

BOOKS AND REVIEWS

return for payment other than those arising from their official duties. They are, however, permitted to take charge of, or work in, a general hospital in their district.

A physician who practises in a district which does not possess a pharmacy may supply medicaments to his patients in conformity with the provisions of Law No. 30 of 29 April 1963 with regard to the sale of pharmaceutical products.

Mecca pilgrimage, *World Health, Geneva, August-September 1967.*

The Mecca pilgrimage is open to all Moslems who desire to fulfil their religious obligations and no one is denied entry for health reasons. But the pilgrims are subject to health control on arrival at ports or airports. At Jeddah airport, where pilgrim traffic increased from 52,030 arrivals in 1961 to 83,117 in 1965, a medical unit stands ready to take care of the routine quarantine work and sanitary supervision and serve the airport out-patient dispensary. Similar medical facilities are available at the other points of entry to Saudi Arabia, both by sea and by air.

After their arrival at Jeddah (which is still the principal port of entry by sea and by air), pilgrims are temporarily quartered in one of the huge Pilgrim Cities nearby. The one near the airport is designed to house about 3,000 pilgrims before their departure for Mecca or Medina or while they are waiting to embark for their homes. The building, for the "city" is one huge building, is provided with a chlorinated water supply, modern drainage system, administrative staff, information office, guides and travel agencies. It also includes a dispensary with two doctors on duty.

In 1957 the Jeddah Quarantine Station was formally inaugurated. When the huge complex went into service, it marked the end of an era. After the Constantinople Sanitary Conference in 1886, a series of international controls had been set up specifically for the Mecca Pilgrimage. After the Quarantine Station, planned under the supervision of WHO experts, was completed, the Ninth World Health Assembly in 1956 noted that the Health Administration of Saudi Arabia was fully equipped to deal with all the sanitary problems of the Mecca pilgrimage and considered that the special measures for the sanitary control of pilgrim traffic were no longer necessary.

Pilgrims are required to be vaccinated against cholera, smallpox and yellow fever (for pilgrims coming from countries where even only a part of the country is considered an endemic zone). When the groups arrive, the health authorities are the first to approach the aircraft or ships, to carry out disinfections, examine health certificates and inspect the pilgrims if necessary.