Programme, Dr. George Edwar and Dr. Ahmed Abdul Gaffar.

At the same time, Dr. Hassan Ibrahim Al Aradi was welcomed back from his sojourn in Dublin to join the Programme on a short term Fellowship. If proposed plans are implemented, he and a number of the present Health Centre Doctors, who already have over 8 years experience in the Health Centres, will be taking the Accreditation Test in 1980.

Longer term, a Vacation Course in Primary Health Care for Bahraini Medical Students was organised in the Health Centres from 15th July — 12th August 1979. The Students on this Course were :-

Jamal Khalil Al Haddad, Juma

Chief of Staff Impression

By Dr. E. Cotter*

Ali A.A. Juffairi, Moh'd Jaffar Al Mutawa Salman, Ali Abdul Ouder Moh'd, Faisal Jaffar Al Mahroos, Abdulrahman Ali Sagar, Abdusaheb Ahmad Abdulla, Ahmed Hassan Dhaif, Hassan Ibrahim Sahkuri, Hussain Moh'd Hassan Rahmah, Zalika Mahmoud Al Mubaty, Raga Hassan Kadum, Leyla M. Mohammad, Moza Rasheid Ahmed and Mona Bahzad.

From this number, a high proportion who attended the post Course Assessment indicated the Family Practice Residency Programme as their first choice career on completing their Internship. We look forward to welcoming them back to the Health Centres in due course.

The next most exciting event in the Health Centres was the introduction of the Hypertension Flow Sheet, which started on 1st October, by means of which the standards of care of Hypertension in the Health Centres will be audited. Preceding the introduction of this Flow Sheet, the stan-

dards of care were carefully worked out by a Group of Health Centre Doctors and discussed with all the doctors concerned. The Administrative and Nursing Staff are co-operating closely in the team work to manage the maintenance and audit of the scheme. What a difference it will make to be able to look at a patient's Blood Pressure Readings on a graph form, rather than turning over pages and pages of old notes to try and estimate the current situation.

The usual fortnightly Group Case Discussion Meetings have continued without pause for all the Health Centre Doctors and covered such wide ranging topics as, 'A Patient with Symptoms Referrable to the Pelvis,' 'A Diabetic Patient' and 'Looking at Drug Firm Advertisements Critically'. The fortnightly Sunday Noon Lectures for all at Ibn Sinna H.C. Health Education Hall have concentrated on Primary Health Care Subjects of, 'Screening in Primary Care', 'The Consultation' and 'Prescribing for Peptic Ulcers'.

The Intensive Group of Tutors continued to meet fortnightly until the start of the Family Practice Residency Programme and the projects, on 'Organisms in Sore Throats' at Ibn Sinna and 'Dip Slide Inoculum in Cystitis at Ibn Sinna, Sh. Salman and Jidhafs Health Centres, continue.

Journal Clubs have also started at the three above named Health

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Centres and in the School Clinics. Three quarters of the order for Books on Family Practice, ordered at the doctors personal expense, have arrived in reasonable time from Oxford and we await the remaining quarter. Meanwhile the Chief of Medical Staff and his Deputy continue to assist those doctors, whom the statistics arriv-

ing at the Directorate show to be having difficulties, on subjects needing a more personal approach.

The school holiday period coinciding with Ramadan this year put a very heavy strain on those doctors remaining in Bahrain this summer. Segregation of the sexes of those attending the Health Centres has added a further bur-

den. Despite this, spirits remain high and we look forward to the visit of Dr. Graham Curtis Jenkins, WHO, to study the problems involved in extending the Child Development Assessment Programme in the M.C.H. Areas. □□