

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE PORTLAND FREE DISPENSARY.

March 1921.

The work of the Dispensary has progressed since our last meeting in July without any special events of great importance, but with a steadily increasing attendance.

The average daily attendance for the past year has been about 32 patients per day. The average for this year promises to be much larger as the average for the month of Jan. has been 45 per day. The large days Thursday and Saturday have been running 90 and 95 for the past two weeks. One day it reached 124.

This increase is due I think to the better attendance of the Physicians, the cooperation of the School Nurses, the follow up work of the Infant Welfare Society, the greater activity of the V.N.A. nurses, and the fact that the Public Welfare Bureau now requires all members of families applying to them to be examined.

During the year several of the clinic rooms have been enlarged to give better accommodation to both the attending physician and the patients.

One entire new room was made for the Ped. Clinic and the clinic rooms of the Gen. Med. & Gyn. were enlarged. A store room at the back of the building has been arranged for a dark room for the X Ray machine.

The X Ray machine has been purchased and installed but has not been used as yet. The cost of the X Ray machine with the wiring, carpenter work and plumbing was approximately \$ 2031.00. To meet this expense we received donations from

\$ 250.00, from the Peoples Institute , \$ 300.00 and the expense of wiring about \$300.00 from the Medical School.

It has not been used as there is a need of plates, a screen, and some one to operate the machine. Mrs . Stannard the wife of one of students who was in charge of the XRay machine at St. Vincents Hospital has offered her services for this purpose . Dr. Palmer, Dr. P. Parker, Dr. Wade, and Dr. Bisailionare all anxious to have the use of it.

In addition to the clinics several lectures are now given here in the building by Dr. Parrish, Dr. King, Dr. Rockey, and Dr. Labbe and a groupe of physicians use the rooms on Friday for autopsy work.

We have had some difficulty with physicians in the Eye, Ear, Nose & Throat clinic who have not seemed understand the ruling in regard to making no charge to patients , but at the suggestion of Dr. Dillihunt a printed card stating that all arrangements for operations must be made with the nurse - have been placed in each clinic room and I have within the last week written a letter to Dr Kidd calling his attention to this printed ruling. I found this necessary as numerous complaints came to us from co-operaiting organizations who refer their patients here expecting free treatment.

During the year the Co-operative Infant Welfare Society of Oreg. has been organized and the first Well Baby Clinic started at the Neighborhood House in South Portland.

This work is an outgrouth of the work of the dispensary and is largely due to the interest and efforts of Dr. Mackenzie.

We have had two visits during the year from Eastern men which have given us much pleasure and gratification by their favorable reports on our work. One was an unknown visit from Dr. Fliexner and the other from Dr Rees, Pres. of the Rochester University, both of whom spoke very highly of the work which they saw in the dispensary.

We appreciate the aid which is given in the Ped. Clinic on Sat. by the nurses of the W.N.A. and also the services of the School Nurses who assist with the registering of the women and children and the services of two volunteers who assist in registering the patients.

It has seemed best to ask for the assistance of the Community Chest in securing our funds and therefore one budget has been made out for the Peoples Institute and the Free Dispensary, and Mrs. Victor Johnson will act as treasurer.

The Peoples Institute has increased the salary of the nurse \$15.00 per month for this year and it is hoped that the Medical school may increase it another \$10.00 per month soon.

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