

Report of Practical Work of International StudentsPublic Health.

October 1935.

There were only four students this year registered for the Public Health Course - three of these are English speaking and the fourth a Filipino.

I used the St. Marylebone and the Paddington Public Health Departments, the Paddington Tuberculosis Centre, the Metropolitan and Paddington District Nursing Association and certain Lambeth Infant Welfare Centres. Miss Flambert, the English student who is taking her Health Visiting training, did eight weeks C.O.S. work in the Paddington office. She has a very excellent report from the Secretary there.

The St. Marylebone Health Department has never before had a student for us but they have recently increased and re-organised their staff and Miss Dunbar who spent a month with them had a most interesting and instructive time.

I should be grateful if we might send a vote of thanks to Dr. Porter for the help he and his staff gave us.

I have attached to this report details of the students six weeks practical work.

(ii) Proposals for revision of the curriculum in practical work.

At the end of last Session, Mrs. Reid interviewed some of the more senior international students with us and discussed with them the possibilities of improving the courses.

There were two definite proposals which came out of the discussion which Mrs. Reid and everyone concerned thought good. The first was that the Courses should commence on September 1st instead of on August 15th, should end on August 1st instead of July 15th. This would mean that we had a four week period of practical work before term began and a four week period at the end of the year when practical experience is of infinitely more value to the students. If then we were to have the Presentation of Certificates as near the end of June as possible, the students would be able to leave London if necessary for this last term of practical observation.

should

The second proposal was that the students ~~who~~ have organized discussion groups and opportunity provided to give an account of the work in their own countries. They would like some training for public speaking and in the conduct of meetings.

Miss Parsons and I have discussed this together and we propose to hold such discussion groups in the Library at Manchester Square on alternate Wednesday afternoons and possibly to call in an expert in public speaking later in the year to give the group some instruction.

(iii) Report of a Tour round the Scandinavian Countries, with Miss Goodrich.

It was through the kindness of the Rockefeller Foundation that I was sent to accompany Miss Goodrich, who was visiting many countries on the Continent to see their nursing schools. We were away for six weeks and in the time we visited ten countries: Czechoslovakia, Poland, three Baltic Countries, Finland, Norway and Sweden, Denmark and Belgium.

We saw 32 of the old students and it was through them that we obtained most of our introductions. We were invariably met by some old students at the stations and they had made all our plans for us. Many of them had been to America on study tours and knew Miss Goodrich. It is quite remarkable in all the newer countries we visited, in Czechoslovakia, Poland, the Baltic countries and Finland, that almost every leading position in the nursing profession is held by an old student from these Courses. In Latvia, the F.N.M.C. held a formal meeting to interview us, and their Chairman, Dr. Paegle, the Vice-President of the Red Cross, stated that the Committee wished to express their deep appreciation of the courses, as they had been conducted and to say that they found that students who had returned from London were able to be placed in positions of responsibility, and had invariably proved themselves successful in these positions.

We had a similar meeting of the F.N.M.C. in Finland, but as the majority of that Committee were themselves old students representing various nursing and hospital interests their expression of appreciation had to be somewhat differently worded.

Dr. Alic Masaryk, in Prague, expressed her satisfaction at the work of the students who had returned from London and felt that the courses had been of great value to them.

She suggested that the courses might be improved by a stronger course on Ethics as an optional subject, with some opportunity of discussion as to the application of ethical principles to nursing.

Other suggestions which were made to us were:-

1. From the Finnish Committee:

That the courses might be more elastic and that there should be more optional subjects.

That prospective students be advised before they came to England of courses of reading which would help them to prepare themselves.

2. From the Finnish, the Nrowegian and the Belgian Committees

That we organise summer courses of two or three weeks and invite professional experts from other countries to contribute to the course.