

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-

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developed countries; war; discrimination bound up with prejudice concerning race, sex, religion, birth, etc., leading to inferior social and personal status for certain groups: and this situation is to be found in nearly all countries, whatever their stage of development.

One of the most important aspects of our task being to prepare children for life—indeed, for a better life—we must, as a matter of urgency, equip them psychologically and morally to enable them to become responsible citizens of their country and of the world; no time must be lost in sowing in their minds the seeds of that desire for justice and peace, that attitude of respect for others, which alone can save the world of tomorrow.

That is why the accent in this issue is on the education of children as a contribution to world understanding, in a series of articles on the fostering of prejudice in children and on how education, by contrast, can guide the minds of children towards international understanding. Programmes aimed at this objective exist in Australia, Belgium, Brazil, France, India, Japan, Malaysia, Morocco, Thailand and the U.S.A.

World Anthology, UNESCO Chronicle, Paris 1967, No. 7-8.

The UNESCO General Conference, at its fourteenth session, showed itself to be in favour, "in order to strengthen peaceful relations... between peoples", of the Secretariat's co-operating in the preparation of a series of world anthologies consisting of sayings or remarks of well-known writers and has decided that these should be selected and provided by the various national commissions. The Director-General has therefore chosen the theme "The horrors of war" for the anthology which will appear in 1967-68.
