DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH NURSING

IN CHARGE OF

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Washington, D. C.—The Children's Bureau has recently published eight folders on the care of the mother and baby. These pamphlets are small enough to go into a letter, folded once, and are large enough to be well printed. The type used and the illustrations on each one make them very attractive. The nurse working alone and trying to develop a baby conference will find them extremely helpful. The Children's Bureau will be glad to furnish them, free, to public health nurses who will make good use of them. Those entitled "Breast Feeding," "Is Your Child's Birth Recorded? If Not, Why Not?" "Feeding the Child, Are You Feeding Your Family Intelligently?" and "The Care of the Mother" are particularly pertinent and well prepared. Trained workers are beginning to realize the needless waste of life annually in the United States that is shown by our statistics of maternal mortality and we may not be able to do very much about it until more mothers and more friends of mothers realize how preventable many of these 16,000 deaths are. The pamphlet entitled "The Care of the Mother" gives in simple language the infant mortality and the maternal mortality rates in the United States. Anyone who reads English can understand what these figures signify and a wide distribution of this pamphlet surely will mean more attention paid to the prenatal conditions which make this shocking death rate possible.

Canada.—In Alberta the provincial Government is preparing to pay one-third of the cost of medical inspection of rural schools by public health nurses. The Government has also agreed to undertake to provide proper medical and nursing care for unorganized fringes of settlements where it will be impossible to organize such districts for some time to come. It has set apart \$25,000 and plans to settle returned army medical men or other doctors in these places. The Government is also planning to give a grant of \$5,000 a year to the Victorian Order of Nurses for its assistance in this work. This is preliminary to the development of the provincial scheme of hospitals which are now being organized.

Colorado.—The Denver Federation for Charity and Philanthropy has recently distributed a small leaflet with an illustration entitled "A Typical Scene at Infant Welfare Station Conducted by Visiting

Nurse Association." The mothers and babies are having a good time, the picture is well taken and shows clearly what the nurse is doing. The following statistics are so printed that even a careless person will take time to read them: Over 10 per cent of the 3,802 babies born in Denver last year, died. Less than 3 per cent of the 465 babies brought to the Infant Welfare stations last year died.

Jane Mooney, graduate in Public Health Nursing of Chicago School of Civics and, until recently, with the Chicago Visiting Nurse Association, has been appointed to develop School Nursing in Delta County, under the Red Cross Chapter. Agnes Cogan, for seven years with the Municipal Public Health Department of Cleveland, has been appointed to West Otero County, with headquarters at Rocky Ford, for educational work under the local Red Cross Chapter. Three other positions are open to qualified nurses and plans for the development of public health nursing, along similar lines, in several Chapters are nearing completion. Nurses in the far west desiring information may write to Olive Chapman, Rocky Mountain Division of the Red Cross, Denver.

Washington.—The course in public health nursing of the University of Washington at Seattle was delayed because of the influenza epidemic, but Barbara H. Bartlett, Assistant Professor of Nursing and Public Health, has been very busy arousing interest in the work among the nurses at Camp Lewis and in Tacoma and Seattle. Mrs. Bartlett has had classes of 27 graduate nurses at Camp Lewis, 15 at Tacoma and the entire senior class in the Seattle General Hospital. There are 21 in this third class and all were given three months of theory and then started on one month of practical field work. Arrangements were made with nine different organizations for the field experience.

The University of Washington has a five-year course leading to the degree of B. S. in nursing, three years in the College of Science and two years in a nurses' training school. A preliminary pre-nursing course for women who intend to enter hospital training was also planned for the spring quarter, from March 31 to June 16. During the summer quarter, the course for public health nurses will be repeated. This will last from June 17 to August 30. Lively interest is being aroused among the club women on the Pacific Coast in public health nursing and several very good opportunities are open for the properly trained and equipped public health nurse. Barbara H. Bartlett has been appointed by the Governor as Secretary-Treasurer of the State Board of Nurse Examiners for a period of five years. The Seattle Board of Education now has a staff of twenty-five school nurses.

Ohio.—The Akron Health Department, Olive E. Beason, Director, Bureau of Nursing, sent one of its staff to Boston last fall for a course in after-care of infantile paralysis work, and Miss Kinsey has now started that work in Akron. She is working in connection with the Orthopedic Clinic of the Children's Hospital and her work is growing constantly. The work will not be confined wholly to infantile paralysis after-care, but will in time include follow-up and home work for any crippled children. In February, 29 cases of old poliomyelitis were under supervision and it became necessary to have two clinics weekly. Most of the treatments are given at the hospital and volunteer motor service has been established with the assistance of some of Akron's interested and very public-spirited citizens. Akron is the fifth city in the country to establish this form of home follow-up work for children who have had infantile paralysis. Akron is going to extend its public health nursing into the county, and physicians and nurses are to be employed for this service. The Anti-Tuberculosis Committee has authorized the Health Commissioner to employ six nurses for work anywhere in Summit County. This, it is hoped, will be the beginning of general community nursing for the whole county. The nurses are to be under the supervision of the Division of Public Health Nursing.

Illinois, Joliet.—The Silver Cross Hospital gives its senior nurses a six weeks' course in practical field work under the supervision of the community nurse. During the recent epidemic, over 1,200 visits were made to the homes of influenza patients. All of the public health nurses did general field work, with the exception of the chief nurse, Florence A. Baldwin, who was detailed for service in the emergency hospital.

Chicago.—The 1918 report of the Social Service Registration Bureau shows that the Visiting Nurse Association registered the highest number of cases with it; 76 other agencies also register all of their cases with this Bureau. The Visiting Nurse Association does not register patients who pay for the service or who are paid for, unless material relief of some sort is needed in these homes.

Wyoming.—Being the first and only public health nurse in the whole state of Wyoming is the unique experience of Katherine Wilson, (Mercy Hospital, Chicago), who for a year and a half has been school nurse in Cheyenne, which has a population of 15,000. It has been true pioneer work, full of difficulties, but having enough success to make all the effort worth while. In seven months she examined 1,421 children and found 1,291 who needed a physician's or dentist's care. She made on an average 115 calls per month in the children's homes, and as a result 80 children had diseased or enlarged tonsils removed,

71 got eyeglasses or had old ones refitted, and a great many had their teeth put in good condition. In some school rooms, where the teacher was especially interested, every child in the room went to the dentist. Miss Wilson found one child of 12 who was almost totally blind and who had never been to school. She had him placed in a school for the blind. Two children, mentally deficient, were placed in schools fitted to their needs. She organized Health Crusaders' Leagues, and at the end of the year, 800 children had done their health chores and won pins. Tooth-brush drills were established in the school, and lectures were given on First Aid, Home Nursing, and Care of Infants to the senior and junior high school girls. There is no school physician in Cheyenne, no free dispensary, and no free laboratory. Throat cultures had to be sent to Denver. When parents could not afford a doctor, a private doctor was asked to give his services. Much free dentistry had to be asked for, so the above report speaks for itself. Miss Wilson writes, "One feels truly like a pioneer. Sometimes it seems that it requires more optimism than a person can have to keep believing in one's work and making other people feel that it is worth while, but the response that it is possible to get from the children and the opportunity for good in teaching health, pays for all discouraging things."

Time-Books.—The National Organization for Public Health Nursing has recently had published by Mead & Wheeler, of Chicago, a very usable and practical loose-leaf time-book. Except that it is loose-leaf and has left certain headings blank, the book is similar to the one in use for so many years by the Visiting Nurse Association of Chicago. The nurses who have more than once been unsuccessful in securing the old form will be glad to know that the new form, once the cover has been purchased, will not be any more expensive and ought to be much more convenient than the old book.

"AN INVITATION"

Readers of the JOURNAL who so generously responded to its invitation to send one new subscriber, will be interested in the result of the effort. The June count of the subscription files showed the highest number reached this year,—500 more than last month. This is worth working for.