



XV Pan American Sanitary Conference

San Juan, Puerto Rico
September-October, 1958

X Meeting Regional Committee



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Topic 28: SELECTION OF TOPIC FOR TECHNICAL DISCUSSIONS DURING
THE XI MEETING OF THE DIRECTING COUNCIL

The proposed rules for Technical Discussions at meetings of the Pan American Sanitary Conference and of the Directing Council (Document CE34/13, Annex I, Rev. 1), provide that "the Conference or the Council, as the case may be, shall each year select the topic or topics for the Technical Discussions to be held during the ensuing meeting of either of these two governing bodies. The Conference or the Council may delegate the selection of topics to the Executive Committee" (Article 7).

Accordingly, it is incumbent on the XV Conference to decide on the selection of the topic for the Technical Discussions to be held at the XI Meeting of the Directing Council in 1959.

Article 1 of the above-mentioned rules further provides that the purpose of the Technical Discussions shall be "to deal with matters of regional interest related to the activities of the Pan American Sanitary Organization and of the national public health administrations, the study of which may produce immediate and practical results."

Attached for the information of the Conference is a list of the topics selected for Technical Discussions in past years (Annex I).

Topics of special interest in this Hemisphere are highlighted in the Summary of Four-Year Reports on Health Condition in the Americas, prepared for the XV Pan American Sanitary Conference. That report indicates fields in which activities need to be extended and services provided for a much greater proportion of the population. The following subjects are cited as examples. In the field of maternal and child health, mortality is excessive in infancy and early childhood as the result of high prevalence of gastrointestinal, respiratory, and communicable diseases. The application of known methods for the prevention of this excessive mortality through the activities of the health services in the Americas could profitably be discussed.

In addition to the activities for eradication of certain communicable diseases, means for the prevention of other communicable diseases are readily available and deserve greater attention and discussion.

The prevention of many deaths would be possible through the extension of environmental sanitation and especially through the provision of water supplies. The Advisory Committee on Environmental Sanitation has recommended a concerted program of tremendous scope for the provision of water supplies to all urban communities. The technical, financial, and administrative aspects of this problem could also be a topic for the Technical Discussions.

These activities -- maternal and child health, communicable disease control, and environmental sanitation -- are a basic part of local health services, the extension of which is of major concern to all health administrators.

Also, the data indicate the advisability of renewed consideration and discussion of the resources available in the form of medical and health personnel and the facilities needed for preparing personnel for health programs in general.

On the basis of these considerations, the Conference may wish to select the topic "Technical, Financial, and Administrative Aspects of the Provision of Water Supplies," as the subject of Technical Discussions in 1959. The Conference may also recommend that the Directing Council consider the following as possible subjects for the Technical Discussions at future meetings:

1. Methods for the Expansion of the Maternal and Child Health Program;
2. Methods for Strengthening the Prevention of Communicable Diseases;
3. Extension of Coverage and Content of Local Health Services;
4. Education and Training of Personnel Needed for National Health Plans.

Annex I

SUBJECTS OF TECHNICAL DISCUSSIONS

Pan American Sanitary Organization

1953 - Directing Council

Nutrition Programs in Public Health Services

1954 - Pan American Sanitary Conference

1. Methods of Improving the Reliability of Raw Statistical Data Required for Health Programs
2. Control of Infant Diarrheas in the Light of Recent Scientific Progress
3. Application of Health Education Methods in Rural Areas in Latin America

1955 - Directing Council

1. Methods of Improving the Education of Public Health Personnel
2. Medical Care in Rural Areas

1956 - Directing Council

Methods for the Preparation of National Public Health Plans

1957 - Directing Council

Bases and Methods for the Evaluation of Health Programs

1958 - Pan American Sanitary Conference

The Prevention of Accidents in Childhood

World Health Assembly

- 1951 - The Education and Training of Medical and Public Health Personnel
- 1952 - 1. The Economic Value of Preventive Medicine
2. The Methodology of Health Protection for Local Areas
- 1953 - Syphilis
Tuberculosis
Typhoid
- 1954 - Public Health Problems in Rural Areas
- 1955 - Public Health Problems in Rural Areas
- 1956 - Nurses: their Education and their Role in Health Programmes
- 1957 - The Role of the Hospital in the Public Health Programme
- 1959 - Health Education of the Public
- 1960 - The Role of Immunization in Communicable Diseases Control
- 1961- Mental Health Programmes in Public Health Planning (Topic recommended by the Executive Board for the Fourteenth World Health Assembly -- EB22.R6)