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RUMANIA

<u>HEALTH</u>	/1600/
Hospitals and Medicines	/1602/
Physicians	/1605/
Wages	/1910/

REPORT ON MEDICAL CARE.

SOURCE ATHENS: See below.

DATE OF OBSERVATION: Current period.

EVAL. COMMENT: This very useful report deals with the health conditions in present day Rumania. In connection with the reported increase of salaries of medical personnel see the respective Government Decision /"Scanteia" of December 30 1954./

See for reference on the prevailing sanitary conditions TRIESTE RFE Item No. 9645/54. The latter like the various reports dealing with the health conditions in Rumania -- also confirmed the employment of the listed physicians who are well known from the pre-Communist period. In regard to the lack of medicaments, the availability of beds in hospitals as well as to the spreading of tuberculosis, see TRIESTE RFE Item No. 9536/54. The reported figure of one forth of the Capital's population allegedly suffering from tuberculosis, or in a preliminary stage of the disease is believed to be exaggerated..

The two-year stage in the country-side for young doctors was confirmed by recent refugees.

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A Greek-Rumanian former teacher and civil servant who was allowed to leave Rumania with a regular passport in September 1954, gave the following report on medical care as currently practiced both in BUCHAREST and in the rural areas of Rumania:

In BUCHAREST and the other large cities medical care is given by the polyclinics /polyclinice/, the hospitals and the sanatoriums. BUCHAREST is divided into eight medical sectors in each of which there is a polyclinic. The directors of the polyclinics are doctors who are members of the Communist Party. Each polyclinic has usually the following departments: the pathological, the gynecological, the dermatological, the surgical, the cardiological, the urological, the X-ray and Venereal diseases departments.

#### Medical Assistance.

The polyclinic directors do not examine the patients. Of the other doctors some examine the patients within the polyclinics and others are assigned to home visits. The polyclinics give medical care only to the socially insured working people and their dependents. If a socially insured person falls ill, he, or a member of his family, notifies the polyclinic of the sector, either directly or through the employee responsible for social insurance relations of the organization at which the patient works. A doctor of the polyclinic will visit a patient only if he cannot be moved or if he runs a temperature of over 39° centigrade. The polyclinics were obliged to follow this practice, for the number of the visiting doctors was comparatively very small.

There were instances that a patient waited for the doctor for a week, despite repeated telephone calls, before the latter appeared. There were also instances that the patient died without receiving any medical care.

Source wished to emphasize that in the present dire conditions in Rumania the doctors, as a rule, proved themselves worthy of their professional and humanitarian mission. In most cases, aware of the misery surrounding them, they offered their services gratis or against a very small

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payment, especially to non-working people who were not entitled to free State medical care.

If a visiting doctor from a polyclinic did not show up, although summoned, and the patient recovered after some days he would not receive any pay for the days he was ill, for his illness should have been testified by a polyclinic doctor.

One of the reasons why the visiting doctors leave often the patients unattended is that in addition to their heavy burden of 40 to 50 visits per day, they are not compensated but for part of their movement expenses and that only after long and tedious formalities. Moreover, the salary paid to doctors was quite insufficient, especially so, if they had a family. Till December 1953 the monthly salary of doctors amounted to 605 lei. In that month a raise was granted and at present the salaries vary from a minimum of 650 to a maximum of 1,000 lei per month.

The private practice of doctors is not interdicted by the law but they must pay such a high tax that most doctors have been obliged to abandon such practice or to carry it on secretly, risking to be charged with "economic sabotage" and to be <sup>be</sup> fined or imprisoned.

Source further said that if one visits the polyclinic of the Coltea Hospital, which is established in the back side of the hospital on Teilor Street, opposite the building of the Ministry of Interior Trade, or the polyclinic of the Brancovenese Hospital, one will be greatly impressed by the crowd of patients waiting in front of the information office for the issue of a priority number that will permit them to be examined. At times they have to wait for several days, for the doctors are also obliged to comply with a norm which has been set at 20 to 25 examinations per day.

The patients leaving the polyclinic after the examination were usually disaffected because they believed that they had not been duly examined or that the drugs prescribed were not the proper ones.

In the source's opinion the doctors did their best, but

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under the circumstances they were both pressed for time and had no choice of drugs, for they were only permitted to prescribe certain drugs, as determined in a list. The patients complained that the polyclinic doctors did not prescribe the correct drugs but their Rumanian substitutes, which, as it was currently said, "sent the patient to meet Little Father Stalin."

In order to be introduced into a hospital a patient should first be examined by a three-member medical committee, composed of a pathologist, a surgeon and a third doctor. This examination was effected only following a written recommendation of the polyclinic doctor who first examined the patient. But even if the medical committee decided for the introduction of the patient to a hospital this could not be easily achieved, for the number of beds in the hospitals was absolutely insufficient, although beds had been placed in the corridors and other accessorial space.

Source stated that only in cases of imminent danger may a bed be immediately provided. Otherwise, only if the patient has good contacts with prominent Communist leaders or happens to be a friend of one of the members of the medical committee, has he any hope for immediate entrance into a hospital.

Source mentioned the instance of a worker he knew who suffered of an acute case of hernia. Although the medical committee had decided he should be urgently introduced into a hospital and operated on, he was carried around from one hospital to another for three weeks without being accepted. In the end he succeeded to contact Dr. STANESCU /fnu/, a young surgeon who had been imprisoned for three years for political reasons. Dr. STANESCU pitying the man introduced him into a hospital under his responsibility and immediately performed the operation declaring that it was a most urgent case.

The hospital patients are given inadequate care and the drugs provided to them are quite insufficient, as source knows from experience. Accordingly, the patients supply themselves with the required drugs from the market. Most of those who are to undergo an operation supply

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themselves even with catgut for the suture of their ~~anterior~~ operational incision, for the catgut produced in Rumania is of a very bad quality and often provokes inflammations.

Very often the patients are sent home before having fully recovered and continue their treatment without the supervision of a doctor.

Owing to the great scarcity of antibiotics the incidence of venereal diseases is great, source further said. The patients are treated in the polyclinics with antiquated methods.

Diseases /Tuberculosis/.

The anti-tuberculosis campaign is waged by special medical stations designated by the initials T.B.C each of which disposes of from 10 to 25 beds. There are eight T.B.C. stations in BUCHAREST with a personnel consisting of a director, five or six doctors, two chemists, seven or eight nurses and a statistics employee, who also performs the duties of secretary. The beds are used for patients who are in need of a pneumothorax or have been the victims of acute hemoptysis. There, too, the drugs given are quite insufficient. Source knows from doctors that not even one tenth of the required doses of penicillin or "Pas" are given.

According to source, the official statistics estimate the number of consumptives in BUCHAREST at 32,000. But this number does not comprise those who are not entitled to free State medical care, nor those in a preliminary stage of the disease or the children suffering from glandular disturbances of a tuberculous nature. In the opinion of specialists known to source one fourth of the population of BUCHAREST is either tuberculous or in a preliminary stage of the disease.

The T.B.C. stations also have visiting doctors who treat the patients at home, but it is mostly the nurses who are signed to this task. The T.B.C. stations submit weekly reports on their activity to the Capital's Central People's Hospital /Spitalul Popular Central al Capitalei./

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under The organization of the anti-tuberculosis campaign depends on the Tuberculosis Department of the Ministry of Health, which has its headquarters in a hospital near the Foisor de Foc, which is known as the tuberculosis of the bones hospital. correct drugs but their Romanian substitutes, which, as it was currently said, sent the patient to read

The consumptives are entitled to supplementary food rations, for which they are supplied with special quarterly coupons. On the basis of these coupons they are issued in addition to the normal rations, 1,200 grams of meat, one kilo of sugar and one and-a-half kilo of seedoil per month. examination was effected only following a written recommendation of the polyclinic doctor who first examined the patient. The most seriously ill among the consumptives were sent to the sanatorium of Dr. BAGDASAR, on Batistei Street, or at the Filaret sanatorium, where lung operations were performed. The director of the Filaret sanatorium was a Dr. APOSTOL /fnu/, a member of the Party, who, according to the opinion of many specialists known to source, was quite untrained for the job. source stated that only in cases of imminent danger any aid had be immediately provided. Otherwise, only if the patient

Hospitals. contacts with prominent Communist leaders or happens to be a friend of one of the members of the medical staff. Following is a list of the hospitals which, according to source, are functioning at present in BUCHAREST:

Spitalul Coltea /Hospital No. 3/ of a worker he knew who  
 Spitalul Brancovenesc /State hospital No. 3/ of the medical  
 Spitalul Filantropia /State hospital No. 7/ introduced into  
 Spitalul Colentina /State hospital No. 1/ ed around from his  
 Spitalul I.C. Frimu / the former social insurance hospital/  
 Spitalul Panduri /State hospital No. 19/, formerly the French  
 surgeon who had been imprisoned for three years Sanatorium  
 Spitalul Francez /BCHU giving the war introduced him into a  
 Spitalul Caritas, on Traian Street and immediately performed  
 Spitalul Pantelimon ring that it was a most urgent case.  
 Spitalul Floreasca  
 Spitalul 30 Decembrie, on the Bariera Vergului, which was  
 erected by Dr. GOMOIU with the aid of the Queen Mother;  
 Spitalul Elias, the most modern hospital of Rumania, which is  
 reserved for prominent Communists and Russian residents;  
 Most of those who are to undergo Dr. Spilator surgery

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Maternitatea Polizu, the maternity hospital which till 1952 bore the name of Ana PAUKER. This is the only hospital which was expanded by the addition of new buildings by the present regime;

The Emilia IZRA Children's Hospital, near Lake Teiu. This is the only new hospital erected by the Communists. On the other hand, the left wing of the Colentina hospital which was used as a training school for nurses, has been turned into the Workers Marxist University of Stefan CHEORGHIOU.

In addition to the above, the State railways have the management of a hospital on Soseaua Marasesti, of a maternity hospital on Soseaua Giulesti, of a surgical clinic with a T.B.C. on Soseaua Stefan Cel Mare, near the Dynamo Stadium, and of the Witing Hospital near the Gara de Nord. These establishments are reserved for the employees and workers of the State Railways.

Almost all ministries have special polyclinics for their personnel and that of the State enterprises coming under their jurisdiction, but in case of hospitalization they must go to the State hospitals.

There are also in every sector of BUCHAREST special children's medical stations. Neither do these stations grant free drugs to the children. Source remembered the instance of a woman he knew who was compelled to sell her five-tube radio set to buy five grams of streptomycin for her child ill with pneumonia.

#### Physicians.

Referring to doctors, source said that the following professors of the pre-Communist period continue to work:

Professor Dr. DJUVARA /fnu/ in the Caritas Hospital  
Professor Dr. Amza JIANU in the Filantropia Hospital  
Professor Dr. Ghita DUMITRESCU in the Polizu Maternitatea Hospital  
Professor Dr. Octav STANCE in the Pantelimon Hospital  
Professor Dr. HORTOLOMEI /fnu/ in the Coltea Hospital  
Professor Dr. Marius NASTA in the Filaret Hospital  
Professor Dr. LUPU /fnu/ in the Colentina Hospital /more/



Professor Dr. C.I. PARHON, ex-President of the Grand National Assembly /until 1952/ in the former French Hospital  
Professor Dr. MANDACHE /fnu/, in the Brancovenos Hospital  
Professor Dr. FAGARASANU /fnu/ in the Colentina Hospital  
Professor Dr. BLATT /fnu/ in the eye clinic of Bulevardul Domnitei, near the Statuia Rosetti.  
Professor Dr. LONGHIN /fnu/ in the military hospital at General Angelescu Street.

#### Reorganization of the Health System.

After graduation from the medical schools, the new doctors are sent to the rural areas to ply their trade. Lacking in experience they find themselves confronted with great responsibilities, for they have nobody to turn to for advice in difficult cases. As a young doctor told source: they do their best and "let the devil take the most unfortunate among their patients." But even their best is not good enough. In the pre-Communist days the undergraduates after their third year in medical school were engaged as interns in the various hospitals and thus acquired experience. At present the burden of work in the hospitals is such that the professors and lecturers have no time to instruct the students at some leisure. Moreover, in the University itself a greater importance is given to the teaching of Marxism and of the Russian language than to that of medical subjects.

The undergraduate who fails to pass the examination on these two courses is excluded from the examinations. On the other hand, the innumerable political meetings during the scholar year and the "voluntary" work during the vacations distract the medical undergraduate from his line of work.

In the Ministry of Health there is a committee which decided of the locality where the newly graduated doctor will practice his profession. Those refusing to go to their assigned post are brought to trial and sentenced as saboteurs of the social order.

Medical care in the rural areas is absolutely primitive, source said, for in addition to the inexperience of the

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doctors, there is lack of drugs and of medical instruments as well as of adequately equipped medical stations.

Moreover, the distances which the doctor must cover, going from one village to another, are very great and he does not dispose of many means of communication except peasants' carts.

On the other hand, the quite insufficient salary and the strict interdiction of receiving any kind of payment from the patients sap the doctor's zeal.

Under the circumstances the peasants have come to distrust the doctors of the rural areas and in most cases they carry their sick to the towns and pay for their treatment, for nowadays, as source said, the peasants are the only class of people who dispose of money.

After a practice period of two or three years - source is not sure - young doctors attend a post-graduate medical school for specialization. This medical school is located at Calea Victoria No. 2 close to the former theater Regina Maria. The under-secretary of Health, DUNAREANU Horia, teaches Marxism in this school.

Concluding, source said that lately a medical congress convened in BUCHAREST to examine the country's health situation. The congress acknowledged that the prevalent diseases in Rumania are tuberculosis, rheumatoid arthritis, and venereal diseases.

In the opinion of doctors known to source the discussions in the congress were academic, for none of the participants dared to mention the real causes of the bad health situation which, according to the same doctors, are mainly the following four:

1. The lack of drugs
2. The over-exertion of the working people
3. Undernourishment
4. Insufficient heating during the winter for lack of fuel.

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To these should be added the moral fatigue resulting from the constant fear and high tension under which the great majority of the population lives, and which affect disastrously their physical resistance to disease.

Professor Dr. PACHASCHOU /fn/ in the Colentina Hospital  
Professor Dr. BLATT /fn/ in the eye clinic of Boulevardul  
Dimitrie, near the Statuia Rosetti.  
Professor Dr. LONGHIN /fn/ in the military hospital at  
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In the Ministry of Health there is a committee which decides of the locality where the newly graduated doctor will practice his profession. Those refusing to go to their assigned post are brought to trial and sentenced to exile on the spot.

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