

BC AL/333/7/5

1961

Minutes of the sub-committee of the Organisation Committee
in connection with training for Hospital Almoners.

At a meeting of the sub-committee of the Organisation Committee in connection with training for Hospital Almoners, held on Friday December 8th at 12 noon

P r e s e n t

The Principal in the Chair
Miss Baggallay
Miss Morris
Miss Parsons
Mrs. Reid
Miss Roxburgh, Secretary of the Almoners' Council, by invitation
The Secretary.

The Committee discussed at considerable length the possibility of arranging a thirteen months' course for foreign students to include a shortened training for Hospital Almoners.

The representatives of the Almoners Institute emphasized the importance of intending students having a preliminary training in Social Science on the practical side before entering the Almoner's Office and that at least three months full time work would have to be spent on this side of the work.

If so much time had to be spent before even entering the Almoner's Office it was clear to the committee that it would be impracticable to arrange a course to cover so large a field in so short a time without shortening the amount of essential theoretical training to such a minimum as to be almost valueless.

Mrs. Reid informed the committee that she understood from Mrs. Carter that it would be quite impossible to arrange for any of the Nurses to stay in England longer than from August in any one year to September in the following year, i.e. a thirteen months' course.

A letter from the Council of Hospital Almoners was read explaining their view of the matter and stating that they were willing to undertake as an experiment two students during the current academic year on the following conditions:

- (a) That the Institute reserve the right to make the final decision on the suitability of any student.
- (b) That every effort be made to enable the student to have six months on her Hospital work rather than the minimum of three months proposed.
(This would be impossible if the students could not stay longer than September in the second year.)

- (c) That the Almoners certificate could not be given at the end of the course though they would give a statement as to the experience each candidate had obtained.

Some discussion took place as to the possibility of arranging a two year course if scholarships could be procured from the Rockefeller Foundation or elsewhere, and some doubt was expressed as to whether a trained Nurse who had had a Public Health training in her own country followed by a year's Social Service course in England would require eleven months in a Hospital. It was agreed that it might be possible for the eleven months training to be slightly shortened in such cases but the representatives of the Almoners Institute were unable to give any definite statement on this matter before consulting the Almoners Council.

After further discussion the committee resolved to recommend to the Organisation Committee

Recommended that the sub-committee after going fully into the question of a thirteen months course to include training in Hospital Almoning think it unlikely that such a course would be satisfactory either from a theoretical or from a practical point of view; they therefore do not recommend that such a course be arranged; the committee however suggest that they should be invited to explore further the desirability and possibility of arranging, in conjunction with the Council of Hospital Almoners, an eighteen months to two years course to include a requisite amount of Social Service and that they report further to the Organisation Committee on this matter if they so desire.

The Committee were informed that Mrs. Reid had found herself unable to recommend for Hospital Almoners training the one student who had wished to do this work this year so that the actual need for the training for the current session did not arise.

The Committee further recommended

Recommended that Miss Roxburgh, Secretary of the Almoners Council be co-opted as a member of the sub-committee.