INTRODUCTION

PREFACE

Some of the health problems that exist in developing countries are relevant to socio-economic status problems, endemic diseases, traditions in dietary habits, etc. It is well known that protein deficiency prevails in many under-developed and developing countries according to the reports of international agencies as the WHO and FAO. Also it is generally accepted within the public health and research communities that malnutrition due to protein insufficiency is one of the four major nutritional problems within the world.

Another problem that is also of vital importance to the development of these countries is how to lead a successful family planning programme. Most of these countries are now having organized national family planning programmes to overcome problems that are associated with over population. Many of these programmes depend, in the first place, on "Oral contraceptives" being the easiest and sure method for contraception.

Taking into consideration some of the known metabolic hazards that occur consequent to the use of the "Pill", and the metabolic changes that result from protein deficiency, we felt that a research that undertakes the possible interactions of the hormonal content of the pill in an existing

condition of malnourishment could end by some useful observations and recommendations.

Therefore, in this presentation we designed an experiment to study the effect of one of the combined estrogen progesterone commonly used oral contraceptives on the hormones of reproduction in an existing state of malnourishment (protein deficiency) using experimental animals (rats).