

I. OBJECTIVE

The objective of this course is to prepare the individual for, and induce him to take an active intelligent part in, shaping the health policy and practices of his own community, state, and nation.

II. PLAN

In the brief time available for the course, our aim will be to:

1. Explore some of the sources and forms of our societal or community health practices.
2. Evaluate the soundness of these practices.
3. Estimate the adequacy of our present facilities for protecting the individual through the group.
4. Project the essentials of a public health program that promises the best results with our present knowledge of the principles of hygiene.

III. DEFINITION OF THE FIELD

For purposes of more accurate description, the field of hygiene has been classified under a number of distinct but inter-related divisions. These have been presented in former courses.

Societal or intergroup hygiene is defined by Storey as "the application of the scientific facts of general hygiene in and by the public for the health welfare of the public." It is frequently called community or public hygiene. It conceives the public as being made up of associated groups of humans dominated by common health interests and exposed to common health dangers and competent to enforce standards of hygiene through the various units of government and by force of community custom.

IV. BASIS OF SOCIETAL HYGIENE

A brief consideration of the bases of a societal or public hygiene program will be of value.

1. Economic Basis

- a. Values of reduced morbidity and mortality
- b. Values of increased efficiency
- c. Values ~~to~~ communities.

2. Scientific Basis

- a. Known causes and modes of transmission of disease.
- b. Known methods of cure and prevention of disease.
- c. Known methods of promotion of health.

3. Legal Basis

- a. Power to establish legal regulations
- b. Power to enforce regulations
- c. Power to appropriate money for health purposes.