Family Nurse Practitioner (PRIMEX) Programs

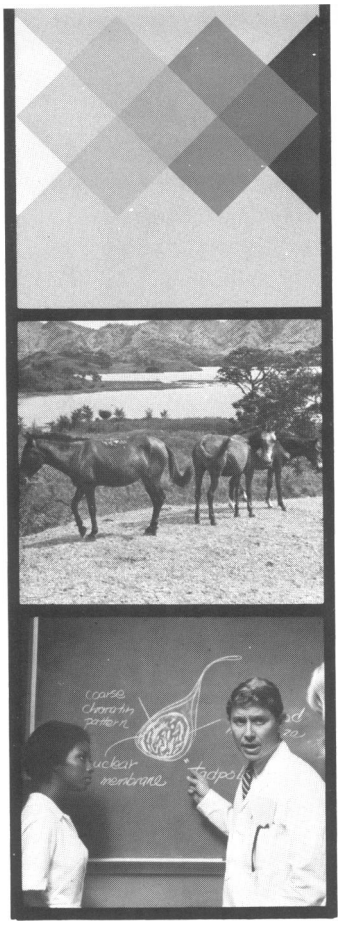
The National Center for Health Services Research and Development of HEW's Health Services and Mental Health Administration has awarded $1,113,000 for a group of seven grants and contracts for family nurse practitioners (PRIMEX).

PRIMEX is a series of specially designed experimental projects in which the role of the nurse is expanded to provide health services in a variety of community settings. Closely cooperating with physicians and other health professionals, these nurses assess health problems, perform selected diagnostic and therapeutic procedures, treat minor illnesses using mutually agreed protocols developed by the physician and nurse, promote health and prevent illness through counseling, and supervise the health care of persons of all ages, including the elderly who require long-term care.

It is anticipated that the PRIMEX nurse will extend the capabilities of the physician by freeing him to provide those therapeutic services that are commensurate with his skill and preparation. This will also expand the capabilities of the nurse practitioner by broadening her sphere of nursing practice and making her better prepared to meet rising nationwide health expectations.

Newly funded programs are the Frontier Services of Wendover, Ky., Indiana University Foundation Regenstrief Institute for Health Care, Case Western Reserve University, University of California at Los Angeles, and Vanderbilt University. Schools receiving funds for the second year are Cornell University-New York Hospital School of Nursing and the University of North Carolina.

Cover—Experiments to eradicate malaria in El Salvador are being conducted by the Central America Malaria Research Station, a part of the Center for Disease Control. Article about the station's current activities begins on page 697.



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FEATURES

Page

Where do we go from here? *Mahadeo P. Verma* ____ 671

The community corporation and its implications for education and research in health and medical care, *Ward Darley* ____ 678

Use of physician's assistants in Gilchrist County, Florida, *Richard A. Henry* ____ 687

What is a good statistical report? *Donald A. Trauger* ____ 693

Central America Malaria Research Station in San Salvador, *Marilyn Darrow* ____ 697

Program of continuing education in public health. Alternative to current MPH degree program, *Nicholas Parlette, William Griffiths, and John Scott* ____ 702

The Public Health Conference on Records and Statistics meeting jointly with the National Conference on Mental Health Statistics. Highlights of the 14th National meeting ____ 708

PROGRAMS, PRACTICES, PEOPLE

Implication of presence of hepatitis B antigen ____ 716

Jewish Institute for Geriatric Care ____ 717

Dr. Herbert B. Woolley first NIH economist ____ 718

Baby's first phone call ____ 718

Spanish-speaking film promotes careers in medical laboratory ____ 718

Bibliographies available from National Library of Medicine ____ 719

Publications ____ 720