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SOCIETY FOR EPIDEMIOLOGIC RESEARCH

MILTON TERRIS¹

A new epidemiology society has been established. Its purpose is to provide a common meeting ground for the different generations of epidemiologists and the various categories of specialists in infectious, chronic and mental disease epidemiology.

The Society for Epidemiologic Research will have a somewhat different role from the two existing organizations in the field. The Epidemiology Section of the American Public Health Association, which has a very large membership, is concerned not only with the advancement of epidemiologic research and teaching, but also with participation in the overall public health movement and relations with other sections of that movement. The American Epidemiological Society, on the other hand, limits its membership to 125 persons; the addition of new members must await the retirement of the old. The new fields of epidemiology are therefore under-represented: the burgeoning area of chronic diseases has inadequate representation; the mental disease field has practically none.

The Society for Epidemiologic Research hopes to provide an opportunity, in meetings held on a much smaller scale than those of the A.P.H.A., for epidemiologists to get together to dis-

cuss their work in a setting which fosters informal as well as formal discussion. It is hoped also that the younger people will have a chance to meet, argue and consult with the veterans in the field. A major aim is to achieve cross-fertilization of disciplines; the infectious, chronic and mental disease epidemiologists have much to learn from each other. One remarkable feature of the new organization has already emerged, in that many statisticians have joined S.E.R. This will be the first time that epidemiologists and significant numbers of statisticians are brought together in a single organization, an important development in view of the difficult methodologic problems in the new areas of epidemiology.

The first Annual Meeting of the Society for Epidemiologic Research will be held May 10 and 11 at the Shoreham Hotel in Washington, D. C. There will be three half-day sessions of contributed papers. In order to permit open-ended discussion, only three papers are scheduled per session, with discussion of each paper initiated by a designated individual. There will also be one evening devoted to informal small group meetings on Work in Progress in specific areas.

All interested individuals are invited to join S.E.R. and participate in its meetings.

¹ Chairman, Planning Committee, Society for Epidemiologic Research.