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EDITORIAL.

THE ROCKEFELLER REPORT ON NURSING EDUCATION.

The reference of the Committee appointed by the Rockefeller Foundation in January, 1919, was originally "to conduct a study of the proper training of public health nurses." It soon became clear, however, that the entire problem of nursing and of nursing education, relating to the care of the sick as well as to the prevention of disease, formed one essential whole, and must be so considered if sound conclusions were to be attained. A year later, in February, 1920, the Foundation requested the Committee to broaden the scope of the inquiry to include "a study of general nursing education, with a view to developing a programme for further study and for recommendation of further procedure."

Dr. C. E. A. Winslow, Professor of Public Health, Yale Medical School, acted as Chairman of the Committee, and Miss Josephine Goldmark as Secretary, and it included, amongst others, Miss A. W. Goodrich, Miss M. A. Nutting, Miss Lillian D. Wald, and Miss Helen Wood. The Report is exhaustive and of considerable length, but the following are the principal conclusions of the Committee:—

That, since constructive health work and health teaching in families is best done by persons: (a) capable of giving general health instruction, as distinguished from instruction in any one specialty; and (b) capable of rendering bedside care at need, the agent responsible for such constructive health work and health teaching in families should have completed the nurses' training. There will, of course, be need for the employment, in addition to the public health nurse, of other types of experts such as nutrition workers, social workers, occupational therapists, and the like. That as soon as may be practicable all agencies, public or private, employing public health nurses, should require as a pre-requisite for employment the basic hospital training, followed by a post-graduate course, including both class work and field work, in public health nursing.

That the career open to young women of high capacity, in public health nursing or in

hospital supervision and nursing education, is one of the most attractive fields now open, in its promise of professional success and of rewarding public service; and that every effort should be made to attract such women.

That for the care of persons suffering from serious or acute disease, the safety of the patient, and the responsibility of the medical and nursing professions, demand the maintenance of the standards of educational attainment generally accepted by the best sentiment of both professions and embodied in the legislation of the more progressive states; and that any attempt to lower these standards would be fraught with real danger to the public.

That, with the necessary financial support, and under a separate board or training-school committee organised primarily for educational purposes, it is possible, with completion of a high-school course or its equivalent as a pre-requisite, to reduce the fundamental period of hospital training to twenty-eight months, and at the same time, by eliminating unessential, non-educational routine, and adopting the principles laid down in Miss Goldmark's report, to organise the course along intensive and co-ordinated lines with such modifications as may be necessary for practical application; and that courses of this standard would be reasonably certain to attract students of high quality in increasing numbers.

Superintendents, supervisors, instructors, and public health nurses should in all cases receive special additional training beyond the basic nursing course.

That the development and strengthening of University Schools of Nursing of a high grade for the training of leaders is of fundamental importance in the furtherance of nursing education.

That the development of nursing service adequate for the care of the sick and for the conduct of the modern public health campaign demands as an absolute pre-requisite the securing of funds for the endowment of nursing education of all types; and that it is of primary importance, in this connection, to provide reasonably generous endowment for University Schools of Nursing.

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