

BC AL/330/3/12
269

BEDFORD COLLEGE FOR WOMEN
(UNIVERSITY OF LONDON.)

TELEPHONE:
WELBECK 5743.
TELEGRAMS:
EDFORCOLL, EUSROAD, LONDON.

discussion
Psychiatry 3 minutes

not like the
A.B.

REGENT'S PARK, N.W.1.

19th December 1929

Other approved

Dear Sir Wilmot Herringham,

Training of Health Visitors.

The course of training for Health Visitors arranged by Bedford College in co-operation with the College of Nursing which is being submitted to Council to-day, is intended for Hospital nurses who are willing to devote a full year in preparation for Public Health Work.

There is, in existence, a short course of six months' duration for which Bedford College makes no provision on the ground that it is too short to be adequate. Unfortunately the majority of nurses are obliged for financial reasons to take this six months' course, as they cannot afford to be out of paid work for a year. We believe that the only way to make the year's course possible for nurses is to provide scholarships which will be sufficient to cover the cost of maintenance while in training.

We believe the matter to be one of urgency as the demand for Health Visitors is already in excess of the supply, and will increase with the coming into force of the new Local Government

BEDFORD COLLEGE FOR WOMEN

(UNIVERSITY OF LONDON.)

TELEPHONE:
WELBECK 5743.
TELEGRAMS:
EDFORCOLL, EUSROAD, LONDON.

- 2 -

REGENT'S PARK, N.W.1.

Act next April, when the powers and duties of County Councils as Public Health Authorities will be widely extended.

There is a growing appreciation of the value of a trained nurse as a Health Visitor, as she, by virtue of an all round training is able to perform many services and thus the duplication of visitors in the home may be avoided.

A new service which we anticipate will be asked of her is the recognition of the symptoms of mental disorders and defect in children, so that the early ascertainment of such cases shall be possible, and the proper authorities be made aware of those needing preventive and early treatment. If the Health Visitor is to be ready to meet this demand she must have some knowledge of psychiatry in addition to a knowledge of general psychology. We believe further that some practical experience, only to be gained in psychiatric Clinics and in Mental Hospitals, is necessary, and we advocate an additional three months' training on these lines for all those Health Visitors who are capable of benefiting from such more specialised training.

It may be known to the Council that the Commonwealth Fund has been a generous donor of Scholarships to Austrian Students

BEDFORD COLLEGE FOR WOMEN
(UNIVERSITY OF LONDON.)

TELEPHONE :
WELBECK 5743.
TELEGRAMS :
EDFORCOLL, EUSROAD, LONDON.

- 3 -

REGENT'S PARK, N.W.1.

joining the International group at this College, and, further has established in London a Child Guidance Clinic for the treatment of abnormal behaviour arising during childhood.

The travelling and research scholarships given by the Commonwealth Fund in connection with this movement have hitherto been allotted to doctors and social workers; we now venture to suggest that the College should approach the Commonwealth Fund asking if their generous benefaction could be extended to Nurses who are desirous of training as Health Visitors. Briefly our contention is:-

- i. that a full year training is necessary for Hospital nurses in Public Health
- ii. that they are driven to take the shortened and inadequate six months' training through inability to meet the expense involved in longer training.
- iii. that an additional three months' training should be provided for the study of the symptoms of mental disorder, and maladjustment for those nurses who show themselves capable of becoming leaders in their profession.

We therefore venture to appeal to you to lay before the Commonwealth Fund the needs, and to ask their help for:-

- a. scholarships for nurses training as Health Visitors.
- b. a grant towards the additional expenses of a further period of training in the mental disorders of childhood.

BEDFORD COLLEGE FOR WOMEN
(UNIVERSITY OF LONDON.)

TELEPHONE:
WELBECK 5743.
TELEGRAMS:
EDFORCOLL, EUSROAD, LONDON.

REGENT'S PARK, N.W.1.

- 4 -

Bedford College has been for many years an approved Centre for the training of Health Visitors, and has persistently endeavoured to maintain a high standard of training for a profession which is particularly suitable for educated women. We therefore feel that it is appropriate that an appeal for funds should originate from the College, and it is in this belief that we venture to address this letter to you.

Yours very truly,

Beatrice Edgell.

Helen M. Reid. Secretary Social Studies