

Every Tenth Doctor a Brain Drain Statistic

The medical "brain drain" from Israel, although halted momentarily by the events preceding and following the recent Six-Day War, has resumed. No official statistics are available on how many Israeli doctors are now abroad, mainly in the United States, since most never declare that they are emigrating. They merely go abroad for "advanced study" and fail to return. Medical circles estimate the number at about 600. Since there are 6,000 doctors in Israel, every tenth doctor is abroad.

This figure fails to reflect the seriousness of the situation, for most doctors leaving for "advanced training" are young. Many have just finished their medical training, and their departure seriously depletes available young manpower, especially in the hospitals and in the outlying border villages. One third of all doctors in Israel are over the age of 60.

The Hebrew University Medical School recently conducted a survey to learn the whereabouts of the 960 doctors it has graduated since it turned out its first class sixteen years ago. Of all the graduates, 270 went abroad. Of these 100 have returned, and a good many of the rest are expected to return since they went only recently. In all, the university believes it has lost only four to six percent of its graduates.

But, the school notes, during the 1952-62 period, only three to six graduates went abroad each year, and the number has soared in recent years. In 1963, 16 went; in 1964, 18; in 1965, 32; and in 1966, 36.

Students with the best marks show a greater tendency to go abroad and return; those with average marks go abroad and stay there; those with low marks tend to stay at home in Israel.

There are many reasons, but the primary one is the peculiar structure of medical services in Israel. Almost all doctors (about 95 per cent) are employed and earn salaries. These salaries are controlled—and low.

A good secretary, knowing two languages, will make as much, or more, than the average doctor. Doctors who would make only \$6,000 a year here—and this is considered good pay—can easily earn several times that in the U.S. Overtime pay for doctors is almost non-existent, and when it does exist, it is generally only a token payment. For example, an X-ray technician makes more overtime pay than a senior doctor in a hospital.

Another reason is that members of the medical profession lack the respect and prestige they receive abroad. Since most Israelis belong to a sick fund, and

have dues deducted from their pay checks every month to pay this sick fund, they demand, often belligerently, the best and most expensive drugs and treatments available. The doctors are paid a monthly wage. They try to finish their day's work as soon as possible, often by simply referring the patient to a hospital for further treatment. And it matters not if the doctor is good or bad—he receives the same pay.

Moreover, the doctor-patient ratio in Israel is about one to 430, the highest in the world. Ordinarily, this would mean there exists an oversupply of doctors in Israel; however, the opposite is true, for the high number of doctors is offset by the high number of visits to a doctor each year. This figure is about twice that of the U.S. Israelis, especially those who came out of the concentration camps, or escaped from the ghettos in the Moslem countries, are generally sickly. But a prime reason for the high doctor-patient visit ratio is that medical treatment is free since dues are deducted automatically. Most persons will visit a doctor on the most minor complaints. Another main cause for leaving Israel is the reason often stated by the doctors themselves: their inability to advance in their profession.

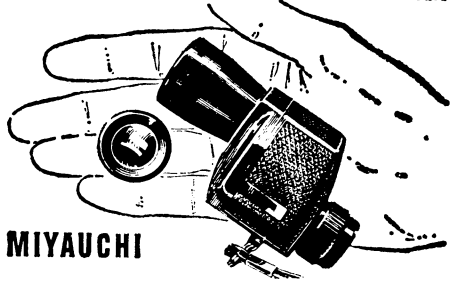
To earn a specialist's degree takes longer in Israel than in the U.S.—five years as compared to three to become a specialist in internal medicine. And having earned this coveted title, the doctor has very little chance to put his knowledge into practice. There is very little room at the top in hospitals. Once he becomes a specialist, the doctor is sent to a sick fund clinic to work. Under existing conditions, a clinic doctor is not even allowed to visit his patient in the hospital due to the strict separation of the clinic and hospital systems. The skills he has gained by years of hard work simply go to waste. Moreover, specialists in clinics are paid only slightly more than a GP. The sick funds are more interested in GP's, than in specialists.

Macabee Dean

Meanwhile, in Washington, a staff study for the House Government operations committee on the brain drain to the U.S. showed last week that the number of doctors moving to the United States increased from 15.7 percent in 1956 to 26.1 percent last year.

It explained that only 1.9 percent of U.S. scientists and 9.5 percent of U.S. engineers came from abroad. The percentage of scientists is down from 2.2 percent in 1956, while engineers are up slightly from 8.9 percent a decade ago.

Hold The World In Your Palm..with



MIYAUCHI

M. V. MINISCOPE SYSTEM \$16.95

So startlingly different are the design and performance of the M.V. MINISCOPE SYSTEM that you won't really believe it until you see it and use it yourself. ■ With its standard objective the M.V. is an 8x, wide-angle (8.2°), 24mm monocular telescope—more powerful than most field glasses and binoculars. For an even larger field, just quick-change objectives and you have a 6x, super-wide-angle (11°), 18mm telescope. ■ The prismatic, fully coated optics are of the same uncompromising quality that you expect from the finest Japanese cameras—crispness, brilliance and complete planarity. ■ As an added bonus, the objectives may be used as 3x and 5x wide-field magnifier/loupes, of unexcelled definition and clarity. ■ Weight 3¼ oz., length only 3½". Comes with handstrap and soft, flat, zippered case that fits snugly in gentleman's pocket or lady's purse.

---INSTANT ORDER BLANK---

Haverhill's, 526 Washington, San Francisco, 94111

Send the MIYAUCHI M.V. MINISCOPE SYSTEM w/case & exchange objectives. Satisfaction, or refund guaranteed. Check for \$16.95 plus \$1 for post. & ins. encl. (Calif. resid. add 4% tax.)

Bill Amer. Exp. Acct. # _____

Name _____

Address _____

Zip _____

Searching the World to bring you the Finest **Haverhill's** SN-0812

SEE MIRACLE OF BIRTH

\$4.98 POST PAID WITH SIX QUAIL EGGS (\$3.25 Without Eggs.)

You get the new clear plastic dome CHICK-BATOR with 6 Bobwhite Quail Eggs (available year-round) and Egg Hatcher's Guide Book. Complete — nothing else to buy. Send check or Money Order today.

G.Q.F. MFG. CO., DEPT. CL, BOX 152, SAVANNAH, GA.

TAKE IT OFF!

and keep it off! Use scientific isometric exercise to take inches off flabby waistline the first month. Build strength and muscle substance fast. Fight fatigue and tension. Feel great again. Write for your free illustrated information to

MINUTE-A-DAY®, Dept. G., 37 Centuck Station, Yonkers, N.Y. 10710 ©

LUXURIOUS DANI-SHOWER

the famous Danish "Telephone Shower"

Modern and smart, the new luxurious Dani-Shower is shaped like a telephone. A four foot chrome-plated, rubber lined flexible hose permits all-over showering or use as a fixed shower. Shower head and wall attachment are 100% nylon. An invaluable convenience for shampoos, bathing infants, washing pets, etc. Installs in minutes.

Also available: Model D antique style phone, chrome plated brass with nylon grip, 5 ft. hose—\$13.95 + 55¢ pp.

Also available: Model E 24 kt. Gold plated antique style phone with matching 5 ft. hose—\$47.95 ppd.

Send check or M.O. No C.O.D.'s. Satisfaction Guar.

J. W. Holst, Dept. N87
106 Emery St., East Tawas, Mich. 48730

\$9.95 plus 55¢ pp. & hdg. with 5 ft. cord, \$1 extra