



Trainee receiving field experience in dwelling appraisal.

active housing programs that are presently under way. The trainee has the opportunity of working in the field where he is confronted with the real problems, almost identical with those of his locality. In addition to the dwelling appraisal in the field, a certain amount of time is spent in a city planning office where problems of planning the dwelling environment are solved. The results of the field appraisal are summarized in the office and the analysis made. The analysis is then used as a basis for determining what action is necessary to improve the conditions of housing (2).

Although we depend on the "educational approach" to carry out a program, it is very necessary that equitable, strong, and constitutional laws be

developed in order to rehabilitate blighted areas of a community. Regulatory laws on structures, environment, and rehabilitation are complex and a general code applicable throughout the country is not feasible. Each trainee is briefed on certain fundamental points which must be considered when discussing these laws.

Candidates for housing training need not be engineers, but they should have some background of experience in environmental sanitation, statistics, or city planning. These persons should be well acquainted with their local problems because part of the training period will be given to a discussion and consideration of their local needs. Candidates who meet these requirements may be supervisory personnel of State and local health departments, city planners, or rehabilitation commissioners.

New subject matter is being added to the general subject of housing sanitation and new training aid films are being made in cooperation with the Audio-Visual Production Services. In addition to training aid films, kits for the use of field representatives are being developed to meet the needs for reference material on the subject of housing. With the aid of this new material, it is hoped that the training program in housing may assist State and local agencies in meeting the needs and demands from the entire country.

#### REFERENCES

- (1) Scheele, Leonard A.: Presented in hearings before the Subcommittee of the Committee on Banking and Currency, United States Senate, Eighty-first Congress (February 11, 1949).
- (2) Bulletin of Field Training Programs: Federal Security Agency, Public Health Service, Communicable Disease Center (1951).

## *Expansion of Housing Training by Establishing a New Regional Center*

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A center for the training of personnel in the hygiene of housing has been established at Syracuse, N. Y., as a joint effort of the Syracuse Health Department and Training Services of the

Communicable Disease Center. It is hoped that this Center in cooperation with State and local agencies will satisfy the growing needs for training in this increasingly important aspect of housing activity

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in the northeastern portion of the country.

The Center is under the direction of Dr. C. A. Sargent, Commissioner of Health of Syracuse. Training courses are conducted by a training officer assigned by Training Services of the Communicable Disease Center. The housing evaluation program of the city health department is being used as a teaching facility. In addition to conducting training courses, the training officer has been placed in charge of the health department housing activity as a means of promoting unity of policy and action between the training and operational programs.

Cooperation has also been extended to other agencies by the city health department and the Training Center. Special surveys for the Syracuse Housing Authority are in progress to furnish data for programs under the Housing Act of 1949. A standing agreement has also been reached for the health department to complete all housing evaluations for tenant selection or other purposes as needed by the Housing Authority. Close cooperation also exists with the State health department and Syracuse University.

Training in the appraisal method is provided for supervisory personnel of State or local health departments or other agencies concerned with housing, such as city planning commissions, housing

authorities, urban redevelopment agencies, or similar organizations, including nonofficial agencies.

Courses in the appraisal method are of 5 weeks duration and are scheduled at frequent intervals on a permanently continuing basis. Completion of such a course qualifies the trainee to establish the use of the appraisal method in his community and to train subordinate personnel for essential duties.

In addition, shorter courses of various types are also given. These range from 1-day seminars for orientation of selected groups to courses of 1 or 2 weeks or longer. The latter courses are designed for special purposes such as the review of the latest developments in legislation, administrative techniques in community housing improvement programs, or housing standards.

Courses to provide a basic general knowledge of housing to regional training officers and Public Health Service personnel in regional offices, and similar short courses for health officers and other local administrators, are also in preparation and are expected to be given shortly.

Information concerning available courses and training assistance may be obtained either through Training Services of the Communicable Disease Center, or directly from the Syracuse Housing Training Center, City Hall, Syracuse, N. Y.

## *Relationship of Housing to Public Health*

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The definition of the word "health" as given by the World Health Organization in its constitution (1) is: "Health is a state of complete physical, mental, and social well-being and not merely the absence of disease or infirmity."

Housing is essentially shelter, although few would accept this limited definition. The Committee on the Hygiene of Housing uses the term "adequate shelter." Dr. Leonard A. Scheele (2), Surgeon General of the Public Health Service, in testifying before the Subcommittee on Banking and Currency of the United States Senate, further delineates

housing in terms of "...safe, sanitary and decent homes."

If one were asked what is meant by "an adequate shelter" or by a "safe, sanitary and decent home," a list of 30 principles would probably be required to explain these words. These principles, clearly stated, were developed by the Committee on the Hygiene of Housing soon after it was formed. The Committee describes them as "Basic Principles of Healthful Housing" (3) and groups them into four sections. These 30 principles are grouped into sections designated as follows: Protection against

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