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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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and epidemically diseases, aged foundlings, as also for persons and houses of correction, and all sorts of hospitalls and women in child-bed."¹⁰ Another memorandum composed in the same year suggests a hospital of a thousand beds for London. For Petty, the basic political and economic importance of population was axiomatic. Consequently, any measures to prevent impairment of population by disease and death were matters of great concern. Control of communicable disease, especially plague, and the saving of infant life would, Petty felt, contribute most toward this end. This conviction is reflected in his various suggestions for combating plague and establishing maternity hospitals. He recommended the establishment of isolation hospitals to which plague patients would be removed and where they would receive medical care. To buttress this recommendation, and in general the usefulness of any measures intended to combat the ravages of the plague, he undertook to calculate the economic loss due to the disease.¹¹ Similarly, he advocated the creation of maternity hospitals, having in mind particularly unmarried women. Petty contemplated that in return for such provision by government, the children would become wards of the state and serve it for twenty-five years, thus adding to the labor resources of the country. He also believed that certain occupational groups in the population were of direct concern to the state. In keeping with this point of view, are his suggestions that studies be made of occupational morbidity and mortality.¹²

Finally, Petty realized that to achieve these aims an adequate supply of medical personnel would be required. Consequently, he proposed that an analysis be made of health needs, using the methods that Graunt had employed and then on this basis to calculate the numbers of physicians, surgeons, and others necessary to meet these needs. In short, Petty proposed that the number of medical personnel be planned and adjusted to meet the actual need for medical care.¹³

Petty was not alone in dealing with health problems, or in attempting to study them quantitatively. Among his contemporaries and successors, these interests were expressed in varying degree, and some were keenly alive to the importance of a healthy population as a factor in national opulence. One might mention

¹⁰ *Ibid.*, vol. I, p. 35.

¹¹ For Petty's recommendations concerning the plague, and his various estimates of the economic loss due to the disease, see his *Economic writings*, pp. 109-110, 151, 303, 463, 536; also *The Petty Papers*, I, pp. 33, 36-40, 256-257.

¹² *Petty Papers*, I, pp. 195, 267; II, 55, 170; Petty, *Economic writings*, p. 259.

¹³ Petty, *Economic writings*, p. 27.



