

MEETING OF STUDENT HEALTH COMMITTEE AND HEALTH SERVICE PERSONNEL - Minutes

A joint meeting was held at the Health Service Friday, April 24th, with the following members present: Janet Frey, chairman, Lydia Stokes, Secretary, Edith Stevens, Dr. Chassell, Dr. Hager, Miss Peplau, Miss Martin and Mrs. Foster, secretary. Susan Stockton was absent.

The first point presented was the question of impressing upon the student body the need of far greater respect for measures existing to promote and protect health. Especially noted were the indifference of some students to the need of quiet in the houses at night to permit rest for those students requiring or wishing it, and the promiscuous dieting carried on without supervision or advice of a health authority. It was agreed that inasmuch as the dieting hurt only the individual student, herself, there is not much that can be done about it beyond general warnings against the practise. However, as the noise in the houses effects all but the offenders, it was decided to seek a way to remedy it. There was general discussion as to the best means, i.e. poster campaign, pressure, open discussion, etc., and it was agreed to institute a "photographic propaganda" campaign! Lydia Stokes will talk to Ann Cobb and Joan Stockard about proceeding with the posters.

Secondly, Lydia Stokes brought up an incident that occurred in the dining room one noon recently. In a group of five or six students it was quite agreed that they all abhorred the idea of ever having to be in the Infirmary, citing in particular the case of Clover Dulle's recent admission, which has been grossly misunderstood and twisted until it has apparently become a topic of much campus gossip. To clear this up, Dr. Hager and Miss Peplau related Clover's treatment in chronological order, with specific illustrations of advice ignored by Clover. The whole case is recorded in the medical files to substantiate this, and need not be repeated here.

Miss Peplau called upon the members of the Student Health Committee present to air any and all complaints of the students against the Health Service. No names were mentioned, but apparently the student body is divided into two camps - those who think the Health Service does not regard their complaints (of illness) seriously enough, and those who think the Health Service is over-anxious to suggest Infirmary admission. Dr. Hager, Miss Peplau and Miss Martin all voiced a wish to know exactly what each and every complaint might be, that an effort might be made to make the Health Service conform as nearly as practicable to the general conception of what it should do and be. To this end the Committee decided to edit and revise a questionnaire previously put to the student body, and once more distribute it to all students. Dr. Chassell asked to be included in the questionnaire.

Miss Martin suggested also that a space be provided on the Infirmary Record Forms (which are the records kept during a student's stay in the Infirmary) where each student could be invited to write her impression of her treatment in the Infirmary. Thus any adverse criticism could be brought to light and automatically become constructive, rather than be held down to fester and become exaggerated.

Dr. Hager suggested that when she gives the Freshman Physicals next Fall, she outline to each individual entering student the facilities for health available, explain the general policy of the Health Service, and in general clarify to what extent health supervision is voluntary, and to what extent it is enforced. This would eliminate, for instance, such misunderstanding as now seems to prevail regarding "qualifications" for admission to the Infirmary. At present, some students appear to resent any pressure to get them into the Infirmary, while others appear to feel neglected if not urged into the Infirmary. The Health Service personnel here reiterated that any student is welcome to admission at any time unless there is reason why it would not be for the student's best health interest. Again the case of Clover Dulles was cited : she had been temporarily denied admission for the reason that there was not a room available where she would not be exposed either to German measles or to colds. Miss Peplau had suggested she return to her own room while a place was made ready for her, which was done as quickly as possible the same day, and then Clover was admitted.

Finally, the Health Service personnel stated that it would like to have a conference with all seniors before graduation to give what pointers may be helpful after leaving college, such as what ailments mean loss of working time, what to do to prevent them, how to locate good doctors in strange communities, hospitalization plans, etc.

The chairman announced that a meeting would be held again next week, and adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Margaret W. Foster, Sec. to Health Service