

YALE UNIVERSITY

THE SCHOOL OF MEDICINE

AFFILIATED WITH THE NEW HAVEN HOSPITAL
ON THE

ANTHONY N. BRADY MEMORIAL FOUNDATION

2000
COMMITTEE FOR THE
STUDY OF NURSING EDUCATION

C.-E. A. WINSLOW

ANNA M. R. LAUDER PROFESSOR OF PUBLIC HEALTH

NEW HAVEN, CONNECTICUT

March 11, 1919

Dr. George E. Vincent,
The Rockefeller Foundation,
New York City.

Dear Dr. Vincent:

The Committee invited by you to advise with the Rockefeller Foundation in regard to the problems involved in the education of the public health nurse held its first meeting on February 28th, all the persons originally appointed on the committee being present, with Dr. Livingston Farrand. The committee organized by the election of the undersigned as chairman and of Miss Mary Beard as secretary; and voted to invite Dr. Livingston Farrand, Dr. L. Emmett Holt, Mrs. John H. Lowman and Miss Julia C. Lathrop to serve as members of the committee.

After extensive discussion it was agreed that while it might be possible for us to make a report with the information now at our disposal, our conclusions would be more specific and would carry greater weight if based on a somewhat comprehensive survey of the actual conditions of public health nursing and of public health nursing education in this and other countries. The committee unanimously voted that if funds could be made available for the purpose and if the proper person could be found to act as the Executive Secretary of the Committee such a survey should be conducted as a preliminary to our report to you. The Chairman and Secretary of the Committee with Professor Nutting were appointed as a special committee to bring this suggestion formally to your attention.

The work of the public health nurse is in its infancy. It is unstandardized and variable; and it is related in complex ways with other types of activity, most specifically with those of the bedside nurse and medical social service worker. A new type of person, the health visitor, has been active in France during the last two years, and a consideration of the development of such a group of workers in this country is also closely related to the question of the education of the public health nurse. In order to attack the educational problem from a solid standpoint it is essential to know what kind of kinds of public health nurses and other health teachers are most effective in the public health campaign and what the functions of each should profitably be.

On the educational side it is important to know just what is actually being accomplished in the training of the public health nurse and other related types of health educators, including not only the special but the more fundamental and elementary training which each group receives; and this phase of the study could very happily be undertaken at this time when so many interesting educational experiments are in process in this field.

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Dr. Vincent -2

Our plan in brief would be to determine what types of training are now being given in public health nursing and allied fields and what the results of each type appear to be as practically applied. This might involve such specific investigations as the following:

A. An intensive study of the entrance requirements, curricula, hours and standards of schools for the special training of public health nurses.

B. A similar study of nurses training schools themselves carried out extensively from a statistical standpoint and intensively in typical selected institutions.

C. A similar study of schools and courses designed for the training of public health educators other than physicians and nurses which should include such special schools as that at Syracuse, N.Y. and at Minneapolis, Minn., as well as courses for the Certificate in Public Health as offered in certain universities.

D. A study of the actual work of public health nurses and other public health educators to be carried out by personal visits and investigation of methods and results in typical state and municipal and voluntary organizations doing effective work along public health lines.

E. A study of the education and the work of the public health nurse and the health visitor in England and France and perhaps in certain other European countries to be made at first hand by the Executive Secretary, perhaps accompanied by one or more members of the Commission.

We are of the opinion that such a survey as we contemplate would necessarily occupy from six months to a year and would probably cost between \$10,000 and \$15,000. Its success would depend very largely on the personality of the Executive Secretary. With the understanding that the suggestion is purely tentative and made with no knowledge of the availability of the person in question, it may be said that the name of Miss Josephine Goldmark was discussed by the Committee as representing the general type of person that we have in mind.

If a survey could be made along the general lines indicated we believe that it would be of the greatest service in clarifying both professional practice and preliminary education.

Very truly yours,

C. E. A. Winslow