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EDITORIAL.

NURSING AND NURSING EDUCATION IN THE UNITED STATES.

The Final Report of the Committee for the Study of Nursing Education, a Report which has been made possible by the generosity of the Rockefeller Foundation, which originally convened, in New York in 1918, a Conference of persons interested in the development of Public Health Nursing, has now been published. The Committee includes such distinguished members of our Profession as Miss Mary Beard, R.N., Director, Instructive District Nursing Association, Boston, Mass.; Miss Lilian S. Clayton, R.N., Directress of Nurses, Training School for Nurses, Philadelphia General Hospital; Miss Annie W. Goodrich, R.N., Director of Nurses, Visiting Nurse Service, Henry Street Settlement, New York City; Miss Adelaide Nutting, R.N., Professor of Nursing and Health, Teachers' College, Columbia University, New York City; Miss Lilian D. Wald, R.N., Head Resident, Henry Street Settlement, New York City; Miss Helen Wood, R.N., Director, Training School for Nurses, Washington University, St. Louis, Mo.; its conclusions must therefore command widespread respect. Associated with these distinguished nurses are medical men of eminence, the Committee being under the Chairmanship of Dr. C. E. A. Winslow, with Miss Josephine Goldmark as Secretary.

The primary object of the Conference was a discussion of the status of Public Health Nursing in the United States, and of the education desirable for training the needed personnel. Financial support for the investigation was provided by the Rockefeller Foundation.

In February, 1920 (we quote the Introductory Note to the Report), again at the invitation of the Rockefeller Foundation, a second Conference on Nursing Education was called. At this second Conference, discussion centred on the proper training of nurses engaged not in public health work, but within hospitals and

on private duty. In effect, the entire trend of nursing education was considered. Following the Conference, the Committee on the Study of Public Health Nursing Education was asked by the Rockefeller Foundation to widen its scope so as to include the entire subject of Nursing Education. In accordance with this request, and upon assurance of further financial support from the Foundation, the Committee agreed to widen its scope as requested, and added to its membership six members, including Superintendents of hospitals and of nursing schools, a clinician, and a representative of Mental Hygiene. Miss Goldmark was assisted in the investigation by a strong staff.

The Committee state that "the new educational objective of the health administration may be approached to a limited extent by mass methods. The printed page, the public lecture, the exhibit, the cinematograph, the radiogram help to prepare the ground, and to make success easier. The ultimate victory over ignorance is, however, rarely attained in such ways. Direct personal contact with the conditions of the individual life is essential to success in a matter so truly personal as hygiene. We have sought during the past twenty years for a missionary to carry the message of health into each individual home; and in America we have found her in the public health nurse. . . . All public health authorities will probably agree that the need for nurses is the largest outstanding problem before the health administrator of the present day."

Miss Goldmark, in her introduction, points out that the Committee have dwelt on "the fatal error, on the part of both hospitals and schools, of generally accepting as inherent and final the existing relationship between the two, of having failed as yet even to give public expression to the inevitable consequences. To make clear this fundamental fallacy in the relationship of hospital and training school is, in a sense, the centre and focus of our study."

We hope to deal in detail with this splendid report, to which our present remarks are introductory.

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