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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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Samuel Hartlib, Gerrard Winstanley, or Peter Cornelius Plockboy, but perhaps closest to Petty was his younger contemporary Nehemiah Grew, also a physician, who is best known today for his work in plant anatomy. Sometime in 1707 apparently, Grew prepared for Queen Anne a memorandum entitled, *The Meanes of a Most Ample Encrease of the Wealth and Strength of England in a Few Years Humbly represented to her Majestie In the Fifth Year of Her Reign*.<sup>14</sup> As the title indicates, this document outlined an economic program to enhance the prosperity and power of England. Grew's focus of interest was the same as Petty's, and his handling of health problems occurs within a similar context. He knew Petty, to whom he refers as "my late Honoured Friend," and frequently mentions Petty's calculations, though he does not always accept them. In his opinion the four basic elements in the economic anatomy of England are land, manufactures, foreign trade, and population. Ultimately, however, Grew's program depended on the size and quality of the population, and to this subject he devoted the fourth section of his memorandum. Grew assumed as axiomatic the need for increasing population to provide the necessary labor power. Among his recommendations toward this end he urged that the state do all in its power to maintain health and prevent disease. Grew emphasized the economic burden of disease, commenting that in economic terms the sick are worse than dead because they become either public or private charges. To make medical care available to all, Grew proposed that the government regulate physicians' fees according to their experience. He felt that if this were done the cost of medical care could be reduced and thus made accessible to those who needed it.

Despite their bold and penetrating character, the ideas of Petty and Grew had no immediately tangible results. Their proposals did not lead to concrete action because they ran contrary to two major interrelated trends, one political and administrative, the other economic and social. Effective implementation would have required the existence of a well-developed local administrative mechanism operating under centralized control, in a manner comparable to the organizations of Prussia or France. But it was precisely this network of administration which had disappeared after the Revolution. Cunningham, the economic historian, employed the term "parliamentary Colbertism" to describe this period and its con-

<sup>14</sup> E. A. Johnson, *Predecessors of Adam Smith. The growth of British economic thought*. New York, Prentice-Hall, 1937, pp. 117-138.



