



his *Counterblaste to Tobacco* were recently featured in the *Annals* of the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons in an article by Dr. Watson Buchanan, professor emeritus at McMaster University's Faculty of Health Sciences.

Buchanan wrote that King James "waxes eloquently on the 'great iniquitie, and against all humanitie' of secondary smoke: 'the husband shall not be ashamed, to reduce therby his delicate, wholesom and cleane complexioned wife, to that extremity, that either she must also corrupt her sweet breath therwith, or else resolve to live in perpetual stinking torment.'" The effect of peer pressure, which applies to modern teenagers, didn't escape his notice either: "'divers men very sound both in judgement and complexion' take up the habit 'because they were ashamed to seem singular.'"

Frequent-visitor status for 13% of Canadians

Even though 62% of Canadians rated their health as excellent or very good, about 77% of adults visited a physician in 1994 and 13% of the population visited a physician 10 or more times, according to data from the 1994 National Population Health Survey. *Canadian Social Trends*, a quarterly publication from Statistics Canada, reported recently that the number of Canadians who consulted a physician during 1994 varied by province, ranging from 82% of Prince Edward Islanders to 70% of Quebecers. A regional variation also held true for Canadians visiting physicians 10 or more times in a year; the highest rate was in Nova Scotia (18%) and the lowest in Quebec (9%).

People who said they had 1 or more chronic conditions (the most

common being allergies, back problems, arthritis and rheumatism) reported an average of 6 consultations with a physician in the previous year, compared with 3 for those who were not experiencing chronic health problems. The survey found that 77% of Canadians aged 15 and older reported using at least 1 prescription or over-the-counter drug, and 15% of adults had used some form of alternative medicine, the most common being chiropractic (11%).

Necessity the mother of invention

An American registered nurse has developed a topical solution that makes medical tape removal less unpleasant for both patients and health care professionals who do the dirty work. *Tape Away* "protects against trauma due to tape tearing and 'burning' skin, in turn guarding against serious infections and other complications," says a release from the Invention Submission Corporation of Pittsburgh. The product, which comes in a pump-spray bottle, is touted for use when intravenous devices or electrodes are being removed.

Hewett named president, CEO of MD Management

Rob Hewett, a director of MD Funds Management and MD Management Ltd., will be MD Management's next president and chief executive officer. He will take over as head of the CMA's wholly owned financial subsidiary on Feb. 1, 1997. He replaces Roland Breton, who is retiring.

In announcing the appointment, CMA secretary general Dr. Léo-Paul Landry said Hewett has extensive experience in the financial-services industry, having held senior positions in trust, insurance, investment-management and leasing organizations. Landry said he brings "a good understanding of the organization and its

More Canadian MDs head south for training

Between 1992 and 1995 there was a 34% increase in the number of graduates from Canadian medical schools taking postgraduate training in the US, according to a report in the Association of Canadian Medical Colleges *Forum*.

The increase was most evident among trainees from Ontario. In 1992 only 89 Ontario medical graduates registered in US training programs; by 1995 that had increased to 165 physicians, an 85% increase. Lesser but significant increases were also reported for medical graduates from BC (71%) and Alberta (63%).

Other highlights of the *Forum* report, which was prepared by

the Canadian Post-MD Education Registry, include:

- The most popular US training program was general internal medicine; in 1995 it attracted 114 Canadian graduates, a 68% increase from 1992.
- The number of Canadian trainees rose in several specialty fields, including family medicine, anesthesia, diagnostic radiology, psychiatry and general surgery.
- There were 580 Canadian graduates enrolled in US training programs in 1995, compared with 431 in 1992.
- The number of graduates seeking the J-1 visa from the US rose from 170 in 1992 to 262 in 1995.

