

ESTABLISHING A REGIONAL CENTER

(Originally published February 1967)

On December 28 the Medical Association of Georgia announced that it had been awarded a grant of \$240,098 for the first year of a two and a half year period to study and plan implementation of the heart disease, cancer stroke program in the Georgia region.

Early in February, 1967, the advisory group, representing 19 health organizations and agencies in the state, will meet to hear the recommendations of the steering committee. The program will be aimed along these general lines: 1. to utilize the joint activity of the health care organizations and agencies in Georgia; 2. to institute new cooperative educational activities for the 170 general hospitals in the state; 3. to develop special training programs for health care personnel.

Since Administrator Joe Mitchell, representing the Georgia Hospital Association, and Board Member Henry Schwob, are members of the advisory committee, the Medical Center hopes to be in close touch, and to participate in all its activities. Exploited to its full potential the program could establish regional centers for acute and chronic care of stroke and coronary disease, for diagnosis and treatment of hypertension, for cardiac surgery, and for renal dialysis. The expressed aim of the act is to disseminate to local centers medical services now concentrated in universities. Columbus is logically such a center, the need is here, the facilities could be provided. The uncertain factor is whether or not the physicians here will be sufficiently interested to divert considerable portions of their time and energy into staffing such units.