

On the positive side their excellent work demonstrates conclusively the essential value of putting modern professional responsibilities into the hands of trained local personnel. On the other side, however, it reveals the dangers of making such positions too static. All such Government services must lead to attractive careers, with opportunities for financial advancement and promotion. Opportunities must also be given for professional self-improvement. In the case of Samoan medical practitioners, many of whom have been out of the Suva (Fiji) Medical School for years, an eagerness was noted to keep up with rapid developments in medicine, and means must be found of keeping them abreast of current knowledge relevant to island conditions. A senior medical practitioner might be sent from time to time back to the Suva Medical School and to New Zealand for a brief period of observation, and then given opportunity to report to his fellow practitioners. It might also be considered feasible, as Tonga is now doing, to start several selected young men on careers toward full medical degrees with a view to reducing future dependence on overseas personnel. The current medical planning by the New Zealand authorities (Annex I, Chapter IVA) should help to meet these problems.

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