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## Letter To the Editor

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## NOTES AND COMMENTS II

### Letter To the Editor

November 10, 1970

To the editor:

The article entitled "Health Nurse Clinician—An Extended Role for the Professional Nurse" by Rupe et al (HFH Med J, Vol. 18, No. 3, Fall, 1970) was very interesting. While I agree with most of the points stressed in the article, there are some that I find particularly disturbing.

Throughout the article the authors stress the fact that the extended role of the professional nurse can relieve the physician shortage and curb the rising cost of health care by transferring functions from one to the other. The authors have failed to convince me of this. I would say that no matter what we do, hospital cost will continue to increase. For as the public becomes better educated in relation to health care needs and medical science develops new in-

terventions, the demands for health care will increase.

As the demand for health care outweighs the supply of doctors, the prices will go up. The nurse can only extend her role so far and still hope to provide the public with individually tailored, personalized, continuous care. I feel that we need to be less concerned with whether the Health Nurse Clinician can or cannot relieve the doctor shortage and become more interested in establishing a more effective, meaningful and productive colleague relationship that will bridge the gap between the patient and the physician and thus provide more continuity of care.

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