

## Better Living Conditions Advocated by Tetsuo Hoshino

### ABSTRACT

One of the pioneering medical environmentalists, Tetsuo Hoshino (1890–1931) grappled with environmental health issues as early as 80 years ago. After graduating from the Medical Department of Tokyo Imperial University, he was engaged as one of the specialists in a full-fledged survey of living conditions of workers at Tsukishima in Tokyo, between 1918 and 1920 the first of its kind in Japan. (The social survey was later called the Tsukishima Survey of the Sanitary Bureau of the Home Office.)

He was among the team members who made a detailed study of the sanitary conditions of labourers working at Tsukishima, which marked the starting point of his scholarly research. Later he studied in Europe and America for two years starting in 1922. Upon returning to Japan, he was made the first professor of hygiene at Kanazawa School of Medicine (now the Medical Department of Kanazawa University). From then on, the rest of his brief life was devoted to the improvement of living conditions centring on health problems in the Hokuriku region and to awareness raising activities by putting his scholarly knowledge into practice.

So far Hoshino has been highlighted mainly as a pioneer of sex education, but my paper has tried to spotlight a hitherto little known aspect of his scholarly study on living conditions and health with regards to environments.

**Key words:** environmental health, Tetsuo Hoshino, living conditions