

but in the application of measures many of which are largely of a social nature and found only in the influence of the nurse's own personality.

The duties of the baby health station nurse require that she combat with all her strength those factors which are mainly responsible for the large and unnecessary waste and wreckage of infant and child life, i.e., poverty, superstition, ignorance, carelessness and even neglect.

The infant must have suitable food and at regular intervals, suitable clothing, warmth, and proper care. Without these essentials vitality is lowered, resulting in disease and perhaps death.

Baby welfare nurses must meet social and economic conditions which in many instances tax greatly their ingenuity, resourcefulness, judgment, tact, patience, temper, heart and pocket book. Few people have such an opportunity for looking into the lives and homes of other people as is afforded the nurse.

Over-crowding, improper housing, insanitary conditions, unemployment, alcoholism, illegitimacy, desertion, poverty, lack of fuel, even starvation itself, are often met by this employee. Conditions many of which not only disrupt families but separate bodies and souls.

Is it any wonder that the human side of this work indicates that women are best fitted for it? Few positions in public service require a broader humanitarian and social viewpoint. The contact of the nurse in the home is close and intimate and with cordial friendly cooperation the resultant is a saving of the lives of children. The job is not a sinecure. The position calls for active, intensive application, and often the hours are long, but the work finds sure and certain returns in it that is always a duty as well as a pleasure to be able to relieve want and suffering, especially of babies and little children.

THE SCHOOL HEALTH NURSE

The work of the school health nurse is part of a very intricate whole, and this nurse should realize what her relation is to the school, to the child, to the community, as well as what aid she can give the public health authorities and the medical profession in preventing sickness and death.

The thirty-two different nationalities represented in our citizenry, with its ignorance, poverty and over-crowding, makes the supervision of the 1,000,000 school children a very necessary and important undertaking. The efficiency of the work naturally depends upon the care and thoroughness with which the nurse performs her duty. Failure or carelessness defrauds the city and is destructive owing to its effect on the life, health and comfort of her charges—the children. The school health nurse should always put forward the best that is in her in behalf of these little ones.