

# DEVELOPMENT OF THE SCHOOL OF PRACTICAL NURSING

(Editor's note: Members of the Health Council will remember that at the August 1947 meeting, a representative of the Community Nursing Council outlined a plan for the establishment of a school for the training of practical nurses and asked the Health Council to lend its support to the project. The Council passed a resolution endorsing the plan and requesting the chairman to appoint a committee to study ways and means of raising additional funds needed to operate the proposed school. Funds were secured and the Practical Nursing School is now in its 8th month of operation. A complete account of its development since the time the project was first presented to the Council is given below.)

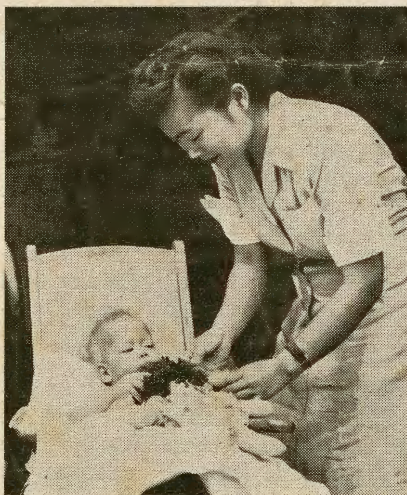
The first school of practical nursing in the territory was established on October 20, 1947. Efforts to accomplish this progressive step have been underway for some time, but only in the past two years has the community been sufficiently aroused to the need and desirability of such a school to inspire constructive action.

The Vocational Division of the Department of Public Instruction, in cooperation with the Community Nursing Council and the Board for the Licensing of Nurses, worked out specific regulations and standards including the curriculum for the course and for any similar courses that may be organized in the future on other islands.

The school was set up under the auspices of the Vocational Division of the Department of Public Instruction. Due to the fact that it was organized after the 1947-48 school budget had been passed by the last legislative session, there were not sufficient funds available for the purchasing of specialized equipment, running expenses and other expenditures peculiar to this type of course. This deficit was met by the very generous gift of eight thousand dollars (\$8,000) from the Health Committee of the Chamber of Commerce. The funds necessary for the school expense during the coming biennium have been included in the budget of the Department of Public Instruction to come before the next legislature for approval.

The Practical Nurse Training Course opened on October 20, 1947, with 22 students enrolled and a faculty consisting of Mrs. Marjorie Elliott, Instructor in Charge; Mrs. Myrtle Schattenburg, Coordinating Instructor, and Miss Mary Murai as Home Economics Instructor employed on a part-time basis. Subsequent classes for the school year were admitted on January 5 and April 12 of this year.

The classes are located in the Home Economics Building of the Washington Intermediate School. The facilities provided there are splendid and such that future expansion will be possible to accommodate a growing school. With the entrance of the September 1948 class the quarters will consist of one large classroom and office combined, a large practice and class room for use in teach-



Practical Nurse at Shriners Hospital.

ing nursing procedures, a well equipped foods laboratory, and a well furnished, attractive, practice apartment. The latter is used in teaching nursing and household management in the home.

Students for the course are required to have at least an eighth grade education (two or more years of high school preferred) and to be between 18 and 50 years of age. Applicants must be in good mental and physical health and show suitability for the work by interviews, references and aptitude tests.

A fee of seven dollars and fifty cents (\$7.50) is charged and students are required to provide their own living quarters and uniforms. They receive no remuneration during the course. Students from other islands are given assistance in finding homes in which they can work for room and board when necessary. During the student's period of duty lunch and laundering of uniforms are provided by affiliating hospitals.

The three classes of 24 students each

that are accepted yearly are given a forty-weeks' course. The first ten weeks are given over to approximately 265 hours of intensive theoretical instruction in Nursing Procedures, Food Preparation and Meal Planning, Ethics and Personal Relationships, Care of the Chronic and Aged, Infant and Child Care and Development, and Anatomy, Physiology and Personal Hygiene.

The last thirty weeks of the course are given over mainly to clinical practice, under supervision, in the following organizations: Central Union Church Preschool, Kapiolani Maternity and Gynecological Hospital, Leahi Hospital, Maluhia Home, St. Francis Hospital Dietary Department, and Shriners Hospital for Crippled Children.

During this period, the students also receive experience in Home Management in the practice apartment and give nursing care in various homes in the community to subacute, chronic or convalescent patients, as well as caring for mothers and young babies. Mrs. Clara Ishikawa, a former public health nurse, has been added to the staff on a part-time basis, to supervise the students in their home nursing experience. While receiving valuable experience, the students are also helping meet the community need for this type of nursing care and household assistance.

At the completion of the course students will receive certificates from the school and will be eligible to take the Licensing Board examination for Practical Nurses. The graduate student will be privileged to add the school cap to her uniform and may wear the official school pin.

Mrs. Schattenburg recently spent three days on Kauai, talking with high school students for recruitment purposes and exploring the possibilities of setting up an affiliation in the Wilcox Memorial and Mahelona Hospitals there for students whose homes are on that island, and who wish to work there after graduation. Since adequate facilities are available and nurses and community organizations are exceptionally cooperative, it is planned to carry out this affiliation as soon as there are several students desiring it, probably in the fall. It is expected that similar plans will be carried out on Hawaii and Maui as soon as arrangements can be made.

The school is greatly benefited by the able advice and assistance of an Advisory Committee composed of representatives of hospitals and various community organizations headed by Mr. Clarence Fer-

(Continued on Page 11)



# PRACTICAL NURSE SCHOOL REPORT

*(Continued from Page 9)*

dun of the Vocational Division of the Department of Public Instruction. The other members are: Mrs. Gardner Black, Miss Patience Clark, Mrs. Thomas Gage, Miss Esther Kekela, Miss Charlotte Kerr, Miss Laura Draper, Mrs. Marjorie Elliott, Dr. Nils P. Larsen and Mr. R. A. Watkins.

We are conscious of the need for classes in practical nursing for men, who may serve as orderlies or attendants in hospitals or do private duty. It is expected that such a class will be established in the coming school year.

A real need for the school is a loan fund to assist students whose limited resources are not sufficient to provide for their living expenses while taking the course. Some assurance has been given of the availability of a fund for this purpose if an organization can be found that is willing to administer it. Since the total fund will be only about one thousand dollars (\$1,000), the principal will be used as a rotating loan fund. If it were taken care of in the usual way by a trust company, the fund would be rapidly depleted by the cost of administration.

After approximately seven months of operation, this new and precedent-setting course has been accepted with cooperation and enthusiasm by the hospitals, doctors, and members of the community for whom the students have worked in their training period.

As the graduates go out into practical nursing positions, the standards for practical nurses will be raised and the community will benefit by the additional nursing service available.