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Portland Community Chest

OREGON BUILDING
TELEPHONE BROADWAY 5452
PORTLAND, ORE.

Nov. 14, 1922.

To/Beneficiaries of Portland Community Chest,
People's Institute and Free Dispensary.

Gentlemen:

We beg to advise:

1. That you have been tentatively allotted \$5,900 from the funds of the Portland Community Chest.
2. That this allocation is subject to revision if the total subscribed or collected by the Portland Community Chest in 1923 does not equal the total tentative allocations to all beneficiaries of the Chest, or, if for other reasons, changes in allocations are later considered necessary.
3. That this allocation is for the calendar year 1923.
4. That during 1923 aggregate payments to any one date will not exceed the pro rata portion then due of the entire allocation; in other words, that no advance payments will be made.
5. That payments will be made only as needed, and whenever payment is requested, a financial statement of your organization must be submitted to the Portland Community Chest, showing total receipts and disbursements from the beginning of the year to that date and showing assets and liabilities as at that date.
6. That the payment of this allocation is to be made with the understanding that you make use of the Confidential Exchange Department of the Chest for cases to which you render service.

Yours sincerely,
PORTLAND COMMUNITY CHEST.

By Hugh H. Herdman
Hugh H. Herdman,
Executive Secretary.

THE DISPENSARY

A dispensary is a necessary adjunct to a medical school. It serves the important purpose, from the viewpoint of the school, of affording facilities for clinical teaching by giving the student contact with a large number of patients. From the viewpoint of humanitarianism and of the community, it gives opportunity to those who, because of misfortune, are unable to pay, to obtain proper medical attention when sick under the supervision of some of the best medical men in the city.

The development of the dispensary services has been gradual, but is now in a sound footing. The first work of this sort attempted in connection with the University of Oregon Medical School was carried on in an old chapel in South Portland, on First and Carruthers Streets. There was no regular attendant in charge, and the few bottles of medicine on a shelf, with patients few and irregular in making their appearance did not make for a successful dispensary. It was then moved to a small room in the old medical school building, at 23rd and Lovejoy Streets. Here it had the advantages of more regular attendance by physicians and students. This location, however, was removed from the poorer parts of town and patients were almost as few as had been the case before the removal.

In the spring of 1910, after a conference between Dr. C. J. McCusker and Miss Prichard, who had charge of the People's Institute, the faculty of the medical school concluded that the dispensary could better serve its purpose if located at the Men's Resort on Third and Burnside Streets. It was accordingly moved to this location, and immediately began ~~in~~ a period of real service to the community.

The next important change in dispensary location and scope of work came with the occupation of the quarters now used and located at Fourth and Jefferson Streets. Here the number of cases cared for has increased annually along with improved methods and increased activity on the part of cooperating physicians.

The Dispensary now operates under the administration of a joint committee composed of Mrs. Helen Ladd Corbett (ex-officio), Mrs. W. B. Ayer, Mrs. T. B. Wilcox, Mrs. Victor Johnson and Miss Valentine Prichard, representing the People's Institute, and Dr. Richard B. Dillehunt (ex-officio), Dr. Clarence J. McCusker, Dr. T. Homer Coffen, Dr. Ralph Fenton and Mrs. C. N. Reynolds, representing the Medical School. Under the direction of Miss Valentine Prichard, Superintendent, Dr. Richard B. Dillehunt, Chief of Staff, and Dr. C. J. McCusker, Medical Director, a staff of twelve officials, nurses and technicians cooperating with members of the Medical School faculty totaling over ninety of the best physicians and surgeons of Portland cares for the growing number of patients who find their way to the clinics.

A number of associations operating in Portland cooperate with the Dispensary in this work and includes the Visiting Nurse Association, the State Board of Health, the Junior League, the City Health Bureau and the Junior Red Cross.

During the year ending December 31, 1923, 9,992 individual patients made a total of 29,083 visits to the Dispensary clinics. As a result of this ~~work~~ the teaching efficiency of the clinical years of the medical school has been greatly improved.