

# The Social Worker



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# Simmons College School Of Social Work

We are glad to announce to those who are graduates of our School and to others that we are making a special study this year of the content of the courses that touch the field of medicine, as well as a study of the practice work now required of those who wish to get medical social service experience. Acting on the advice of Miss Cannon and of Miss Wilson it was decided last spring to devote 1925-26 not only to the carrying on of the lectures and practice work as heretofore but to the making of a careful analysis of the lectures and of the field work so as to be able to formulate at the end of the season a procedure for the next period of from three to five years.

It must be remembered that our School was the pioneer school in developing medical social service instruction, that in proportion to the numbers who have taken the course, we have to our credit a high percentage of graduates who are executive or who are occupying important positions as department heads or assistants. We have to maintain this leadership and in order to do this, we must be sure that we are adapting our instruction to present needs in line with the requirements not only of medical social work but of other specialties in social work as well. The family welfare worker, the children's worker, the community person—all have a responsibility to push forward the health code. Medical social work and psychiatry are distinct fields of social work, but, nevertheless, they permeate all other branches and the technique of other branches is not complete unless students are given some knowledge of those most important related fields. Moreover, there has been a growing feeling that the students should know when they are graduated what are the latest developments in medical science, especially as those de-

velopments present a challenge or a demand for application to the daily lives of people.

To sum up, we are then facing three special lines of study:

a. The medical knowledge that all students should have together with training in the relation of their special technique to that of medical social work.

b. The content of the courses for medical social workers as such;—a great deal of time being given to the consideration of the work of the second year.

c. Field work opportunities and field work requirements for medical social workers.

The School was most fortunate in winning the consent of Miss Kate McMahon to undertake these studies so that with Miss McMahon's help we are endeavoring not only to make sure that our School offers the best instruction that can be given but we are hoping that we may also be able to make a national contribution. Certainly no city in the United States has better social service departments. Certainly no city has a finer personnel of physicians and social workers. And further, the team play between our agencies is high point and the fact that Boston is a city which is comprehensive enough to give to the students not only the technique for the metropolis but also the technique that can be applied to smaller communities gives to us a great advantage.

This statement is only an introduction to articles which might well appear later informing those who are interested in us of the results of our year's study.

This opportunity must be taken to again call the attention of the readers of this bulletin to the two year requirement for those who wish to enter medical social work. The first year is devoted to a general background of case



work, community approach, medical content, methods of statistical research, legal knowledge, psychiatry, that are essential to every social worker no matter what the specialty may be later. The second year for the medical social workers is devoted to the application of those principles in the field of medical social work and to the development of the specific technique required in that field as well as to a thorough training in methods of administration. About 75% of the time is spent in hospitals of various types and 25% is devoted to a thesis, to seminar discussions, and to lectures. We wish to assure our students and our graduates that we are sparing neither time nor resource in the building forward of what we hope will be as strong a department of social work as any city can have. In this endeavor, we acknowledge with appreciation the assistance rendered us by the Permanent Charity Fund in making a grant of money which is making possible our study of field work, not only because we need the financial assistance but also because of the confidence placed in us. We wish also to express our appreciation of the cooperation of our local hospitals. A curriculum such as we are trying to establish needs many minds to develop it satisfactorily.

One word more—we are trying to do all that a School for Social Work can do to select fitting candidates for placement in the field of medical social work and to give to them the best of training. Certain things, however, a School cannot do. It cannot create growing opportunities, nor can it safeguard the future of its students beyond a certain point. Those matters are in the hands of those already professionally engaged

and so to them we look for the enlarged opportunity and for that range of salary and that chance for advancement which justifies such training as we are offering. May we say to our graduates that in their national affiliations we ask them to pass on what we are trying to do here at the School.

It will be of interest to graduates of the School to know that the Corporation of Simmons College has granted five scholarships of \$200 each to be offered for the year 1925-26. These scholarships are to be used to assist candidates for admission to the School who have made particularly good records in the colleges from which they come. Scholarships in all cases will be given to graduate students or to students who are already enrolled in the first year of graduate work at the School for Social Work, who have made an average of ninety or above, and who wish to return to take a second year course and to receive the degree of Master of Science.

This means that we now have six scholarships which are available granted from Simmons College. We also have one scholarship in medical social service which has been arranged for by Miss Cannon and a fellowship grant, including tuition and living expenses, given by Mrs. C. J. Gamble in community work.

Those who are interested in the School could do no better thing than to endeavor to build up the possibility of scholarship grants and particularly of fellowship possibilities because at the present time we offer fewer fellowship scholarships than any of the other schools in our field.

*Eva Whiting White,*  
Director School of Social Work.