

BOOKS AND REVIEWS

Hospital Nursing Services, *Boletín de la Oficina sanitaria panamericana, Washington, Vol. LXIII, No. 1.*

Among the main characteristics of hospital nursing services in Latin America are the following: wide variation in quality of services; deficient working conditions; the growing sense of professional responsibility among nursing groups; and the rapidity with which changes are taking place.

Among the changes that warrant most careful study, and whose acceptance requires the most time, is the new orientation of nursing activities in today's hospital—in the four major areas of patient care, supervision, teaching, and administration—which will serve as the basis for the restructuring of functions and will be made possible through the training of various levels of nursing staff.

The first level is that of the nurse, who must be prepared to discharge all four of the above-mentioned activities. At the second level, the "nursing auxiliary" serves under the supervision of the nurse and performs those duties that require lesser scientific knowledge and technical skills in nursing. The third level is that of the aide, who is prepared to perform a limited number of nursing procedures, such as taking a temperature and helping patients in other simple arrangements.

The distribution of nursing staff according to the three levels, and also in accordance with the type of unit—general or specialized—will make possible a better quality service for the money invested. For example, one general hospital has assigned the total nursing staff time in the medical and surgical units as follows: nurses 20 per cent, auxiliaries 50 per cent, and aides 30 per cent.

The training required varies in content, method, and duration according to the level of personnel. Once the type and number of staff needed for a program is determined, plans can then be made for their training. This is an activity that must be given priority in view of the changes that are taking place in the programs and the time required for adjustments.

Children and peace - Assignment Children, Paris, 1967, No. 6.

The world into which children are born today is one of inequality, intolerance and conflict. The immense majority of children suffer, like adults, from the evils of illness, malnutrition and illiteracy in under-