selective biochemistry of the Betz cell. This would be hard to detect since it is only in the area of hormonal secretion that we have an "endogenous bioassay."

The syndromes associated with malignant disease are many and varied. They are worthy of careful attention by the physician, the clinical investigator and the biologist alike.

An Illogicity to Be Avoided

SINCE HEALTH IS BECOMING a major goal of this nation, if not of the world, it may be expected that all sorts of efforts and approaches will be made to lessen if not overcome the disparity between expectations and available resources. It is inevitable that full use will be made of whatever statistical data are available concerning needs and resources, and that what is coming to be known as systems analysis will be tried as a means to find more efficient ways of bringing resources to bear upon whatever is determined to be the need. This new technology, augmented (as it is certain to be) by automated data processing and computerization, is full of promise for improved and more efficient health care, but this promise depends for its fulfillment upon a recognition that health is an individual proposition and not something to be handled simply as a matter of statistical probability.

The biological distribution curve gives expression to this essential point. It is well recognized that no two specimens of a biological species are ever exactly alike. If any characteristic such as weight or height is measured, a distribution curve may be constructed by plotting numbers of specimens against their various heights, weights or whatever. From this curve such things as averages, means, modes and probabilities may be calculated and much useful information may be derived about the sample as a whole. But, most significantly, none of these calculations can predict where upon the curve any particular specimen of the sample will be found, except in terms of statistical probability.

An important illogicity occurs whenever it is assumed that the characteristics of any individual specimen are actually the same as the average, or the mean, or the mode or even a statistical probability which may be derived from the distribution curve. The fact is that each human being is genetically unique and also unique in his life experience, and because of this there is a reasonable chance that his ailments will be either unique or uniquely expressed. This biologic and sociologic reality is well known to physicians and patients and accounts for much of their opposition to systematization in medical care.

Illogicity of this sort must not be allowed to creep into planning for health services. As costs increase and as the extent of the disparities between expectations and resources becomes more accurately assessed by modern statistical technology, there is apprehension that the illogical step of equating the human recipient of health care services with the statistical probability will be taken by systems-oriented planners who either do not recognize or underrate the uniqueness of human beings. The danger is that the needs of a health care delivery system for economic efficiency somehow may be permitted to take precedence over the needs of the patients which the system was presumably designed to serve. The aim to be achieved is somehow to blend (1) the needs for economy and efficiency, (2) the capabilities of modern data processing and systems analysis, and (3) the needs for individualization of health care services which derive from the biologic and sociologic uniqueness of each person.

The expectations for health, in the nation and the world, can be realized only if this most important illogicity in planning for health care services is recognized and avoided.

A Treatment For Viral Infections?

FOR ALMOST A quarter of a century, physicians have been able to treat many bacterial infection effectively with antimicrobial drugs. This stands in sharp contrast to our inability to influence many human viral diseases which constitute a large proportion of patients' acute complaints. The resulting frustration has, at times, led to the unwarranted and undesirable use of antibacterial drugs for the "prevention" of hypothetical complications of viral infections.