

M I S C E L L A N E O U S

A FRENCH PUBLIC HEALTH SCHOOL

The Ecole Nationale de la Santé Publique, now established in Rennes, is of recent origin. Its objectives, pupils, and tuition, are the subject of an article from which extracts are quoted below.¹ With respect to the general interest nowadays in matters affecting public health and the training of those who aspire to qualify as instructors in this field, the author says :

The aim of the Ecole Nationale de la Santé Publique is to give complete education in public health, including the administrative and social aspects, with a view to training people engaged in national health and social welfare and to afford opportunities for specialization.

The programme thus defined in Article 2 of the Act of July 28, 1960, which provides for the establishment of the school, covers a wide field. It goes beyond the scope of public health training schools elsewhere, particularly those of English-speaking countries, since it embodies the training and specialization of social workers, which is the responsibility of separate Faculties in other countries. This, for France, is an excellent move which should lead to even greater co-ordination between medical and social services in the future.

The word " nationale " in the school's title indicates that it is run under State authority and is dependent on national resources. This does not, however, imply that enrolment and the scope of the curriculum are limited to France ; the school must accept both national and foreign students.

Aiming in the first place at producing the higher grades of staff for government medical and social services, this school also

¹ *Informations-Actualités*, Ministère de la Santé Publique et de la Population, Paris, October-November 1963.

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fills a dual need at the international level : on the one hand this instruction in public health, with French as the teaching medium, is available to foreign French-speaking students nowhere else in Europe, although the developing countries' urgent need has many times been emphasized ; on the other hand French nationals, after training in public health, can be employed abroad as experts, within the framework either of a bilateral technical assistance programme or of an international organization.

Stress must be laid also on the school's need to undertake research in its particular field.

Those attending the school, whether French or foreigners, represent a wide range of occupations, including :

- medical personnel, mainly doctors and pharmacists making their careers in public health, but also specialists who are concerned with important problems in that domain, such as veterinarians, dentists, biologists, etc.
- administrative staff forming the mainstay of hygiene and social services ; from the State Ministries or local government with general responsibility in public health matters ; hospital managers and almoners,
- other senior personnel in social welfare, such as Population and Welfare Inspectors, senior staff of social service colleges and departments, Public Assistance Act Controllers,
- auxiliary medical personnel : public health nurses, nursing and midwifery school instructors for developing countries,
- public health department technicians of various grades and occupations, sanitary engineers, instructors, etc.

Classes are arranged according to syllabus, the main sections at present being : medical ; hospital administration ; sanitary engineering ; auxiliary medical.

A further three sections are shortly to be instituted : the social section, for senior staff in social welfare ; pharmacy section ; hygiene instructors' section.

The syllabus is covered by eleven departments, each one being responsible for tuition in fundamental subjects :

Hospital administration, public health administration ; architecture ; town planning and sanitary engineering ; hygiene instruction ; epidemiology ; hygiene and preventive medicine ; microbiology ; physics and chemistry ; social sciences and technology ; statistics ; nursing.

There are also facilities for external students studying by correspondence for certain administrative examinations. In addition, the Ecole Nationale de la Santé Publique at Rennes takes part in and supervises in Paris and the provinces a number of courses for :

- training of teachers for deaf children at the Institut National de Jeunes Sourds in Paris ;
- training of dieticians at the Ecole de Diététique, Marseilles, the first stage in the nutrition and food supply course demanded by the international organizations.

In conclusion, mention should be made of the on-the-job refresher courses organized by the Ecole Nationale de la Santé Publique for public health and social services personnel.