

A BRIEF HISTORY OF THE PORTLAND FREE DIS-
PENSARY --A DEPARTMENT OF THE PEOPLE'S
INSTITUTE IN AFFILIATION WITH THE MEDICAL
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RENDERED WITH THE ANNUAL REPORT....JUNE 1920.

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The Portland Free Dispensary was organized in September, 1907, as a department of the Peoples' Institute. This work was an outgrowth of the work which the Institute did in 1906 for the San Francisco earthquake sufferers. At that time a temporary hospital was conducted in the gymnasium and medical aid and nursing care was extended to over five hundred sufferers who came north. Two years later the Executive Board of the Institute, realizing that a large percentage of poverty and inefficiency is caused by physical inability and believing that no more effectual aid can be rendered to those in need than to place them in a physical condition to help themselves, decided to establish a small dispensary which should extend medical aid to women and children. The physicians who encouraged and assisted this first work were Dr. C. J. McCusker, Dr. Noble Wiley Jones, Dr. Edna Timms, and Dr. Gertrude French. The Mother's Club of the Peoples' Institute, a group of working women, gave a bazaar and raised the money to provide the first equipment for this dispensary. The work was carried on for two years with the assistance of these physicians in very small quarters in the building occupied by the Institute at

Fourth and Burnside streets.

Dr. C. J. Mc Cusker then presented a report of the work accomplished to the Medical School of the University of Oregon and a communication was received from the Medical School offering to affiliate with the Peoples' Institute in conducting a larger dispensary which should include medical aid to men, women and children. Through the co-operation of the Men's Resort, larger rooms were secured on the lower floor of the same building. Mr. Jacob Kamm gave a very generous financial donation which covered the expense of preparing the rooms and in January, 1910, an affiliation of the Peoples' Institute and the Medical School of the University of Oregon was arranged, whereby the Peoples' Institute provided the rent, light, heat, janitor service, ^{supervision} and part of the equipment and the Medical School provided the physicians; such equipment as they had; \$25.00 a month toward a nurse's salary and assumed the responsibility of the medical direction. A practical nurse was secured who has remained with the work for ^{now 31 years} ten years.

The name the "Portland Free Dispensary" was adopted at that time and private subscriptions to the amount of \$800.00 annually were secured for its maintenance. The work was placed under the direction of a joint committee of the Peoples' Institute, consisting of representatives from the Medical School, the Men's Resort, the Visiting Nurses' Assoc., and the Peoples Institute. A Tuberculosis clinic was added at that time under the supervision of the Visiting Nurses

Association. A staff of physicians was provided under the direction of Dr. K. A. J. Mackenzie as Chief of Staff and for the next seven years the work of the dispensary constantly increased.

In 1917 the work had grown to such an extent that larger quarters were necessary and ~~as the Men's Resort desired the entire building for other purposes,~~ the present location at Fourth and Jefferson Streets was secured and equipped by the Peoples' Institute. At that time a request was made to the County Commissioners by the Peoples' Institute for an appropriation to meet the expense of the rent and the sum of \$100.00 a month was granted. Later this was increased and at present \$75.00 per month is furnished by the County. A request was also made to the City Commissioners for assistance in this work and an appropriation of \$50.00 a month was granted. Since that time this amount has been increased and we are now receiving \$150.00 a month from the city. Twelve regular clinics are maintained with a staff of some thirty-five physicians.

The report for the year 1919 shows a total of 7,063 patients and 9,654 treatments for the year.

The majority of these patients are reported by the various co-operating institutions such as the Visiting Nurses' Assoc., the Public Relief Bureau, The Portland Commons, The Louise Home, The Widows' Pension, the Red Cross Home Service, and Juvenile Court. During the war a bureau of Civilian Re-

lief for soldiers' families was established in co-operation with the Red Cross Home Service and at the request of the City Health Bureau and State Health officials an evening venereal clinic was opened.

In co-operation with the newly organized Infant Welfare Assoc. a "Well Baby Clinic" ^{was opened late} ~~is to be opened as soon as possible~~ during ~~afternoon~~ hours. All social service work in connection with the dispensary patients is cared for by the Peoples' Institute and a paid assistant is provided who follows up the most necessary cases.

The personnel of the Joint Dispensary Committee is as follows:

Representing the Medical Department of the Univ. of Oregon:

Dr. Richard ^BDillehunt (Succeeding Dr. MacKenzie)

Dr. J. Earl Else

Dr. Ernest ^FTucker

Dr. H. B. Myers

The Visiting Nurses Association:

Mrs. A. P. Biles

Mrs. R. J. Marsh

Mrs. James Kerr

The Peoples' Institute:

Mrs. Helen Ladd Corbett

Mrs. W. B. Ayer

Miss Valentine Prichard

Mrs. Victor Johnson

Mrs. A. E. Rockey

Mrs. Thomas Kerr

THE INFANT WELFARE ASSOCIATION OF OREGON

This Association was recently organized as an outgrowth of the work of the Dispensary and is a work in which Dr. MacKenzie was greatly interested. For more than two years before its final organization, he constantly urged the need of this work and endeavored to find some one to take charge of it; but because of the over-worked condition of all physicians during the war it was found necessary to postpone the work until after the war was over. It has now been organized upon a substantial co-operative basis with representatives from all organizations doing any form of Infant Welfare Work and with the medical direction in charge of the Medical School of the University of Oregon.

The officers are:

President.....Mr. Marshall Dana
Vice-president.....Mrs. Helen Ladd Corbett
Secretary.....Dr. H. B. Myers
Treasurer.....Mr. A. L. Mills
Medical Director.....Dr. C. U. Moore

A nurse for one year is to be provided by the Visiting Nurses Assoc. \$500.00 has been appropriated by the Junior Red Cross Assoc. One new station will be started at once and the Dispensary will be used as a Central Station for the work.

As a need has developed for an X-Ray machine, both in the T. B. Clinic and in the General Clinic, the matter was taken up with the City Commissioners by Dr. MacKenzie and an appropriation of \$100.00 has been made for this purpose. \$250.00

*asked for a
continuance
of this work*

each has been donated by the Oregon T. B. Assoc., V. N. A., and the Peoples' Institute, and Dr. Mackenzie had on hand a fund of \$150.00 which he donated, making an all the \$1600.00 needed for the machine and the order has been placed for the same.

We are now doing a line of work in connection with the Dispensary which was requested of us by the State which is co-operating with the U. S. Public Health Service in making a survey of the mentally defective, the delinquents and the dependents. This survey is being made under the direction of Dr. Chester Carlisle of the U. S. Health Service.

The report of the dispensary will be made from 7000 registration cards of the patients during the past year. The work of the dispensary shows a constant increase from year to year.

Every effort to develop a larger and more efficient work is being made through careful attention at the clinics; through friendly visiting; and by the use of printed cards and circulars; but I believe the greatest agency for building up a much larger dispensary would be a larger term of service and greater regularity on the part of the attending physicians.

This I think has been demonstrated by the T. B. Clinic which has been in charge of the same specialist since its organization.

Respectfully submitted,

Valentine Prochard

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