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DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY  
Fort Detrick  
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Several Remarks Concerning the Work of Sanitary-Epidemiological Councils  
at the Sanitary-Epidemiological Stations.

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Station.

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Hygiene and Sanitation (USSR). 23: 11: 71: 1958.  
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The article of Dr. S. V. Pevzner, "Sanitary-Epidemiological Councils in  
the Work System of the Sanitary-Epidemiological Stations." (1), shows in suf-  
ficient detail the activity of the Sanitary-Epidemiological Council in the  
Novosibirsk Oblast Sanit.-Epid. station.

In his work, however, are also found inadequacies.

First, several remarks concerning the conduct of the meetings of the  
sanit.-epid. councils. Into it are usually injected many problems, the number  
of which amount to 10-15. Naturally, with such a large quantity of problems,  
there is practically no time left for an exchange of opinions and proposals,  
and this means that there will be little or no constructive proposals.

Consequently, for the conduct of any meeting of the sanit.-epid. council  
there must be allowed no more than 2-3 problems, which have been well pre-  
pared by those reporting. The fruitfulness of the meetings of the council is  
dependent on the participation in it of the specialists of a close medical  
cross-section (therapists, neuropathologists, pediatricians, surgeons, ocu-  
lists, etc.). Their participation helps significantly to deepen the questions  
being considered, to find the continuity in the work, and chiefly, to speed  
the search for rational ways and means of conducting one measure or another.  
There is no doubt as to the necessity of the scientific workers' participa-  
tion in the work of the councils.

The expediency of inviting specialists of non-medical establishments,  
who are interested in some question, for participation in the work of the  
sanit.-epid. council creates serious controversies. The fact of the matter  
is, unfortunately, that the sanit.-epid. councils have not yet become an  
authoritative organ for the other services, and therefore they do not con-  
sider it their duty to send representatives for participation in their work.  
The attraction of specialists of a non-medical profile to participate in  
the work of the sanit.-epid. councils is in principal necessary and impor-  
tant, and must become the next step on the way to improving their work.

The lack of authority of the sanit.-epid. councils is explained occa-  
sionally by a lack of ability of the medical workers to prompt, because of  
a weak knowledge of the local situation, and to hold out in a dispute of a  
proposal having to do with the assigned task. As a result, the discussion  
comes to mutual recriminations over the insufficient activity, or takes an  
aimless character.

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Therefore, when a complexity in the work of the sanit.-epid. councils is resolved, first amongst the medical specialists of various profile, then the next step will be the resolution of the complexity in the work with the other nonmedical establishments.

Experience in conducting the meetings of the sanit.-epid. councils attests to the fact that they should be held in March-April, June-July, October-November, that is, in the periods of the medical workers' least activity in servicing the great agricultural works, in the processing of the yearly accounts, etc.

(1) - Hygiene and Sanitation. 1956. No 6.