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THE PLACE OF PUBLIC HEALTH IN A UNIVERSITY

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PUBLIC health is distinctly a member of the younger generation in the academic sisterhood. It was only in 1901 that the committee on teaching of hygiene and granting of diplomas of doctor of public health, of the American Public Health Association, made its first report, with W. T. Sedgwick as chairman and Wyatt Johnston, of Montreal, as secretary;¹ and in the preceding academic year (1898-1900) Johnston had offered the first course for the diploma in public health at McGill. It is true that long before this time Sedgwick at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology had begun to turn out men who were to lead in the upbuilding of sanitary science on this continent² but they were given degrees as biologists or engineers—not special degrees in public health.

It is only during the past fifteen years that the development of facilities for higher education in the field of public health has become an active and a general one. In 1904 Toronto followed McGill in establishing a course for the diploma of public health. In 1906 the University of Pennsylvania, for the first time in the United States, offered courses leading to special degrees and certificates in public health, but no such degree was actually awarded there until 1912. The Harvard Medical School has apparently the honor of conferring the first degree of doctor of public health in 1911.³ In this same year the name of Sedgwick's department was changed from "biology" to "biology and public health." In September, 1913, the Harvard-Technology School for Health Officers, which had so brilliant and significant a career, was opened. In 1918 Yale granted its first certificate of public health. In 1920 the School of Hygiene was established at Johns Hopkins and two years later a similar institution was set up at Harvard. By 1924, the committee on standardization of public health training of the American Public Health Association could list nineteen colleges and universities as giving a total of ninety-eight advanced degrees in public health.

It is natural that the question of the proper place of public health in the scheme of university organization should still remain in large measure an open

¹ Papers and Reports, American Public Health Association, Buffalo meeting, 1901. Vol. XXVII, p. 87.

² Such pioneers as Allen Hazen and E. O. Jordan graduated in 1888; G. C. Whipple in 1899; G. N. Calkins and G. W. Fuller in 1890.

³ Rosenau, M. J., Bulletin 126, U. S. Public Health Service, 1922.

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