

— *Dr. Robert P. Kelch*

For Dr. Robert P. Kelch, the new medical chief at The University of Michigan C. S. Mott Children's Hospital, treating children is the most exciting and rewarding way to practice medicine.

As a teacher, he hopes to instill in young pediatricians the need to advocate better child health care as well as the principles of pediatric medicine.

Dr. Kelch recently was named the Medical School's chairman of pediatrics and communicable diseases by the M Regents.

A specialist in growth deficiencies, he has practiced and taught at Mott since 1972. Under his leadership, the growth hormone treatment program now treats more than 100 children dwarfed by growth deficiencies and has become one of the major referral programs for such diseases in the Midwest.

"I love caring for children because a pediatrician becomes close to his patients, emotionally," Dr. Ketch said. "We have a chance to watch them grow and develop. Children are our most

precious resource, and doctors can do a great deal to protect their happiness and health.

"Child health care is much more effective than fighting the ravages of disease in later life. Because children can't speak for themselves, pediatricians naturally want to be advocates of better child health care."

"To improve the training of pediatricians, I want to expand Mott Hospital's involvement with the community.

"One of my first goals is to establish a community relation for our residents."

physicians to let them see the real world of child health care as practiced in the offices of highly productive, local pediatricians," Dr. Kelch said. "If plan to do everything possible to foster the role of Mott Hospital in the community."

Dr. Kelch's other goals for Pediatrics include expanding the size and quality of the department. He plans to institute a program in pediatric gastroenterology and is looking for an additional immunologist to expand the clinical and research capability of that subspecialty.

Women confined to wheelchairs may be at greater risk for toxic shock syndrome and the dangers of birth control than normal women, says a researcher at The University of Michigan School of Nursing.

Nancy Reame, R.N., Ph.D., associate professor of parent-child nursing, said immobility and lack of sensation increase the potential for serious side-

effects from tampons, birth control pills, and IUD).

To investigate these health problems, the U-M School of Nursing has been awarded a \$13,000 grant from the Carter Seal Research Foundation to

"If we can find out the fertility level of injured patients," Dr. Reame said,

control is needed, we can then select

"Disabled women normally take

medications that may counteract the pill," Dr. Reame said. "The pill also may increase the risk of blood clotting—a serious problem for women with spinal injuries. Their disability," she said, "also puts them at high risk for throm-

struction of the veins of the legs."

In the past, only about 10 percent of all spinal cord injuries occurred in women, she said. With more young women taking up such sports as swimming and motorcycling, that percentage is expected to climb.

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