

ANNOTATIONS

FAMILY HEALTH SERVICE¹

BESIDES providing interesting information about the approach, scope, and nature of the service given by the Community Service Society's Department of Educational Nursing, the study reported upon under the title FAMILY HEALTH SERVICE¹ contributes to the sum total of experimentation in evaluation of quality of public health nursing.

During the past ten years several excursions have been made into this relatively unexplored field of measurement, and a variety of quantitative criteria have been developed, some more and some less objective in character.² Methods of evaluation have been based primarily upon observation of nursing visits, supplemented by study of service records and statistical reports of agency activities; or they have relied chiefly or solely upon the review of records and statistical reports.

The method employed in this study was based upon analysis of fifty-

¹ Shetland, Margaret S.: FAMILY HEALTH SERVICE, STUDY OF THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATIONAL NURSING OF THE COMMUNITY SERVICE SOCIETY. New York Institute of Welfare Research, Community Service Society of New York, 1944, 170 pp.

² National Organization of Public Health Nursing: SURVEY OF PUBLIC HEALTH NURSING. New York, The Commonwealth Fund, 1934, 280 pp.

Measuring the Quality of Our Work. *Public Health Nursing*, October, 1940, 32, No. 10, pp. 608-618.

Derryberry, Mayhew: The Nurse as a Family Teacher. *Public Health Nursing*, June, 1938, 30, No. 6, pp. 357-365.

Bean, Helen: The Family as a Unit for Nursing Service. *Public Health Reports*, December 31, 1937, 52, No. 53, pp. 1923-1931.

Peterson, Rosalie I.: Health Supervision by Nurses in a Bicity Health Department. *Public Health Reports*, December 3, 1937, 52, No. 49, pp. 1783-1793.

Downes, Jean and Price, Clara R.: A Study of Public Health Nursing Service in Tuberculous Families in the Mulberry District of New York City. *The Milbank Memorial Fund Quarterly*, January, 1939, xvii, No. 1, pp. 29-49.

And others.

two case records selected by supervisors, reinforced by a review of summaries of closed cases and by observation of nursing visits, though not to the families studied. The evaluation of public health nursing performance or "skills" is combined with that of results achieved, as reflected in the behavior and understanding of the families served.

The author believes that the method devised by her for purposes of this study needs to be tested further, a conclusion similar to that reached in previous attempts at qualitative measurement. She suggests, too, that the method may have implications for day by day use in other public health nursing services. Wider application of the criteria here employed is probably needed to determine whether they are really sufficiently objective.

Although the stated purpose of the study is "to provide the Community Service Society board and administration with a basis for a redefinition of the nursing program," the findings cannot fail to be of general interest. For instance, at a time when more than usual attention is in all parts of the country being focused upon provisions for public health nursing care of the sick, it is noteworthy that this study recommends consideration of how best to provide it when needed in the families served by the Department of Educational Nursing. On the one hand, it is concluded that "family health service should be administered through a program which gives it precedence over the sickness services and other commitments," the present policy of the Department. On the other hand, it is believed that "the giving of bedside care is an integral part of the work of the public health nurse and when this part is turned over to another agency, it cannot be related effectively to the total needs of the family."

A great many other findings of the study, such as those relating to selectiveness in intake, more accurate bases for computing cost of service, adequate qualifications of personnel for family health service, agency potentialities for student experience and for experimentation and demonstration, have administrative implications for all public health nursing agencies.

The type of health service offered by the agency here under discussion is considered unique in its concentration upon the family as a unit of work and its focus upon the positive aspects of health. The Department of Educational Nursing is unusual also in that it is a functional unit of a voluntary family welfare organization which gives other types of social and health service.

Through the detailed descriptions offered in this study report, the reader gains a clear picture of a public health nursing service functioning in a complex and rather unusual framework. It does not attempt to relate this service to other public health nursing services in the community or to draw any conclusions in regard to community planning of public health nursing.

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ESTIMATES OF FUTURE POPULATION OF THE UNITED STATES

DURING the past fifteen years or so, Thompson and Whelpton, of the Scripps Foundation for Research in Population Problems, have provided periodically revised estimates of the future population of this country on the basis of given assumptions regarding trends in fertility, mortality, and immigration. Their work has deservedly become a standard reference in discussions of future population trends. They have recently prepared their third set of estimates for the National Resources Planning Board or its antecedents. The work appears as a government publication under the title *ESTIMATES OF FUTURE POPULATION OF THE UNITED STATES, 1940-2000*.¹ The two preceding sets appeared in 1934 and 1937.²

In accounting for the somewhat early revision of the 1937 estimates the authors state that "it has become apparent that, quite apart from the war, certain changes have been taking place to alter the outlook for population in the United States. Among the new factors that are affecting the future size and composition of the population are the continuance through 1942 of the upward turn of the birth rate that began in the middle 1930's, the

¹ Thompson, Warren S. and Whelpton, P. K.: *ESTIMATES OF FUTURE POPULATION OF THE UNITED STATES, 1940-2000*. National Resources Planning Board, Washington, Government Printing Office, 1943, 137 pp. \$0.35

² (a) National Resources Board: *Estimates of Future Population by States*. Washington, 1934 (offset).

(b) National Resources Committee: *POPULATION STATISTICS. I. NATIONAL DATA*. Washington, Government Printing Office, 1937, 107 pp.

(c) National Resources Committee: *THE PROBLEMS OF A CHANGING POPULATION*. Washington, Government Printing Office, 1938, pp. 22-27.