

RESUME OF ROCKEFELLER FOUNDATION PUBLIC HEALTH NURSING AND NURSING EDUCATION ACTIVITIES

The Rockefeller Foundation's interest in public health nursing and nursing education received its first stimulation from the demands of related programs. The work of The Rockefeller Foundation in public health nursing was prompted by the need of its own public health programs. In France where The Rockefeller Foundation gave early support to tuberculosis work the training of nursing personnel was an integral part of the program of the Committee for the Prevention of Tuberculosis (1917-1922) in developing a country-wide, active, and efficient outpatient dispensary service; and because of its importance to broader plans of public health work the training of health visitors continued to receive RF assistance even after the formal withdrawal of the Commission in 1923.

The hookworm campaign in the United States began in 1909 with the Rockefeller Sanitary Commission and subsequent development of county health units under Foundation stimulus increased the demand for public health nurses. At the very beginning of rural sanitation work the importance of including a nurse in the public health team was recognized. As early as October 1914 financial aid was given to the National Organization for Public Health Nursing in setting up standards for public health nursing.

In Belgium (1922) Foundation officers considered nursing an important adjunct to the development of medical schools and teaching hospitals. The Edith Cavell School of Nursing, one of the earliest schools of this sort to receive RF aid, as well as the University School of Nursing at St. Pierre Hospital, was part of a comprehensive program of medical education assisted by the Foundation at the Free University of Brussels.

Work in nursing began very early in China under the direction of the China Medical Board and Peiping Union Medical College. From 1915 to 1918 aid was given to the Nurses' Association of China for the translation of textbooks. During the same period there were set up Foundation supported fellowships for Chinese nurses. A valuable single contribution was the establishment of a School of Nursing in September 1920 as a division of the Peiping Union Medical College. This school has ranked with the best of our American university schools of nursing.

In 1921 the conviction of the Foundation through recommendations of the IHD that public health nurses were essential to the development of an effective public health program in Brazil resulted in founding the Ana Neri School of Nursing in Rio de Janeiro. Field work in public health nursing was simultaneously developed.

In December 1918 The Rockefeller Foundation set in motion machinery for the organization of a committee on the training of public health nurses which was to result in a memorable study of the nursing situation in the United States. Dr. C.-E. A. Winslow, the able chairman of the Committee which undertook this work, and Miss Josephine Goldmark, the skilled director of the study, were aided by such outstanding Committee members as Dr. W. H. Welch, Dr. Herman M. Biggs, Dr. David L. Edsall, and the eminent nurses, Lillian D. Wald, Mary Beard, Annie W. Goodrich, M. Adelaide Nutting, and S. Lillian Clayton. After the survey was well launched it became clear that the whole question of basic preparation for nursing should be studied and the Committee agreed to widen the scope of the investigation.

As a result of the Committee's studies there was published in 1923 the well-known book "Nursing and Nursing Education in the United States." In this



book Part 1 deals with the functions of the nurse in public health nursing, on private duty and in institutions, and Part 2 with the training of the nurse through full-fledged courses in hospital and university schools, through more limited training courses for subsidiary nursing groups, and through postgraduate courses. This stimulating and readable book is still the most significant study thus far made of nursing. Even before the report with its far-reaching recommendations was published, the Foundation took steps to provide a practical demonstration. This was the Yale School of Nursing. Under the inspired leadership of Miss Annie W. Goodrich this school implemented the recommendations of the Committee. As a pioneer university school of nursing it stood for certain goals.

- a. Independence of the school with a qualified nurse as director
- b. A curriculum interweaving the preventive and social aspects of medicine
- c. Reduction of the traditional three-year period of training.

In principle it was agreed that the public health nurse should be a teacher and social worker as well as a nurse and every effort should be made to provide a broad education in basic nursing preparation.

The recommendations of the Goldmark report influenced The Rockefeller Foundation to aid, in addition to Yale, other university schools of nursing such as those at Vanderbilt, Skidmore, Western Reserve, Washington University (St. Louis), University of Washington (Seattle), and Toronto University. Graduates of five of these schools of nursing are officially recognized as public health nurses upon graduation. Foundation fellowships were given to these universities to prepare nurses for faculty positions in the schools of nursing and for supervisory positions in the public health field. Endowment aid was given to three of the schools and

developmental assistance was given to the other four.

In Europe from 1922-1939 support was given to capital projects connected with nursing in Poland, Hungary, France, Czechoslovakia, Jugoslavia, Roumania, England, Belgium, Greece, and Portugal. Many modern school and residence buildings were constructed and equipped with teaching material. Fellowships to promising nurses provided teaching staffs for the schools of nursing. Health Centers were organized to give practical training so that students would be prepared for the public health field upon completion of the basic program. As Poland, Hungary, and France made gains in their public health work, The Rockefeller Foundation assisted the Ministries of Health in establishing Bureaus of Nursing. These Bureaus provided (a) supervision and subvention of educational programs of schools of nursing, (b) supervision of public health nursing, and (c) guidance in the placement of nurses in public health and institutional fields.

In the Far East Foundation assistance was given to Peiping Union Medical College School of Nursing, St. Luke's Medical Center College of Nursing, Tokyo, Japan, and Siriraj Hospital School of Nursing at Chulalongkorn University in Siam. In 1922-1924 a qualified nursing administrator was sent to the Philippines to help reorganize nursing education. Although it was not possible to establish a central school of nursing in the University of the Philippines, a short course in public health nursing was started in cooperation with the Bureau of Public Health and Welfare, the Red Cross, Philippine General Hospital, and the University. Today a College of Nursing, offering undergraduate and graduate courses, is in operation at the University of the Philippines.

In the South Pacific the Foundation has given fellowships and travel grants to nurses in the Fiji Islands, New Zealand, and Australia. The International Health Division assisted in developing public health programs in this area from 1918 to 1939.



In Latin America the Foundation has helped to establish schools of nursing in Brazil, Uruguay, Ecuador, and Colombia. Developmental aid was given to schools of nursing in Venezuela and Panama. Fellowships for study in other countries, chiefly the United States and Canada, were provided to prepare instructors and directors for all of these schools and supervisors for the public health centers. In addition, fellowships have been given to Chile to develop nurses who could serve as teachers for schools of nursing and as supervisors for the public health field. A few fellowships for nurses were given to Mexico in 1935-37, but no material assistance was given to found or to upgrade schools of nursing in that country.

Since World War II Rockefeller Foundation Health Commission funds and regular funds have aided in establishing a college of nursing in Helsinki, Finland; in organizing a public health nursing course in Oslo, Norway; and in continuing aid started in 1935 to further the courses at Aarhus University, Denmark. Teaching equipment and supplies were provided for the University School of Nursing, Cracow, Poland, and the School of Nursing of Zagreb, Jugoslavia. Le Bon Secours School of Nursing of the University of Geneva, Switzerland, has been assisted with developmental aid. The aim of this school is to offer a modern basic nursing program to prepare its graduates for the public health field and eventually for leadership positions in nursing in Switzerland.

Fellowships and travel grants have been awarded to nurses from Finland, Sweden, Norway, Denmark, Poland, Belgium, France, Czechoslovakia, Jugoslavia, Switzerland, Portugal, England, Scotland, and Iceland.

The Foundation has had a nursing advisor in India since 1944. Consultant service was given to the Singur teaching center of the All-India Institute of Hygiene and Public Health of Calcutta; advisory service was given to returned nursing fellows in Madras, Mysore, and Travancore; technical assistance in teaching

was given to the faculty of the College of Nursing of Delhi University which is the single most important development in nursing in India. This is the Government of India's first effort to establish at the college level a basic professional nursing program. India desperately needs teaching staffs of schools of nursing as well as qualified nurses for public health work and for hospitals.

Two highly qualified American public health nurses were sent to Ceylon to reorganize and upgrade basic nursing education so that better qualified public health nurses might be prepared and better public health developed.

The Middle East countries, except Turkey and Lebanon, have done little to develop modern nursing. In any country the status of nursing is directly related to the status of women in that country. When the International Health Division was developing public health in Turkey in the late 20's a few nurses were given fellowships. Princess Ashraf Pahlevi, twin sister of the Shah of Iran, came to New York in 1947 in person to request Rockefeller Foundation aid in founding a school of public health nursing in Tehran. As an enlightened person of high standing, she was seriously interested in the precarious health situation in Persia. She regarded nursing as an essential public service and was eager to have young Persian women take a prominent place in this public service. Plans are underway to assist in developing a public health program in Iran, which will require the help of qualified public health nurses as well as qualified doctors and engineers of public health.

In Africa only a beginning has been made in nursing, primarily through visits and short surveys of the work of schools of nursing, hospitals, and public health work.



From 1942-45 the General Education Board gave financial assistance to the National Nursing Council for War Service for its negro nurse unit.

IHD officers conferred with Dr. E. L. Brown frequently during 1947 when she was making a study of nursing. Following its publication the IHD provided copies of Dr. Brown's study "Nursing For the Future" for distribution to Scientific Directors, staff, and to former fellows, doctors, and nurses. Dr. Brown, who is Director of the Department of Studies in the Professions of the Russell Sage Foundation, prepared this report for the National Nursing Council.

Aid was given to The Committee on the Grading of Nursing Schools for the period 1927-1931. In November 1949 a list of recognized hospital schools of nursing in the United States was published. The publication of this list has acted as a powerful incentive to force hospitals to upgrade nursing service and nursing education in hospital schools.

The International Health Division made a small grant to the National Nursing Organizations for the purpose of appointing Miss Marion Sheahan, a highly competent public health nursing administrator, as Director of The National Committee for the Improvement of Nursing Services.

This brief historical review of Rockefeller Foundation interest in the advancement of nursing indicates that many of The Rockefeller Foundation Boards played a direct part in the development of nursing in different parts of the world, and that throughout there has been a fundamental interest in the better preparation of the nurse for public health work. Nursing interests in The Rockefeller Foundation were lodged first in the President's office, subsequently in the Division of Studies and the Division of Medical Education, and finally in the International Health Division. The General Education Board has been interested in the advancement of nursing in some of the colleges and univer-

sities that it has aided in the South. The General Education Board included financial assistance for the School of Nursing at Meharry Medical College, Nashville, and in the 40's to the Division of Nursing of Dillard University, New Orleans, to the School of Nursing Education of Florida Agricultural and Mechanical College, Tallahassee, and the Saint Philip Hospital School of Nursing-Medical College of Virginia.

The imaginative foresight which impelled early Rockefeller Foundation officers to bring together outstanding leaders in public health, medical education and nursing to study the question of public health nursing was amply rewarded. The Goldmark report, "Nursing and Nursing Education in the United States" became a guide to further decisions of The Rockefeller Foundation and a unique influence in the advancement of nursing.

The Rockefeller Foundation's interest in the advancement of modern schools of nursing has been a real factor in the attainment of better professional status for public health nursing and in the evolvement of a more comprehensive nursing service in many countries of the world. Within the span of one generation outstanding accomplishments have been achieved by the Yale School of Nursing. A report of the work at this School is attached. Performances achieved by graduates of this School more than justify The Rockefeller Foundation investment in that School. The Yale School of Nursing now has over 1,000 graduates and more than 500 occupy strategic posts in the nursing field. Many graduates continue in nursing or essential civic activities even after marriage. Graduates of this School are stationed in 46 states in the U.S. and in 21 countries of the world; 11 are directors (5 are deans) or assistant directors of schools of nursing, 76 are professors, associate and assistant professors and instructors in schools of nursing;



7 direct practical nurse programs, 167 are in hospital nursing services and 114 are engaged in public health as directors, assistant directors, supervisors, staff nurses, professors, lecturers, educational directors, and consultants.

The Rockefeller Foundation has given 652 fellowships (of which 33 received second fellowships) and 111 travel grants (of which 7 received second travel grants) to nurses from different countries of the world. Today many RF former fellows hold strategic posts in nursing in their own countries and in the World Health Organization.

Valuable offshoots of Rockefeller Foundation's international assistance are the intangible gifts of leadership and collaboration which it brings into being. Without the devoted personal service, the disinterested counsel, and the cooperation of experienced nurses who went out from America to the Far East, Continental Europe, and Latin America public health nursing could not have achieved the relatively high status it now occupies in these areas.

What of the future? Nursing in the International Health Division of The Rockefeller Foundation is foreshadowed by a number of obvious trends already present. Much of the work done over the years establishes nursing as an essential part of public health and medical care.

The proposed study (copy of which is attached) by our European staff in cooperation with WHO and United Nations Department of Social Affairs to determine the type of worker or workers required to meet certain basic health and social welfare needs within the family holds promise for significant projects. The findings of such a study are of interest not only to the United States and Canada but also to the undeveloped countries of the world which are only at the beginning

of their public health work. There is opportunity for planning on a broad base a demonstration program in public health in cooperation with education and agriculture in underdeveloped countries, and nursing would be an essential part of such a demonstration. In the future as in the past nurses would be necessary members of a group making plans for International Health Division programs.

Fellowships for carefully selected nurses should be a continuing interest. Nothing has had greater influence in promoting nursing than has The Rockefeller Foundation fellowship program.

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