

MILBANK MEMORIAL FUND

QUARTERLY BULLETIN

NEW YORK HEALTH DEMONSTRATIONS

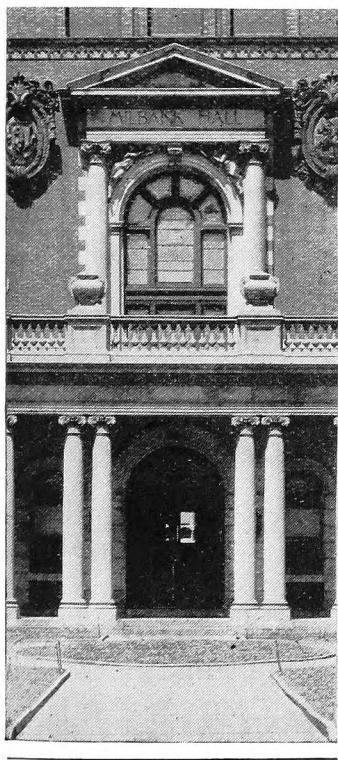
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THE TWENTY-FIFTH ANNIVERSARY of the MILBANK MEMORIAL FUND

*Observed at the Eighth Annual Meeting of the Fund's
Boards of Counsel*



TWENTY-FIVE years ago, on April 3, 1905, there was recorded in the office of the clerk of New York County the certificate of incorporation of The Memorial Fund Association, the name of which was later changed to the Milbank Memorial Fund. A quarter of a century later, on April 3, 1930, at a dinner of its boards of counsel at the Park Lane hotel in New York City, the Fund commemorated this occasion.

The past quarter of a century has witnessed a marked evolution in the general notion of the province of philanthropy. Earlier conceptions acknowledged mainly obligations to cure disease, to relieve

distress; later ideas recognized opportunities to prevent them—and, moreover, to add generally to the fullness and richness of living. This transition reflects changes which scientific inquiry has brought about generally in our social thought. They appear markedly in the fields of present-day public health and social work, which have been the scenes of activity of many of the foundations established during this period, including the Milbank Memorial Fund.

A recent record compiled by the Russell Sage Foundation catalogues some two hundred American foundations. Their endowments, if combined, would approximate a billion dollars. In comparison with some, the endowment of the Milbank Memorial Fund, with a book value of approximately \$10,000,000, and a market value of approximately \$15,000,000, is relatively small. Nevertheless, its gifts in the general fields of health, social welfare and education, totaling over \$6,716,000 in the past twenty-five years, have been of significant influence.

The founder of the Milbank Memorial Fund, Elizabeth Milbank Anderson, gave the Board of Directors a free hand

THE twenty-fifth anniversary of the Milbank Memorial Fund, celebrated on April third at a dinner of its boards of counsel, rounded out a quarter-century of philanthropic service of a widely diversified nature. The Fund's gifts during this period totaled over \$6,716,000. Over two-thirds of its expenditures have been to aid organizations and projects in the field of health, mostly in the field of public health. Approximately one-sixth of its gifts have been in the field of social welfare, and about one-sixth in the field of education. (Its contributions were made to 132 separate organizations and projects. The leading article in this issue presents in résumé the high lights of the Fund's history.

to use the Fund's endowment for the public good. She imposed no limitations other than that the trust be used "to improve the physical, mental and moral condition of human-

ity and generally to advance charitable and benevolent objects."

THAT country women of all socio-economic classes in the United States have larger families than women living in the cities, and similarly, that wives of laborers have larger families than those of business or professional men, is indicated in a recently completed inquiry into the rates at which various social groups reproduce themselves—made by the Fund's Division of Research, in cooperation with the United States Bureau of the Census. A summary of the study is presented as the second article of this issue. ¶ In later pages announcement is made of simultaneous ceremonies to be held here and abroad on April eighth commemorating the eightieth birthday of Dr. William Henry Welch, chairman of the Fund's Advisory Council.

Previous to her fifty-fifth year, in which she established the Fund, Mrs. Anderson had given endlessly of her time and money to undertakings for the welfare of others. Her largest gift, made prior to establishment of the foundation, was to the cause of higher education for women. By gifts to Barnard College of the three New York city blocks on which this institution stands,

and by other liberal contributions, including Milbank and Brooks halls, she gave immense stimulus to the school in its early years. The present-day appraisal value of the land and buildings which she gave to Barnard, approximating three million dollars, makes the college, with the exception of the Milbank Fund, the largest beneficiary of her philanthropy. It is more than three times the amount, \$959,656.83, given by the Fund to its largest single beneficiary, the New York Association for Improving the Condition of the Poor; it exceeds by more than a million dollars the total of the sums,

\$1,911,405.14, given to date by the Fund toward the New York Health Demonstrations, in which since 1923 the Fund has been cooperating with three communities in New York.

The graph on p. 33 indicates the amount spent by the Fund in the demonstrations in comparison with its expenditures for other philanthropic purposes during its twenty-five years of activity. Next to the Association and the combined demonstration communities, the following have been the principal recipients of the Fund's philanthropy during its history—Princeton University receiving \$449,638, Judson Health Center in New York City with \$305,000, the National Committee for Mental Hygiene with \$197,500, the New York Commission on Ventilation with \$189,000, Phillips Academy with \$160,000, the Serbian Child Welfare Association with \$135,000, the Legal Aid Society in New York City with \$131,250, the Saranac Laboratory and the Trudeau Foundation with \$122,000, the Children's Aid Society with \$112,228.89, and the State Charities Aid Association receiving \$106,556.25.

Throughout its history, the foundation has aided some 132 separate organizations and projects. It made only one grant in its first year—\$5,000 to the Legal Aid Society. This Society and the Association for Improving the Condition of the Poor are the only organizations which have been beneficiaries of the Fund for as long a period as eighteen years. The Babies' Dairy Association, the Saranac Laboratory and the Trudeau Foundation, the National Committee for Mental Hygiene, the State Charities Aid Association, and the Judson Health Center, in this order, are next in point of length of time during which they have received aid. Each of these organizations was assisted for ten years or more at some time during the past twenty-five years.

In an accompanying graph is indicated the trend of the



ELIZABETH MILBANK ANDERSON

December 20, 1850 - February 22, 1921

*Who founded the MILBANK MEMORIAL FUND
on April 3, 1905*

Fund's service during its twenty-five year history in the fields of health, social welfare and education. Of its total expenditures during this period, over two-thirds have been to aid organizations and projects in the field of health, mostly in the field of public health. Approximately one-sixth of the foundation's total philanthropic gifts have been in the field of social welfare, and about one-sixth in the field of education. During its first seven years, all of the Fund's gifts were in the latter fields. But, since 1912, there have been but two years (1913 and 1920) when the Fund's gifts for health did not exceed those for both social welfare and education put together. There has been a gradual trend in the increase of the Fund's gifts for public health, the largest amount of contributions in this field having been made in 1929. The change of the Fund's emphasis from social welfare to health is indicated by the fact that over half of the amount of its gifts in the former field were made during its first sixteen years, whereas over half of its total gifts in the field of health have been made within the past five years. A special gift in 1928 for the construction of the Milbank Memorial Choir of the Princeton University Chapel, given by the Fund as a tangible and permanent memorial to its founder, accounted for over one-third of the gifts for education.

In the course of its history, the Milbank Fund has helped to launch a number of new organizations and projects and has assisted others through critical years. Initial gifts and pledges by Mrs. Anderson, assumed later by the Fund, enabled the New York Association for Improving the Condition of the Poor to undertake preventive and constructive work for the community as a whole, apart from its service to particular families. Grants, over the early and critical period of its organization, aided the National Committee for Mental Hygiene to establish its program and services for the

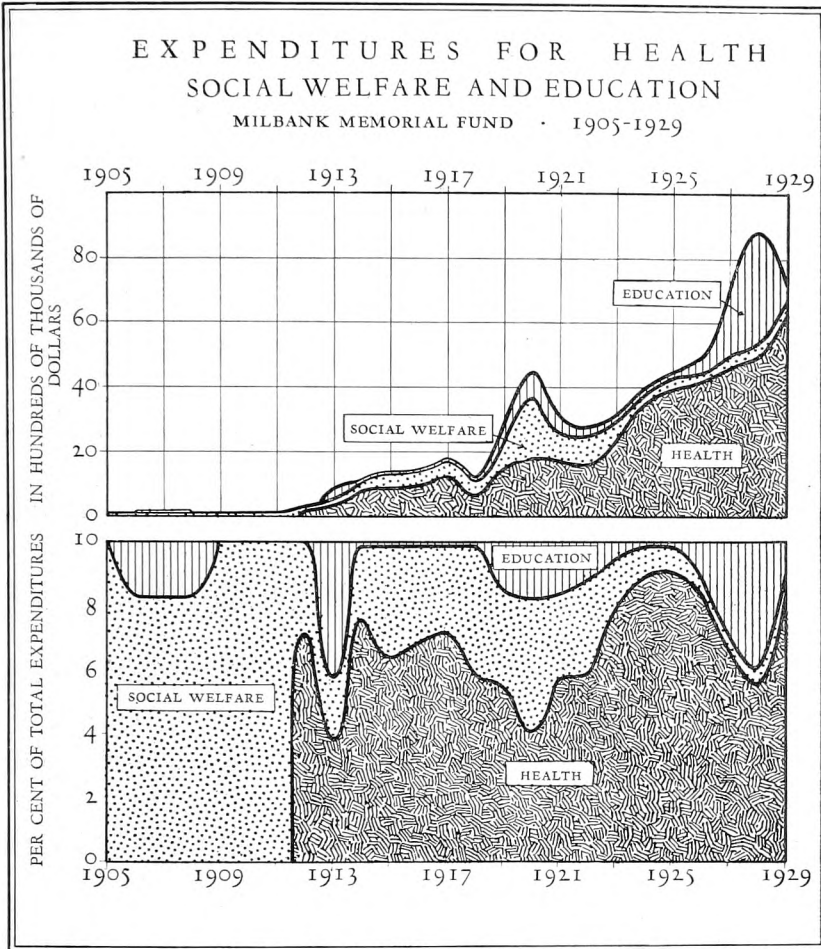


Fig. 1. Comparative indirect expenditures for health, social welfare and education, by years, 1905-1929. The lower part of the chart represents the amount of the Fund's payments in each group reduced to the percentages of its total payments to "other organizations" during each year. It indicates, therefore, in a broad way the Fund's relative changes in emphasis in the respective fields of health, social welfare and education over the twenty-five-year period.

conservation of mental health. Gifts from Mrs. Anderson, dating back to 1891, had aided Dr. Edward L. Trudeau in establishing and maintaining the Saranac Laboratory. Since 1912, with a lapse of but three years, the Fund has continued this aid. In addition to the \$122,000 paid, in 1928 it pledged

\$100,000 as an endowment to assure its continued annual support of the work of the foundation and laboratory. The Fund provided all of the money to the New York Commission on Ventilation for its study of the underlying physical laws and physiological reactions showing the relation of air conditions to health. The gift by Mrs. Anderson of land and buildings enabled the Children's Aid Society to establish, and subsequent grants from the Fund enabled it to maintain, at Chappaqua, New York, a home for convalescent children from New York City. The Committee on the Cost of Medical Care and the Diphtheria Prevention Commission of the New York City Department of Health were among other projects to which the Fund gave initial aid.

A number of organizations engaged in mitigating some of the tragedies of the Great War received grants from the Fund during the war and post-war periods. These included the Serbian Child Welfare Association, the American Relief Association, the Commission for Relief in Belgium, the United War Work Campaign, the American Red Cross, and the American Committee for Armenian and Syrian Relief.

A grant in 1929 in support of a Committee on Neighborhood Health Development, enabled the New York City Health Commissioner, Dr. Shirley W. Wynne, in cooperation with local voluntary agencies, to initiate a comprehensive plan of community health work in New York City. Through aid to the East Harlem Nursing and Health Service and to the Mulberry, East Harlem and Judson health centers, the Fund has made notable contributions toward improving the health and living conditions of individuals and families in New York City.

Recently, the Fund established its own divisions of research and publication. These divisions were created in the belief that the Fund's aims can be advanced by the mainte-

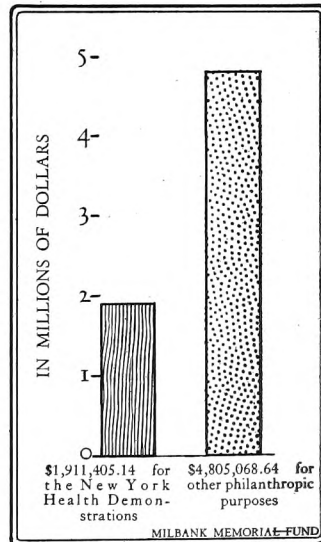
nance of its own research, editorial and publication staffs.

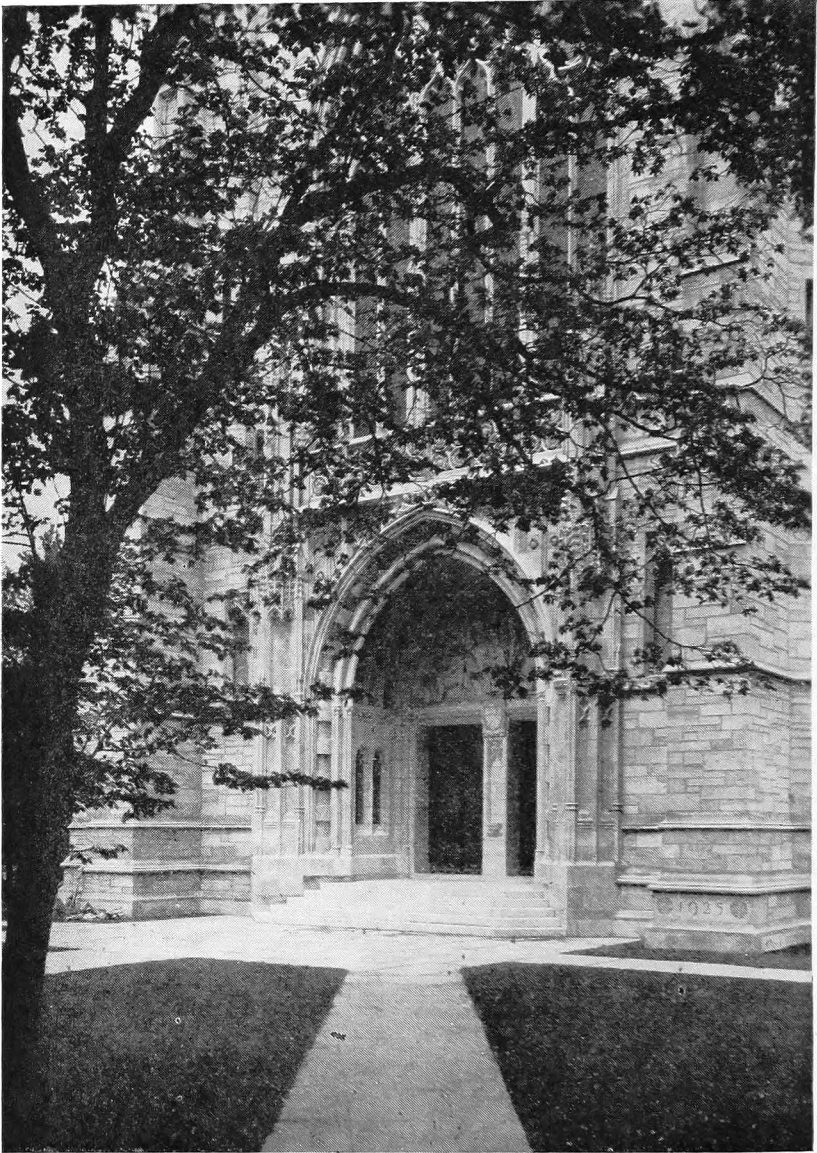
Edward W. Sheldon, who had been president and a director of the Fund since its establishment, resigned the presidency recently, remaining on the Board of Directors. Albert G. Milbank was elected to succeed Mr. Sheldon as president. During the past decade, John A. Kingsbury has been secretary of the foundation.

These are among the Fund's experiences and services which were recalled at the annual dinner meeting, at which its twenty-fifth birthday was celebrated. On this occasion, the Board of Directors was host to the members of the Fund's boards of counsel and to representatives of organizations in whose work the foundation has been associated in recent years. Dr. William H. Welch, Edward W. Sheldon, Albert G. Milbank, Dr. C.-E. A. Winslow, and Miss Lilla C. Wheeler were among the speakers.

The dinner was a part of the program of the eighth annual meeting of the Fund's boards of counsel, which was held in connection with the fifth New York Health Conference on April third and fourth. The conference was sponsored by a group of national, state and local health organizations which, in addition to the Fund, included the United States Public Health Service, the New York State and City departments of health, the New York State Medical Society, the State Charities Aid Association and the Bellevue-Yorkville Community Health Council.

Fig. 2. Expenditures for the New York Health Demonstrations and for other philanthropic purposes, during the twenty-five year period, 1905-1929.





WEST ENTRANCE OF THE PRINCETON UNIVERSITY CHAPEL
The Choir of which constitutes a Memorial to the
FOUNDER *of the* MILBANK MEMORIAL FUND