

THE STUDENT AMERICAN MEDICAL ASSOCIATION

During the year 1968, the Executive Council of SAMA set up, as priorities, three basic areas of operation which include Medical Education, International Health, Community Health. In addition, THE NEW PHYSICIAN, the official journal of SAMA, was taken over by a student editorial staff for the first time in the eighteen year history of the organization.

The SAMA Committee on Medical Education has been active this year in putting together the First Annual Student Conference on Medical Education. This event was held in early February in Chicago and was attended by several hundred undergraduate medical students including representatives from ninety percent of the nation's medical schools. Additionally, a SAMA Education Commission was formed during the year which consists of twelve medical students and an advisory council. The Commission is presently at work critically examining medical education and is expected to produce a report of its recommendations for change.

In the area of Community Health, SAMA also operates a large and active committee. Besides coordinating the activities of many student - run community health projects, the committee members have been sponsoring regional community health conferences throughout the year. SAMA officers have arranged several summer programs for medical students. The Appalachian Program will have in attendance fifty medical students and twenty nursing students. These individuals will be placed throughout the Appalachian States and will study the health needs of people who live in Appalachia. They will identify and analyze the health and health - related social problems and conceptualize solutions to these problems.

International Health opportunities have been located for some five-hundred American medical students in the SAMA International Exchange Program. Conducted in conjunction with the International Federation of Medical Student Associations, the SAMA program will be the largest bilateral exchange of professional students ever completed. Additionally, members of the International Health Committee have been working on a proposal which would create a Pan - American Health Conference. Scheduled for early summer in 1970, the conference would bring together medical students from twenty-seven countries to discuss international health problems.