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G. Rosen. Economic and Social Policy in Public Health, in Journal of the History of Medicine, 1953 [photocopie]

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Références bibliographiques

- [\[anonyme ou collectif\] Journal of the history of medicine](#)
- [Rosen, Economic and Social Policy in Public Health, in Journal of the History of Medicine, 1953](#)

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Références éditoriales

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their significance for the political and economic strength of the state. This characteristic orientation is clearly revealed whenever he deals with matters of health, in his discussion of population, and in his various statistical proposals. Throughout his numerous published and unpublished writings occur schemes to increase the power and prestige of England.⁷ As an essential element of these schemes, Petty urged repeatedly the collection of statistical data on population, trade, manufacture, education, diseases, revenue, and many other topics. The breadth of his approach is strikingly illuminated by his "Method of enquiring into the state of any country." This memorandum outlined a complete scheme for a political, economic, social, and health survey. Among the topics listed are not only a census of the population and the nature of the public revenue, but even such questions as "What are the bookes that do sell most. . . ."⁸

Within this broad frame of reference Petty was able to grasp clearly the relations and implications of a number of public health problems. Thus, he saw that it was not enough simply to recognize natural fertility and population as major conditions of national prosperity. The acceptance of this premise went hand in hand with the responsibility for removing impediments to the full development of these resources. A major aspect of this responsibility was the creation of conditions and facilities which would promote health, prevent disease, and render medical care easily accessible to those who should have it. The achievement of these aims required that medical knowledge be advanced to the greatest degree possible, and Petty pointed out that it is the duty of the state to foster medical progress.⁹ In 1648, Petty had published in London a small book entitled *The Advice of W. P. to Mr. S. Hartlib for the Advancement of Some Particular Parts of Learning*. In it he had recognized the crucial importance of the hospital in the training of physicians and in the furtherance of medical research, and to this point he returned again and again. In various connections Petty urged the establishment of hospitals, not only as a general recommendation, but also in specific proposals. Thus, in 1687, in "An Essay for the Emprovement of London," Petty proposed "That there bee a Councill of Health viz. for the Plague, acute

⁷ *The Petty Papers. Some unpublished writings of Sir William Petty*, edited from the Bowood Papers by the Marquis of Lansdowne. London, Constable & Co., 1927. 2 vols., vol. I, pp. 255-258, 263-276.

⁸ *Ibid.*, vol. I, p. 176.

⁹ *Ibid.*, vol. II, p. 176.



