

*executive committee of
the directing council*

PAN AMERICAN
SANITARY
ORGANIZATION



*working party of
the regional committee*

WORLD
HEALTH
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Topic 21: INCREASE IN THE STIPEND PAID TO PERSONS RECEIVING FELLOWSHIPS
FROM THE PAN AMERICAN SANITARY ORGANIZATION

(Topic presented by the Representative of Argentina)

The fellowships granted by the Pan American Sanitary Bureau amount to from \$200 to \$250 per month. In our opinion, this amount is insufficient, and should be raised to \$300. Our reasons are the following:

The candidates for fellowships are professionals who have been established in their profession for a number of years, and have acquired personal financial responsibilities. If the candidates were recent graduates, they would not have sufficient experience to profit fully from the fellowship studies. The former, when confronted with the necessity of giving up their regular source of income, find it difficult to decide to apply for a fellowship. Those who are married find it even more difficult.

If, in addition to the above-mentioned circumstances, the cost of living in the country of the fellowship is very high, and there is little possibility of being able to compensate for the adjustments he has to make in leaving his country, there is further reason for his reluctance. Fellowship students discuss with future candidates how inadequate the stipend has been to keep up the standard of living to which they are accustomed.

These are reasons why good candidates are reluctant to apply for fellowships. In addition, there are psychological reasons to be taken into consideration.

When a fellowship student goes to a foreign country that offers many interesting things to see, it is understandable that he will not be satisfied to devote himself solely to the studies that brought him there, and restrict himself to visiting only his immediate surroundings, but that he will wish to take advantage of every opportunity to enlarge his knowledge, and to visit every place he finds accessible.

The resources at the disposal of the fellowship student are inadequate to satisfy this natural and understandable desire, and he is obliged to have recourse to his own funds. In many cases he does not possess private means.

It is a good policy for a fellowship student, like any other visitor, to take home from the country he has visited the greatest amount of information, which would find expression in favorable comments, and thus stimulate the curiosity and interest of prospective candidates.

Furthermore, the funds at the disposal of a fellowship student would go farther if practices used in certain European countries were adopted, where a considerable reduction in the prices of every commodity of a cultural nature is granted to such students; for instance, entrance fees to museums, excursions to historic places, theaters, motion-picture houses, concerts, etc.

This Delegation feels that, in view of the difficulties encountered in filling the fellowships granted annually, it would be advisable to reduce the number of fellowships and increase the amount of the stipend.

It is suggested that a sum of money for fellowships might be allocated to each country and the number of fellowships, which would vary according to higher or lower stipends ranging from \$200 as a minimum to \$300 as a maximum, might be determined in agreement with each interested Government.