

various medical schools in the Parisian area, says that the deans have this right only if there are unfilled places after the school term has started. The conflict apparently produced partial victories on both sides last year: The Alliance thought that it could place its students in specific schools but found that placements were scrambled, and the Division de la Vie Universitaire found that certain Alliance students were listed as enrolled without having passed through its office.

It seems clear that, given the power, some deans would prefer Alliance students to independent Americans. The Division de la Vie Universitaire points out that such preference is "contrary to the spirit of French law" and that any student told he must come with the Alliance should complain to the Ministry of National Education. The American student, however, unfamiliar with various French agencies, is unlikely to know *a priori* where to turn. Of three deans listed as Alliance advisers, one said he made no distinction between an Alliance American and another American; another said that he would give preference to enrolling students who could provide something in return, such as the Alliance exchanges; and a third said he would not accept non-Alliance students at all.

In any case, the Alliance seems to have convinced many well-placed individuals in French medicine of its importance to them. The travel grant

program through INSERM reportedly works very well. Last year 11 INSERM fellowship holders received additional grants from the Alliance to enable them to actually live on their grants without, as one INSERM grantee at Harvard was forced to do, washing cars on the side.

The director of INSERM says of it: "It's very important for our exchange program. We consider international relations the most important thing in research, particularly for a country like France. I need only to phone Mr. Schrager, and within 2 weeks he tells me yes or no; and he makes no distinction as to whether the grantee is French, working in the United States, or American, working in France."

The reason the Alliance decided to give externships to French medical students was explained by Ronald Frazee, director of the Fondation des Etats-Unis, the U.S. housing unit at Cité Universitaire, and an Alliance adviser. "Since we were dealing with deans, we thought something should be done for French students. We sent 40 students to five hospitals in the New York area for 3 months [in summer 1973]. This had a very good reception with the deans, and we're going to do the same thing this year."

While the program may have had a good reception with the deans, it appears to have worked less well from the students' point of view. The idea went over well because there are few

organized exchanges at the medical-student level. The Alliance, however, did very little organizing but simply put the students into hospitals and let the hospitals keep them busy. The largest group was put into French and Polyclinic Hospital, where the students, some of whom had been highly selected by their deans, were put to work as unpaid stretcher-bearers. In addition, meals were provided in some cases and not in others, and students who had been told they could live for \$30 a week began having financial problems.

When the students tried to protest to Schrager, they found he had gone to Europe and nothing could be done for them. Because of financial problems, a large proportion of the students were obliged to return home early.

When these criticisms were relayed to Schrager, he put the blame on French and Polyclinic, which he says he did not know was in financial difficulties. He also said that meals were provided, the Alliance office had made petty cash loans all summer, and problems, when they arose, arose because the French students did not bring as much money as they had been told to. He advised talking to students from the Cochin medical school, who had been placed in Booth Memorial Hospital and had reported a good experience.

Conversations with four of the five Cochin students revealed that their program had succeeded mainly because

## French Set Foreign Medical Student Quota for 1974-75

The accompanying story on the Alliance for Franco-American Graduate Studies was completed last spring, but publication was delayed because the French government was expected to issue revised regulations affecting foreign medical students in France and because some information on the Alliance was not available.

As far as can be determined, the general requirements described in the story continue to apply to foreign medical students. Variations are possible, however, since French medical school deans appear to administer ministry regulations with some latitude. Medical schools in Paris reportedly will limit enrollment of foreign students to about 300 this year, but there is no indication of how many places will be available to American students. Informed observers say that enrollment of foreign students in all French medical schools is likely to be limited to 5 percent, conforming roughly with the Paris quota.

French government representatives in this country are demonstrating increased sensitivity to the question of foreign medical students attending French medical

schools. A recent order from the French ambassador directs consular officials to refer all inquiries on the subject to the scientific counselor in the Washington embassy.

A financial statement on Alliance operations for the 1973-74 school year was recently furnished to *Science* by Alliance executive director Albert Schrager. The statement showed total revenues of \$431,250 derived exclusively from fees paid by students (125 students each paying \$3150 and 25 wives each paying \$1500). Total expenses were put at \$492,250, producing a deficit of \$61,000. Funds realized from gifts from parents and other sources will presumably reduce the deficit.

Expenses for U.S. students were listed as \$189,250; this included \$30,000 for a New York-Paris charter flight, \$50,000 for language instruction at the Sorbonne, and \$87,750 for housing costs during the orientation program. Expenses for the Alliance's New York and Paris offices were put at \$156,000. The cost of programs for French students and medical researchers totals \$147,000, including \$52,000 for the extern programs and \$50,000 for researchers.—J.W.