

RURAL NURSING AND HEALTH CENTRES

For many years it has been felt that many lives have been endangered and sometimes sacrificed on account of the lack of knowledge of the most elementary principles of home nursing and rural hygiene and sanitation.

Contagious diseases have been spread, typhoid has become epidemic, and other similar diseases have become prevalent, due to the lack of knowledge of the means of preventing these diseases. In no cases, however, was there so great need for skilled nursing and intelligent advice as in the home of the expectant mother in the isolated districts. The Government realized this great need, but the financial situation of the Province four years ago was a stumbling block to the inauguration of new policies involving financial expenditure. Circumstances, however, favored us in this matter. At the conclusion of peace the Red Cross, which had done such noble service during the war, became interested in national health. They had several million dollars of unexpended funds at their disposal and they were induced to devote their activities to work of this nature. The Victorian Order of Nurses, that has done so much for district nursing in this Province, was also interested, so that today we have under the Provincial Health Department these organizations expending their money and giving their services in the interest of this great humanitarian and national work.

(1) The Red Cross supplied the funds for training nurses in rural nursing at the University.

(2) The Victorian Order of Nurses gave the practical training to these nurses in the field in connection with the Rural Health Centre at Saanich.

(3) The Provincial Government assists Saanich in a financial way by a grant of some \$1,500 to repay that community for the added expenditure required for carrying on the work of training.

Ten nurses have already been trained and will be sent to the various parts of the Province where