

Only one subject was cared for in the home because there are many difficult problems to overcome when caring for a patient in the home, especially if they are elderly.

The one patient who died at home had expressed a strong desire to die in his own home and his wife and other family members had wanted to grant him his final wish. He received care by doctors from various hospitals in the area including care for his broken femur. When he was no longer able to go out of the home to receive treatment, he was treated in the home by the family physician, and was cared by family members and friends and received support from community.

### **Midori SAKAMOTO, Kiyoko FUKAI and Miho TANAKA : The Relationship Between Bowel Sounds and Constipation Assessment in Healthy Women**

341—346

The relationship between bowel sounds and bowel habits was investigated in 65 healthy women ( $24.8 \pm 7.6$  yr.). Bowel sounds of the subjects, supine in bed, were picked up by a microphone connected to a phonocardiograph, which was placed on the subject's abdomen. The number of wave signals per minutes was determined and analyzed using a spike counter. By this method, the recordings of large bowel sounds with high frequency and density corresponded well to those heard with a stethoscope. Bowel sounds appeared only sporadically just after the subjects laid down on the bed, and increased gradually within 30 minutes. At this time, the frequency of the sounds tended to be stabilized. The frequency of the bowel sounds in the subjects who had not defecated on the day of the recording (the mean score of ST-CAS, 5.6,  $n=9$ ), was significantly lower than those who had defecated before the recording (the mean score of ST-CAS, 1.8,  $n=56$ ). However, the frequency of bowel sounds in constipated subjects was not lower when compared to unconstipated subjects. This suggests that bowel sounds are related to peristalsis but not necessarily to bowel habits. The authors hope that nurses will apply the findings of this study when they assess abdominal sounds with a stethoscope.

### **Toyohiko HAMADA : Research on Uncomfortable Sounds for Persons with Hard of Hearing When Wearing Hearing Aids**

347—352

This study discusses what kind of environmental noises were appropriate for hearing-aid fitting service. Subjects were 70 hard of hearing adults and 15 deaf school students.

Various noises were presented and they answered whether the test noises were uncomfortable or not. The noises determined uncomfortable were investigated how deeply related to the following four factors : 1) the degree of hearing acuity, 2) types of audiogram, 3) persons with acquired hearing impaired or deaf school students with prelingual hearing impaired, 4) duration of hearing aid usage.

Two findings were derived from this study.

One was each uncomfortable sound was influenced from the four factors respectively. The other