

STATEMENTS REGARDING THE PEOPLES INSTITUTE AND PORTLAND FREE DISPENSARY

History

The Peoples Institute was organized in 1904 as a Settlement Work located at Fourth and Burnside Streets.

The Free Dispensary was organized in 1907 as a Department of the Peoples Institute and affiliated with the Medical School of the University of Oregon in 1909.

Constitution

The first constitution, adopted in 1904, stated the purpose of the work, "To establish and support Social Settlement Work among the women and children within its reach, offering to them educational, industrial, social, religious and friendly aid."

Constitution revised in 1909 and word Medical added.

Constitution again revised in 1919 and wording changed to read "The object of this organization shall be to work for the betterment of Social and Civic conditions and to extend educational, industrial, social medical and friendly aid to those in need."

Change in Work

In 1920 the work of the Dispensary had grown to such an extent that it was deemed wise to discontinue all educational and industrial work which included many clubs and classes for children and adults and in the future to carry on only the work of the Dispensary which includes Medical, social and friendly aid and health education.

Purpose of the Dispensary

The purpose of the Dispensary is to extend medical aid of all kinds to those who cannot afford the services of a private physician and to extend friendly aid to patients who may need it through its Social Service Bureau and Home Visits.

Affiliation

A staff of 65 physicians is provided by the Medical School and all medical service is rendered by these physicians under the direction of a Medical Director.

Management

The work of the Dispensary is under the management of a Board of Directors consisting of sixteen women and a joint committee consisting of appointees from this board and appointees from the staff of the Medical School.

Operation

Ninety two clinics and lectures are conducted at the Dispensary each week. Sixty five physicians give free service on the Medical Staff of the Dispensary. The senior and junior medical students are in attendance at these clinics and lectures.

The executive staff consists of twenty two paid workers and twenty volunteers.

The average number of patients treated each day is 120.

The average number of patients sent to private physicians each month is 35.

The number of patients treated during the year 1926 was 11308.

The number of visits made by these patients was 35389.

Cooperation

In addition to the general clinics which include,

Surgical	Gynecological
Medical	Neurological
Eye, Ear, Nose & Throat	Dermatological
Pediatric	Cardiac
Genito-Urinary	Obstetrical
Goitre	Defective Speech

special clinics are conducted in cooperation with other agencies.

The Tuberculosis in cooperation with the Visiting Nurse Association

The Venereal in cooperation with the State Health Board.

Two District Prenatal Clinics in cooperation with the Child Health Department of the State Health Board and the Visiting Nurse Association.

The Child Health Clinic in cooperation with the Oregon Tuberculosis Association and the Visiting Nurse Association.

Financial Support

The agencies contributing to the support of the special Clinics are,

The State Health Board
The Oregon Tuberculosis Association
The Visiting Nurse Association
The Child Health Department of the State Health Board

Other agencies contributing to the support of the work are, The Medical School of the University of Oregon, The Multnomah County Commission, The City Council, and the Community Chest.

A small amount is derived from fees and from special subscriptions.