

# Inflation and the Health Care System

We in the Public Health Service, along with a great many persons and organizations in the private sector, believe that substantial changes need to be made within the health care system. The sharp upturn in the cost of health services makes it all the more important that we explore every opportunity to bring about meaningful change in a system that clearly is not a model of efficiency and productivity. And we must begin by seeking answers to some fundamental questions.

What are the real opportunities for building incentives for cost containment into the system? Can we change third-party reimbursement to encourage economy without sacrificing quality or access?

Are there short-term approaches to increased productivity that ought to be pursued now? Should we, for instance, take steps to expand rapidly the use of physician extenders through some form of national licensing of health professionals?

What are the possibilities for substantially increasing competition in the health care market without jeopardizing the quality of care? Would a strong push for the development of prepaid group practice justify the necessary investment by helping to bring costs down? Would more stringent regulation of industry help or hinder the fight against inflation?

And if it would help, who should do the regulating?

We have to face the hard reality of a Federal budget designed to help control, rather than fuel, inflationary pressures on the economy. Some very painful decisions will have to be made about where and how deep to cut. Federal health dollars should be channeled where they produce the maximum benefit, not just to control inflation, but to help to build a pluralistic system that can assure universal access to quality health services at a cost that society can afford.

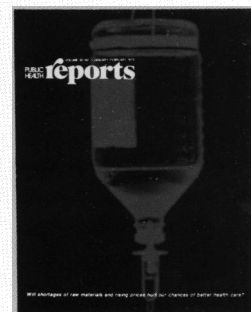
To achieve this dual objective in the health field will require a new level of planning and a new sense of leadership—one involving enlightened, cooperative effort from both the executive and legislative branches of Government and between the public and private sectors.

Charles C. Edwards, MD  
Assistant Secretary for Health  
Public Health Service

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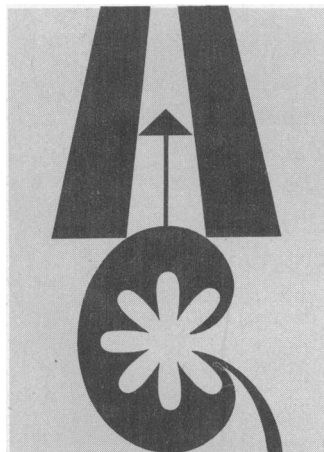
Cover—The nearly empty IV bottle symbolizes the shortages of raw materials and supplies of energy facing the United States. The implications for planners and providers of health services and some recommendations for action are outlined in the article beginning on page 3. Photo courtesy of the Clinical Center, National Institutes of Health.

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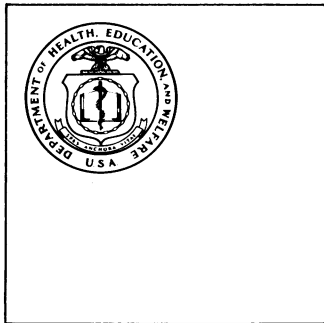
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## New Source for Material Used in Leprosy Tests

■ A major breakthrough in leprosy has been reported by a team of scientists from the Gulf South Research Institute of New Iberia, La., the University of Hawaii, and the Institute Medical Evangelique of the Republic of Zaire.

A nine-banded armadillo, which died from advanced leprosy at the laboratory of Dr. Eleanor E. Storrs, a Louisiana biochemist, has yielded large amounts of infected tissues containing about 300 trillion leprosy bacilli. The infection in the animal was so severe, Storrs said, that the tissues could be used to make almost 400 gallons of a diagnostic reagent called lepromin. This reagent is injected into a leprosy patient's skin to help determine whether the patient is likely to develop a relatively benign form of leprosy or the most malignant form.

The scarcity of lepromin has hampered the prognosis of leprosy. Tissues obtained from living human patients by operation or human tissues obtained during autopsy, have been the only source of material for this reagent. One armadillo, Storrs said, could produce enough lepromin for 15 million skin tests—about as many tests as there are leprosy patients in the world. Moreover, there are many other armadillos in her colony that could be used. The recent availability of this armadillo material, she said, should make possible the establishment of a World Lepromin Bank to supply all clinics that need it.

*Dr. Eleanor E. Storrs with armadillo*



## education notes

**Mental Health Materials Center 1974-75 Seminars.** The Mental Health Materials Center, New York City, began a series of continuing education seminars in November that will continue through May 1975 for persons responsible for mental health and family life education programs.

Designed for small group participation and idea exchange, these meetings should be of interest to persons responsible for mental health and family life education and information activities in local, State, or Federal governmental agencies or in voluntary organizations.

Mar. 4-7, 1975, New York City. Process or Product: How to Use Cable TV and

Video Tape for MH Education. Tuition \$125.

Apr. 1-4, 1975, Bloomington, Ind. Developing Effective Approaches to MH Education in the Schools. Tuition \$100.

Apr. 29-May 2, 1975, Rye, N.Y. (suburban New York City). Mental Health Education: Exploring How to Cope With New Directions. Tuition \$100.

For further information or application forms, write Mental Health Materials Center, 419 Park Ave. South, New York, N.Y. 10016.

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*Armadillos at Gulf South Research Institute, New Iberia, La. Left to right: 9-banded species, 7-banded species, and hairy species*



**Graduate Program in Alcohol Research.** The Department of Epidemiology of the School of Public Health at the University of North Carolina is offering a program leading to a master of public health degree with specialization in the field of alcohol. It is intended to prepare students to carry out research in alcoholism and alcohol abuse.

The program is designed to be completed in 18 months, with the summer devoted to fieldwork in one or more alcohol research centers. Courses will be given in epidemiology, biostatistics, and other related fields.

Students with a bachelor's or an advanced degree who have an interest in the field of alcohol are invited to apply. Stipends, plus an allowance for each dependent, and full tuition are available.

Further information and application forms may be obtained from Dr. Joan C. Cornoni, Department of Epidemiology, School of Public Health, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, N.C. 27514.

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*Announcements for publication should be forwarded to Public Health Reports 6 months in advance of the deadline date for application for admission or financial aid, whichever is earlier.*

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## **Infection Spectrum Workshop in Los Angeles, March 13-14, 1975**

The Infection Spectrum will again be presented by professional organizations and agencies of the Los Angeles area, with the Center for Disease Control and State and county health departments as co-sponsors. The cut-off date for registration for the workshop, to be held in Los Angeles, March 13-14, 1975, is February 28.

Dr. Theodore C. Eickhoff, associate professor of medicine and head, Division of Infectious Diseases, University of Colorado Medical Center, will be the keynoter for the first general session, Thursday morning. Dr. John M. Leedom and Dr. Allen W. Mathias of the Communicable Disease Division, Los Angeles County - University of Southern California Medical Center, will follow, with "Potential Pathogens" and Antimicrobials, Immunosuppressants, and the Compromised Patient."

Participants may register separately for the Thursday evening session, at which Dr. James W. Mosely will discuss hepatitis, Dr. Carroll Spurling will talk about infection control for blood bank programs, and Dr. Martin Favero will cover hemodialysis.

Dr. Paul Wehrle, chief of the Pediatrics and Communicable Disease Division, Los Angeles County - University of Southern California Medical

Center, will discuss "Current Methods for Preventing Nosocomial Infection" at the last general session, Friday afternoon. He will be followed by Dr. Frank B. Engley, chairman of the Department of Microbiology, University of Missouri, who will summarize the workshop meetings. For the last hour, a panel of the workshop faculty, moderated by Eickhoff, will respond to questions from the audience.

Each concurrent session will give information on one aspect of infection control. The theme for the Thursday afternoon concurrent sessions will be infection in various situations, employees, and patients. The second group of concurrent sessions, on Friday morning, will be concerned with control of environmental infection and of infection in hospitals or skilled nursing homes.

Luncheon speakers will deal with the California Occupational Safety and Health Act and the legal aspects of infection control.

Registration is \$50 for all sessions, \$40 for both Thursday and Friday day sessions, and \$15 for the Thursday session. Contact Louise Hughes, Pasadena Lung Association, 111 North Hudson, Pasadena, Calif. 91104, telephone (213) 793-4148.

**Short Courses on Lasers.** The Medical Laser Laboratory of the University of Cincinnati Medical Center is conducting two courses on lasers in March 1975. "Introduction to Lasers" will be held in cooperation with the Laser Institute of America and the Southwest Center of the Technical Education Research Centers. A "Short Course on Laser Safety" will be held in conjunction with the university's Office of Continuing Medical Education. The director for both courses will be R. James Rockwell, Jr., associate professor of laser sciences, Laser Laboratory, Medical Center, University of Cincinnati.

Introduction to Lasers (2d semi-annual short course)

March 17-21, 1975

Place: Raymond Walters College, University of Cincinnati, Cincinnati, Ohio

Tuition: \$375

Contact Laser Laboratory, Medical Center, University of Cincinnati, Cincinnati, Ohio 45229, or telephone (513) 559-4405.

8th Semi-annual Short Course on Laser Safety

March 24-28, 1974

Place: Medical College, University of Cincinnati, Cincinnati, Ohio

Tuition: \$375

Contact Laser Safety Course, CONMED, New Medical College Bldg., Cincinnati, Ohio 45229, or telephone (513) 559-4405.

**Association for the Advancement of Medical Instrumentation.** The Association for the Advancement of Medical Instrumentation's 10th annual meeting and exhibit program will be held in Boston, Mass., Mar. 16-19, 1975. The program will provide a forum for presentations and discussions on advanced applications of medical and engineering knowledge to health care. Papers will be presented on specific medical devices, instruments, and systems and their use; on standards, governmental regulation and legislation; hospital safety and maintenance programs; emerging health professions such as clinical engineers and biomedical equipment technicians; and the impact of medical technology on the health care system.

For further information, contact Association for the Advancement of Medical Instrumentation, 1500 Wilson Blvd., Arlington, Va. 22209, or call (703) 525)4890).

## FEDERAL

*Vital Statistics of the United States, 1969. Vol. I. Natality.* DHEW Publication No. (HRA) 74-1100; \$8.25. U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C. (Stock No. 1722-00331).

*Vital Statistics of the United States, 1969. Vol. II. Mortality. Pt. A.* DHEW Publication No. (HRA) 1101; 1974; \$11.20. U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C. (Stock No. 1722-00314).

*National and Regional Health Planning in Sweden.* By Vincente Navarro, MD, DMSA, DrPH. DHEW Publication No. (NIH) 74-240; 1974; 244 pages; \$2.55. U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington D.C. (Stock No. 1753-0016). *China Medicine As We Saw It. A publication of the John E. Fogarty International Center for Advanced Study in the Health Sciences.* Edited by Joseph R. Quinn, PhD. DHEW Publication No. (NIH) 75-684; 1974; 430 pages.

*Poly (ADP-Ribose). An international symposium. Sponsored by the John E. Fogarty International Center for Advanced Study in the Health Sciences.* Edited by Maureen Harris, PhD. DHEW Publication No. (NIH) 74-477; 1974; 337 pages; \$5.65. U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C. (Stock No. 1753-00019).

*Soviet Biomedical Institutions: A directory. A publication of the Geographic Health Studies Program of the John E. Fogarty International Center for Advanced Study in the Health Sciences. Prepared under an interagency agreement with the Library of Congress.* DHEW Publication No. (NIH) 74-698; 1974; 553 pages; \$5.95. U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C. (Stock No. 1753-00026).

*Decision-Makers Guide in Solid Waste Management. Criteria: Cost, institutional factors, resource conservation.* Prepared by Robert A. Colonna and Cynthia

McLaren. SW-127. 1974; 157 pages; \$1.95. (Stock No. 5502-00130).

*Orientation to Hospital Operation. Programmed instruction for health professionals.* DHEW Publication No. (HRA) 75-4009; 1974; 106 pages; \$1.40.

*Proceedings of the Public Health Conference on Records and Statistics meeting jointly with the National Conference on Mental Health Statistics. 14th national meeting, June 12-15, 1972.* DHEW Publication No. (HRA) 74-1214; 683 pages.

*Charges Made by the National Federation of the Blind Against the National Accreditation Council for Agencies Serving the Blind and Visually Handicapped. Report No. B-176886.* U.S. General Accounting Office, 330 C St., SW, Room 1126, South Bldg., Washington, D.C. 20201.

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## National Center for Health Statistics

*The Rationale, Development, and Standardization of a Basic Word Vocabulary Test.* DHEW Publication No. (HRA) 74-1334, Series 2, No. 60; April 1974; 71 pages; \$1.15.

*United States Life Tables by Dentulous or Edentulous Condition, 1971 and 1957-58.* DHEW Publication No. (HRA) 75-1338, Series 2, No. 64; August 1974; 18 pages; 60 cents.

*Prevalence of Chronic and Musculoskeletal Conditions, United States, 1969.* DHEW Publication No. (HRA) 75-1519, Series 10, No. 92; August 1974; 59 pages; \$1.05.

*Behavior Patterns in School of Youths 12-17 Years, United States.* DHEW Publication No. (HRA) 74-1621, Series 11, No. 139; May 1974; 52 pages; 95 cents.

*Periodontal Disease Among Youths 12-17 Years, United States.* DHEW Publication No. (HRA) 74-1623, Series 11, No. 141; June 1974; 28 pages; 65 cents.

*Inpatient Utilization of Short-Stay Hospitals by Diagnosis, United States, 1971.* DHEW Publication No. (HRA) 75-1767, Series 13, No. 16, July 1974; 71 pages; \$1.15.

*Inpatient Health Facilities as Reported From the 1971 MFI Survey.* DHEW Publication No. (HRA) 74-1807, Series 14, No. 12, March 1974; 65 pages; \$1.10.

*Optometric Manpower: Characteristics of Optometric Practice, United States, 1968.* DHEW Publication No. (HRA) 74-1808, Series 14, No. 13, June 1974; 81 pages; \$1.25.

*Characteristics of Patients Treated by Podiatrists, United States, 1970.* DHEW Publication No. (HRA) 75-1809, Series 14, No. 14, August 1974; 31 pages; 70 cents.

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Federal publications listed are obtainable from the Superintendent of Documents, U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C. 20402. Orders should be accompanied by check or money order and should fully identify the publication. (Publications listed without prices may be obtained from the agency.)

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## WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION

*Food-Borne Disease: Methods of Sampling and Examination in Surveillance Programmes. Report of a WHO study group.* WHO Technical Report Series No. 543. 1974; 50 pages; Geneva.

*WHO Expert Committee on Malaria. Sixteenth report.* WHO Technical Report Series No. 549. 1974; 89 pages; Geneva.

*Fish and Shellfish Hygiene. Report of a WHO Expert Committee convened in cooperation with FAO.* WHO Technical Report Series No. 550. 1974; 62 pages; Geneva.

WHO Expert Committee on Drug Dependence. Twentieth report. WHO Technical Report Series No. 551. 1974; 89 pages; Geneva.

WHO Expert Committee on Tuberculosis. Ninth report. WHO Technical Report Series No. 552. 1974; 40 pages; Geneva.

Health Aspects of Environmental Pollution Control: Planning and Implementation of national programmes. Report of a WHO expert committee. Technical Report Series No. 554. 1974; 57 pages; Geneva.

Pesticides. Nomenclature, specifications, analysis, use, and residues in foods. Progress in standardization: 1. By D. Armstrong Lowe and A. R. Stiles. Reprinted from the Bulletin of the World Health Organization, 49: 169-204 (1973). 1974; 38 pages; Geneva.

Equipment for Vector Control. 1974; 179 pages; Geneva.

Twenty-Seventh World Health Assembly. Geneva, 7-23 May 1974. Part I. Resolutions and decisions, annexes. Official Records of the World Health Organization, No. 217. 1974; 87 pages; Geneva.

Executive Board, Fifty-Fourth Session, Geneva, 27-28 May 1974. Resolutions, annexes. Official Records of the World Health Organization, No. 219. 1974; 25 pages.

World Health Organization publications and information on prices may be obtained from Q Corporation, 49 Sheridan Ave., Albany, N.Y. 12210.

#### NON-FEDERAL

Medical Research Council Annual Report, 1973-74. Her Majesty's Stationery Office, 49 High Holburn, London WC1V 6HB.

Met and Unmet Needs for Medical and Social Services. By Lars Olov Bygren. Scandinavian Journal of Social Medicine, Supplementum 8. 1974; 134 pages. The Almqvist & Wiksell Periodical Company, Stockholm, Sweden.

Das Gesundheitswesen in der Deutschen Demokratischen Republik. By Kurt Winter. 1974; 209 pages; 10 EVP. VEB Verlag Volk und Gesundheit, Berlin, German Democratic Republic.

Medicine and the Satellite. A description of the 1973 satellite experiments aboard the S.S. Hope. By William B. Walsh, MD, Richard S. Meltzer, MD, and Dennis M. Lucey, BS, MBA. 1974; 13 pages. Project Hope, Department of Information Services, The People-to-People Health Foundation, Inc., 2233 Wisconsin Ave., N.W., Washington, D.C. 20007.

In Search of Population Policy: Views from the developing world. August 1974; \$4.25. National Academy of Sciences, 2101 Constitution Ave., Washington, D.C. 20418.

Geochemistry and the Environment. Vol. 1. The relation of selected trace elements to health and disease. August 1974; \$8.50. National Academy of Sciences, 2101 Constitution Ave., Washington, D.C. 20418.

Development of an Indian-Operated Health System Through the Process of Interim Management by a Non-Local Organization. By James I. Hudson, MD, and George E. Kauffman III. 1974; 33 pages. Project Hope, Department of Information Services, The People-to-People Health Foundation, Inc., 2233 Wisconsin Ave., NW., Washington, D.C. 20007.

MEDICAID, Lessons for National Health Insurance. Edited by Allen D. Spiegel, PhD, and Simon Podair, MA. 1974; 375 pages; \$24. Dept. RR, Aspen Systems Corp., 11600 Nebel St., Rockville, Md. 20852.

How Much for Health? By Senator Warren G. Magnuson and Elliot A. Segal. November 1974; 210 pages; \$7.95. Robert B. Luce, Inc., Washington, D.C.-New York City. Available from David McKay Company, Inc., 750 Third Ave., New York, N.Y. 10017.

Eleventh Annual Distinguished Lectures Series in Special Education and Rehabilitation. Edited by Barbara C. Ring, PhD, and Donald R. Schrader, PhD. 1973; 101 pages; \$3. Published by the School of Education, University of Southern California. University Bookstore, University of Southern California, Los Angeles, Calif. 20007.

Let's Talk About Food. Edited by Philip L. White, ScD, and Nancy Selvey. 1974; \$6.95. Publishing Sciences Group, Inc., 411 Massachusetts Ave., Acton, Mass. 01720.

Induced Abortion in Italy. By Irene Figatalamanca. Public Health as Policy Science. By Mary F. Arnold. Pacific Health Education Reports, No. 4. 1974; 151 pages. School of Public Health, University of California, Berkeley, Calif.

A Guide of Self-Care in Diabetes. 1974; \$5. Nebraska Regional Medical Program, 530 South 13th St., Lincoln, Nebr. 68508.

Contraceptive Education: A self-instructional course. By Robert Wilson. 1974; \$1.50. Carolina Population Center Publications Office, 113 Mallette St., Chapel Hill, N.C. 27514.

Hospital Statistics. 1974 edition. \$5.50. American Hospital Association, 840 North Lake Shore Drive, Rm. 610-PPf, Chicago, Ill. 60611.

Vital Statistics and Population of Hawaii, 1900 to 1973. Issue No. 5. By Shigeo Tengan, Robert C. Schmitt, and Thomas A. Burch. June 1974; 19 pages. Research and Statistics Office, State Department of Health, P.O. Box 3378, Honolulu, Hawaii 96801.

The Medicine Show. By the editors of Consumer Reports. 1974 revised edition. 384 pages; \$3.50. Pantheon Books, Random House, Inc., 20 East 50th St., New York, N.Y. 10022.

Blindness and the Electrical Activity of the Brain: Electroencephalographic studies of the effects of visual impairment. (Originally published in Russian.) By L. A. Novikova. 1974; \$5.75. American Foundation for the Blind, 15 West 16th St., New York, N.Y. 10011.

Primary Care: Where medicine fails. Edited by Spyros Andreopoulos. 1974; \$9.95. John Wiley & Sons, Inc., 605 Third Ave., New York, N.Y. 10016.

Testing, Orientation and Work Evaluation in Rehabilitation (a TOWER System textbook). 1974; \$8.50, 10 percent discount for 10 or more copies. Mrs. Helen Stonehill, Chief Librarian, ICD Rehabilitation and Research Center, 340 East 24th St., New York, N.Y. 10010.

Twenty Years of Community Medicine. A Hunterdon Medical Center Symposium. 1974; 189 pages; \$15. Columbia Publishing Co., Inc., Frenchtown, N.J. 08825.

Interpreters' Services and the Role of Health Care Volunteers. 1974; \$1.75. American Hospital Association, 840 North Lake Shore Dr., Chicago, Ill. 60611.

Health and Health Care for the Urban Poor. A study of Hartford's north end. Connecticut Health Services Research Series No. 5. By Ray H. Elling, PhD, and Russell F. Martin; co-editors, Donald C. Riedel, PhD, and James E. C. Walker, MD. 1974; \$5. Connecticut Hospital Research and Education Foundation, Inc., P.O. Box 504, North Haven, Conn. 06473.

Health Education Guide. A design for teaching. A program continuum for health instruction. Second edition. By Morris Barrett, MPH. August 1974; 338 pages, illustrated; \$12. Lea & Febiger, Washington Square, Philadelphia, Pa. 19106.

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