

## GRANT FOR BARBADOS BIRTH-RATE STUDY

The International Development Research Centre has approved a grant of \$57,790 to the University of Western Ontario to find out why the birth-rate has dropped dramatically in Barbados. IDRC President Dr. David Hopper announced also that a further \$12,000 would be spent by the IDRC itself on training scholarships for West Indian researchers engaged in the study and on conducting seminars in the area, based upon results of the study.

The grant is the first to be announced by the IDRC since the Centre was established by the Canadian Parliament in May 1970. Although the Centre was created and is financed by Canada, its policies are set by the Board of Governors. The 21-member Board, including the Chairman, former Prime Minister Lester B. Pearson, and Dr. Hopper, is composed of 11 Canadians and ten persons from other countries. The IDRC exists to support, encourage and conduct research into problems of developing countries and into ways to apply technology and other knowledge to the social and economic advancement of these regions.

"Apart from the seminars, the information and insights gained will be disseminated by providing information to governments and by reporting in scholarly journals," Dr. Hopper said. "Only a few countries have experienced rapid decline in fertility and only a few in Asia have been adequately studied," he continued. "No studies have been made in the western hemisphere. We hope the information learned may be helpful in understanding what determines fertility decline in the Caribbean and in other areas."

Three University of Western Ontario professors will conduct the study jointly with the Barbados Family Planning Association and in consultation with the University of the West Indies, in Barbados.

They will evaluate why the "crude" birth-rate in Barbados has dropped dramatically, from 33.6 per 1,000 of population in 1960 to 22 per 1,000 in 1968. The success of the 15-year-old family planning program in Barbados will be assessed, as well as changing age at marriage, patterns of child-bearing and other demographic factors that may apply.

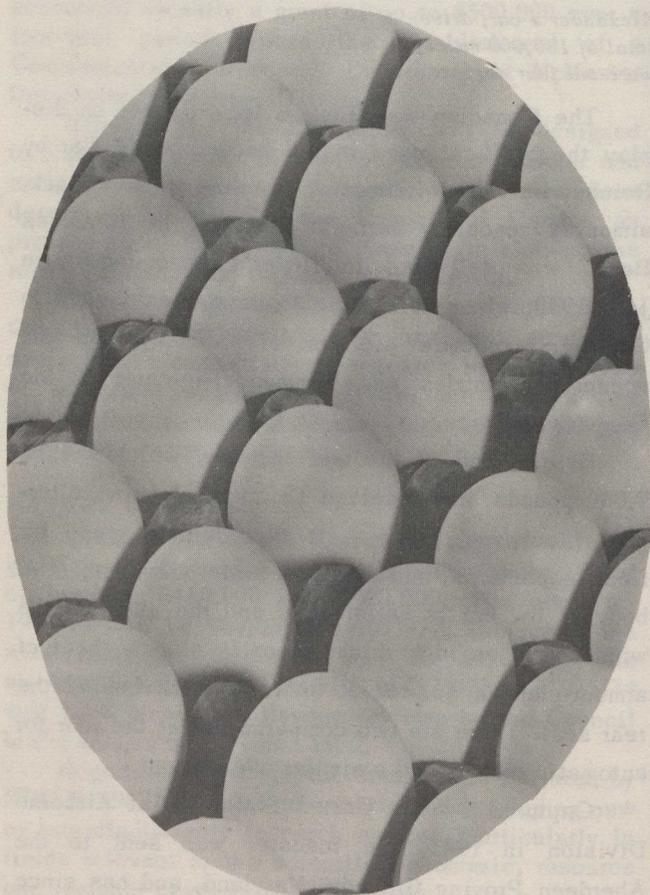
## HEALTH CARE CONFERENCE

The need for specially-trained personnel to help physicians meet the increasing demands for health-care services will be the topic of the National Conference on Assistance to the Physician, which will be held in Ottawa from April 6 to 8. The Conference will attempt to determine the nature of this need and

the complementary roles and responsibilities of the medical and nursing professions in meeting it. Representative physicians, nurses, government-planners, consumers, researchers and spokesmen for other areas in health care will take part in the conference.

The meeting is being planned jointly by the Department of National Health and Welfare, the Canadian Medical Association, L'Association des médecins de langue française du Canada, the Canadian Nurses Association and the Consumers Association of Canada.

Recommendations resulting from the conference will be made available to all interested agencies and will be presented at the National Conference on the Education of Health Manpower, to be held in Ottawa later in the year.



Canadian poultry farmers broke all marketing records at registered stations from coast to coast every month last year. An estimated total of 10,370,000 cases of eggs were marketed, compared to 8,400,000 in 1969.