

The aid of these faithful women elevates and improves the morale of the community, the best measure of their work being not in dollars and cents, nor in individual efficiency, nor in the reduced number of contagious diseases, but in comforting the ill and in the saving of lives, particularly those of infants and children.

The statement cannot be challenged that these women earn much more than their pay, also that in large measure the marked reduction in infant mortality may be ascribed to the work of the field nurses. There comes to these nurses as part of the recompense of their services the satisfaction of knowing they have been the means of increasing human happiness and individual contentment, that they have given assistance to those in distress, and that the work they are doing is in behalf of their fellowmen and for the general good of the community.

Taking all the factors into consideration, it is almost impossible to overestimate the value of the assistance rendered by these nurses to public health work.

#### SPECIAL FIELDS OF DUTY IN PUBLIC HEALTH WORK

The Baby Health Station Nurse.

The School Health Nurse.

The District Health Nurse.

The Contagious Disease Hospital Nurse.

From this classification it will be seen that the public health nurse becomes in reality a specialist along certain lines.

There is a wide gap between the duties of the trained nurse in private or hospital practice and her responsibilities and activities in public health fields. One might be almost tempted to say that there is little in common between them.

It does not follow that a nurse who shows exceptional ability in the training school will display this same superiority in other fields of endeavor. The matter of selection and assignment is a specialty by itself.

The problem of the care of babies is one matter, of home instruction another, of isolation of contagion another—so that an effort is always made to select the nurse who is best fitted for the particular work to which she is assigned. Here it is that a large corps affords ample opportunity for change of services which with a small corps in a small community is lacking. The selection of the nurse has to be considered carefully to get an appointee who will measure up to full requirements and expectations.

The relation of the public health nurse to the public welfare work is one of special interest. The problem of keeping babies well is not through the instrumentality of the ordinary means found in a clinic or hospital,