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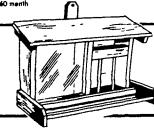
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## **Rural Health** Research Asked

Health services for rural areas need high priority research in four aspects - organization, manpower, utilization, and financing — declared Dr. Charles O. Crawford of The Pennsylvania State University recently at a National Workshop on Community Services in Lincoln, Nebraska.

Such health services tend to lack coordination and integration in the more rural areas of the country, Dr. Crawford observed. He suggested that a "three tier system," now being advanced in many circles, be studied further for adaption to rural areas.

The "three tiers," he said, are first level care in physicians' offices, clinics, and local health centers, secondary care including community hospitals, and the third area of sophisticated medical centers. Dr. Crawford spoke as associate professor of rural sociology at Penn State.

Rural areas need greater use of physicians' assistants, nurses, and similar types of support personnel, he pointed out. Manpower studies should be undertake to determine how these types of persons can by utilized most efficiently, he added Acceptance and use of these persons by physicians should be determined, as well as acceptability of such new positions by patients.

"Many rural persons remain in good health and have very adequate mechanisms for dealing with sickness and disease. We need to build on these in our planning and action programs. We should not attempt to replace the old entirely with something new," he advised.

Along this line he suggested that general practitioners, backed up with good facilities and suitable surroundings of primary care centers, might be more readily available to meet the demand. As for financing, he indicated that organization and financing are very closely related.

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