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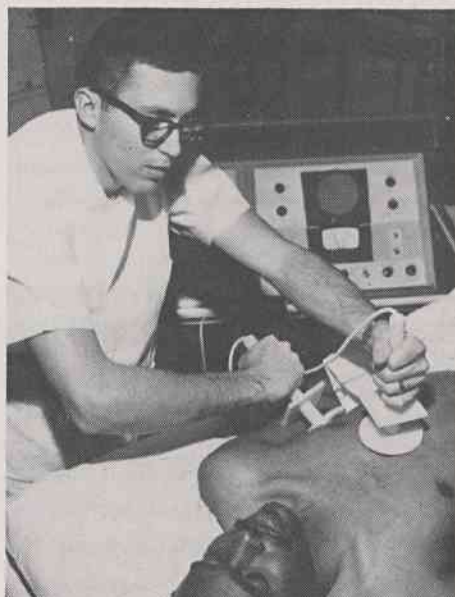
Health Careers—Opportunity Unlimited

“There are currently over 6,500 vacant positions in health careers within the state of North Carolina alone.” This quotation is from a bulletin distributed by Health Careers for North Carolina. The North Carolina Medical Care Commission outlines a scholarship and loan program to help meet the “critical shortage of qualified personnel” in the health professions. The 1963 Report of the Surgeon General’s Consultant Group on Nursing begins with this statement: “A severe shortage of nurses exists in the United States today. It is both quantitative and qualitative.” Each of these quotations is a manifestation of growing alarm—both within and without the health field—at the shortages of trained personnel which present serious problems to Duke Medical Center and to hospitals and health facilities the country over.

In 1962 The North Carolina Health Council—an informal association of all health agencies in the state—asked The Duke Endowment to make a survey of hospital para-medical and medical personnel in North Carolina. The figures in the survey do not include physicians who have completed their training, although they do include interns and residents and two categories, Anesthesiologists and Directors of Medical Education, are assumed to have M.D. degrees. In the study of 162 hospitals (excluding psychiatric, but including general, tuberculosis and special) were queried. This represented 19,983 beds. Replies were received from 114 hospitals and covered 70.2 per cent of beds or 14,019. Appended is a note that 158 beds were closed “due to personnel

shortage.” As of April 1, 1962, these 114 hospitals listed 8,306 persons employed in 25 professional categories; the number needed for optimum care was given as 9,913; the shortage, or difference between the two figures, was 1,607.

A second tabulation in The Duke Endowment report estimated personnel needs, if optimum care was to be provided in all 162 of the general, special and tuberculosis hospitals, and if additional nurses and attendants were to be found for the psychiatric hospitals in the state. Figures for this were based on the replies from the 114 hospitals, on replies from the North Carolina State Nurses Association, the North Carolina State Board of Health, the North Carolina Phar-



Laboratory technician, nurse to the new-born, patient-care technician—these are only three of the opportunities open to young people interested in a health career. Type and length of training vary, but all the health professions provide the deep satisfaction of helping others.

(Duke photos by Sparks and Wallace)