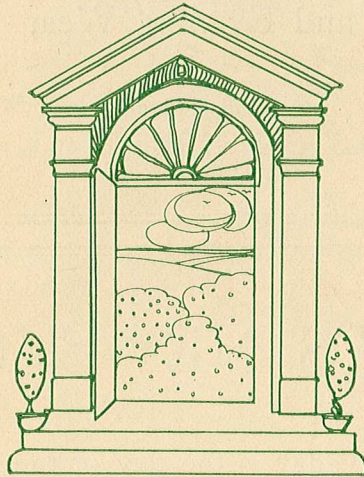


The SOCIAL WORKER



PUBLISHED QUARTERLY BY THE
ALUMNI OF SIMMONS COLLEGE
SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WORK
BOSTON, MASS.



There will be one more meeting this year beside the play night meeting. At this meeting it is hoped that Dr. Bronner will speak on "Educational Values in Social Work."

The Club is here for the use of the graduates and of the School. If there are ways, which we have overlooked, in which we might serve, we shall be more than glad to have them pointed

out to us. We are exceedingly grateful for the co-operation that has been given to us by the members of the Club, and we offer to all former students and to those who are yet in the School a sincere invitation to share the comradeship of a group drawn together by a kinship of interest and stimulated by diversification of effort.

The School Today

In 1923 it was decided to do away with the one-year course leading to the certificate at the School for Social Work and to substitute for it a two-year course. Moreover, the standards of admission to the course have been greatly stiffened so that now only persons of experience, who are also graduates of high schools, are admitted. It is important to note that in putting this plan into operation more students were turned away than were admitted. This meant a serious financial loss to the School, but, on the other hand, it makes more sure the selection of personnel. There has been a great deal of discussion about this course leading to the certificate, but it has been felt by those who have given very serious thought to every phase of the question that it is essential that lee-way be allowed so that no person endowed with the special qualities that social work needs shall be shut out from training.

The graduate students, under the present arrangement of their schedule, meet with the undergraduate students in only one course, unless they lack certain requirements for the work of the school. The course in which all the students come together is the informational lecture course Social Agencies and Social Movements. It is the opinion of the faculty that one year

of graduate work is far too short a period in which to give the essential subject matter resting back of our profession and, at the same time, the drill in the technical application of theory that should be given. Certainly, executives can never be trained in a single year. Therefore, two years of graduate work is now offered. The first year will not vary much from the courses at present given for the Master's degree, but the second year will bulk in the proportion of about one fourth advanced seminar work to three fourths field experience. The field experience is being studied with great care with the objective of giving the students experience in administrative responsibility as well as staff responsibility.

Scholarships are greatly needed in order to help to push forward this second year. Graduates of the school can do no better thing than to help the school to add to the scholarships which are now available.

The candidates for the Baccalaureate degree are promising, and the present Junior class alert and keen-minded. A study is being made of the third year undergraduate work in order to arrange if possible so that the students shall get a certain amount of observation experience and a degree of con-



tact with social work before they come to Somerset Street. They need this background before beginning the Senior year.

The extension courses have gone well. So well that for 1924-25 two series of courses will be offered, one in the Fall and a second in mid-winter and Spring.

One of the most important developments of the school has been its connection with the school for Public Service. The growth of this school will bear watching.

It is too soon to definitely point out the results of the prolonged practice period now in force—namely three weeks at the end of each term plus two consecutive days a week during the school year and a consecutive peri-

od in the summer—but it is unanimously said to be a decided step forward.

A glance at the list of instructors at the School shows that the school now, as in the past, is strong from the fact that those who are teaching are among our leaders in the City and in the State. It is a truism that the successful practitioner gives a reality to lecture material that cannot be given in any other way. Further, the background of our local opportunities for training students; the justly recognized standard of our agencies and their co-operative attitude and painstaking care in helping with the problem of student training are assets indeed. Our school is in a hopeful position at the present time.

Eva W. White.

The Social Workers Philosophy

"The two qualifications for social work should be a passion for the understanding of human personalities and the strong awareness of the dominant physical, industrial, economic and spiritual currents of the universe which can flow in if the windows are open," said Dr. Richard Cabot in his address to the graduates of the School at their last meeting at The Brunswick Shoppe, February 26th. To meet these qualifications every social worker should develop a philosophy. Without one is like travelling without a map or a plan. With one in her possession, however, a social worker finds herself well fortified against the depression of which she is often a victim and the antagonism so often evident against the members of her group.

The business of social work as Dr. Cabot sees it, is concerned with the process of furnishing social foods for human beings through breaking down

barriers, bringing together groups that need each other, making communications. A social worker then should be *expert in the opening of channels*, in the unblocking of communications both within a person's mind and between persons or groups. But what goes in after this social unblocking should be not the personality of the social worker herself or any man made gift or aid. While we are relatively passive, permanent and beneficent forces must do the rest. Man never cures disease. The doctor or surgeon does not cure a broken leg; he waits for what he calls nature—what Dr. Cabot calls God—to do the work. "Our minds, our bodies," he continued, "equally atrophy and waste except for streams of food, air, energy, truth coming in from outside. The doors that let these currents in get blocked and are left for whoever is skillful enough to unblock them." So in social work as in medicine when