NEW YORK — Americans know tapioca as a nourishing root flour used for puddings and food fillers, but in the years ahead it could play a big role in fueling cars, trucks and boats.

Dr. Alfred Globus, head of Guardian Chemical Co. of Hauppauge, N.Y., who has been experimenting for years with fuel mixtures of gasoline, low-grade ethanol alcohols and a catalyst called Hydjwe, has obtained a 500-acre tract of land on the Brazos River in Texas near Houston and backing to build a plant to distill ethanol from the

If things go as planned, about 10,000 gallons of the ethanol will be sold daily to one or more local refineries. It will be mixed with gasoline and the catalyst in an initial proportion of 10 percent ethanol to 90 percent gasoline. Globus expects the proportion of ethanol eventually will be raised to 25 percent, which the American Petroleum Institute has concluded is the ideal mixture for good mileage "Either mixture definitely would be competitive in price with straight unleaded gasoline," he said.

Globus had driven cars for several years on mixtures containing as much as 40 percent ethanol with no damage to the motors, but such mixtures are not really fuel-efficient and would be justified only if the price of gasoline went much higher than it is now, he said.

Globus also has a venture pending in Australia to make ethanol for fuel from the cassava, or manioc, plant, as tapioca is known in much of the world. He said the deal is being delayed because gasoline isn't expensive enough yet in Australia to make it very profitable.

Brazil is the country most advanced in the use of alcohol-gasoline

fuel mixtures. The Brazilians have launched some 170 programs with projected costs totaling nearly \$800 million aimed at the development of alcohol-gasoline or all alcohol fuels. Most of these still are in early

The Brazilians are experimenting with bagasse (sugarcane waste) and certain weeds and currently are building a cassava distillery with

a capacity of 18,000 gallons a day at Belo Horizonte. What is holding the program back in Brazil is that Petrobras, the Brazilian state oil company, makes much more profit out of gasoline than it could hope to make out of an alcohol-fuel mixture, Professor Jose Goldemberg of the University of Sao Paulo said recently.

More than a score of American senators and representatives have begun to show interest in alcohol as a motor fuel additive. Some are interested in the "gasohol" project envisioned by Nebraska comgrowing interests because they think motor fuel from corn has political clout. But sawdust, wastepaper, cornstalks and a wide variety of weeds also are proposed. Globus says cassava seems to be the most promising in the United States and in many other countries. "It is highly disease resistant, it doesn't have to be harvested annually and it can be seen in the countries." it can be grown in comparatively large areas of our Gulf states on land not presently being farmed," he said.

Nevertheless, government officials and oil industry spokesmen remain skeptical about the ready availability of any raw material for alcohol additives for motor fuel.

What goes il provide de la contraction de la contract tank?

Most visits to doctors not needed

A new breed of doctor these days leads a movement aimed at bringing out hidden medical talents in the

average Joe and Jane. It's a self-help trend bolstered by crusading physicians who say 60 to 80 percent of illnesses are self limit-- they go away without medical intervention if you just let them run their course — or they can be treated by a knowledgable person on a do-it-yourself basis.

The cold is the most common self limiting medical condition. You've heard what is said about that: go to a doctor and it gets better in seven days; don't go to a doctor and it gets

the National Ambulatory Medical Care Survey showed from 30 to 70 percent of visits to physicians were unnecessary. Doctors participating in the survey rated only 17 percent of visits to be for serious

or very serious problems.

Nearly half the remainder of the visits were for conditions rated as not serious.

Health care economists say the self-help medical movement can cut billions of dollars off the nation's \$150 billion a year health care bill by cutting down unnecessary visits to doctors.

They figure if just one-third of the trips to doctor are not necessary, and that's the lowest estimate, 200 million visits a year are wasted. The doctor's time is wasted; ditto for the patient's time and the money for the

Not all of the nation's doctors are out there nudging timid patients into self-care.

But the movement's leaders are believed to be having a powerful effect on many medical consumers and the future direction of health care in America.

Also joining in the movement to more intelligent self-care are Blue Cross and Blue Shield associations, and federal, city and state health

In many areas, public health groups and "the Blues" are boosting health education programs. These projects aim to motivate medical consumers to take better care of themselves, keeping little troubles from becoming lethal.

One self-care slogan puts the idea in a capsule: "Nobody can take better care of you than you."

Self-care movement physician

leaders include Dr. Donald Vickery, a family doctor from Arlington, Va., and Dr. Keith W. Sehnert. Sehnert set the scene for self-care among the occupants in housing for the elderly while at Georgetown University Medical School in Washington, D.C.

Now a vice president at InterStudy, a health policy think tank in Excelsior, Minn., Sehnert designs self-care, chemical abuse and anti-stress projects, nutrition management and other health programs for private and public entities, in-cluding corporations, colleges and

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He also has helped to design an auto trauma kit and a burn trauma soon to be marketed by Marshall Electronics Inc. of Skokie, Ill., and a "doctor's black bag" for laymen. It contains a lot of doctor's equipment: blood pressure cuff, stethoscope.

Young parents, adolescents, students from elementary school to college, middle-aged and elderly, moving to the beat of the self-care movement, like the idea of taking direct action and responsibility for their own health care — where and when possible.

Even when they see a doctor, they want to participate in decisions about treatment.

Both Vickery and Sehnert have put together guides showing persons how to take care of themselves, with very careful checklists to be used to determine when self-care won't do and a doctor must be seen or when a trip to an emergency

Sehnert, who began family practice in Nebraska, calls his book "How to Be Your Own Doctor (Sometimes)." Howard Eisenberg, a senior editor at Medical Economics, a publication about the doctor has a publication about the doctor business, is the co-author. The book is in its eighth printing.

Vickery has done two books: "Take Care of Yourself — A Consumer's Guide to Medical Care" and "Taking Care of Your Child." Dr. James F. Fries co-authored the first; Drs. Robert H. Pantell and Fries helped with the third.

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