

26–31 January 1975

New York City

Science and Human Health

A major feature of the forthcoming AAAS Annual Meeting in New York City is the presentation of coherent sets of symposia grouped around subthemes, which are themselves the principal aspects of the Meeting theme, "Science and the Quality of Life" (see the preliminary program in *Science*, 27 September, page 1150).

One of these subthemes, "Science and Human Health," consists of 29 symposia with a combined presentation time of 126 hours. These symposia address themselves to all areas of human health, including policy, research, behavior, care, and delivery.

In the area of health policy, we will consider *Health Care and Social Control*; *Health Research and Social Policy*; and *Genetics and Humanity*. This latter will focus on a number of social and ethical problems which the recent rapid increase in our knowledge of genetics has made quite pressing, that is, the rights of individuals and the needs of society relative to genetic screening, the plight of the carrier of genetic defects, and the implications of genetic engineering.

Several different facets of the area of health care and delivery will be explored. For example, health roles will be discussed in *Critical Issues in Emerging Health Roles* and in *A Family Model Approach to Health Care*, whereas two symposia will focus on the behavioral aspects of health care, one regarding the practice of community dentistry and the other, *Health Maintaining Behaviors*, will consider behavioral changes which are important if we are to reduce the risks due to heart disease, cancer, and even dental problems.

Health care and delivery is also looked at from the clinical point of view with respect to pharmacology, psychology, and systems analysis, and from the technological point of view in the use of *Quantitative Methods in Improving Health Care Delivery*, in the developments in medical electronics, the application of computers, and the *Impact of*

Engineering Science and Technology on Health Care Delivery, which will discuss prevention, diagnosis, therapy, rehabilitation, and the development of new model systems.

The final aspect of this area covers the special problems of various particular groups of our society: the aging, women, children, subject and captive populations, and the handicapped, including such items as the question of self-esteem and the quality of life in the survival of the aged; occupational health (particularly in dangerous trades) and job security for women; the role of service institutions and television and the predictive values of life histories for children; the ethics of medical research (particularly psychosurgery) on prisoners and the mentally impaired; and the development of social, behavioral, and engineering techniques (like biofeedback) for the treatment of the handicapped.

Research results in the area of human health will be discussed in regard to bile acids, noise, control systems in biology and medicine, *The Application*

and Misapplication of Findings in Parapsychology, and in *Human Sexuality as a Science*, which will give a perspective on this question by considering the information gained through research on primates before discussing such problems as gender, bisexuality, sexual liberation, and sexual therapy.

The final area of research results will focus on the brain in *Brain Function and Physical Well Being*; *Structure of Human Memory*; *Perceptual Systems: Images, Hallucinations, and Dreams*, and the control of pain, focusing on such questions as stability versus stress in physical illness, immune mechanisms, learning and emotions, word recognition, language processing, short-term memory, perception and cognition, computers, imagery, fantasy, and hypnosis and pain control.

We believe that you will find all of these symposia to be valuable and informative and that, for each of you, there will be a certain few which will prove extremely stimulating and rewarding, well worth the trip to New York in January (at the crest of the theatre, opera, and concert season).

We urge you to fill out and return the advance registration forms on page 1156 of the 27 September issue of *Science*.—ARTHUR HERSCHMAN



An intensive care nursery unit for premature babies.