

Bennington College  
May 17, 1940

### Minutes of the Health Committee Meeting

The first meeting of the Health Committee for the year 1940-1941 was held in the Red Dining Room at luncheon on May 17, 1940. Those present were: Molly Stinson, chairman, Sylvia Thayer, Peg Stein, and Jean Short, and Dr. McCullough, Dr. Chassell, and Miss Hilda Peplau of the Health Service. Jean Short was elected secretary.

The functions of the Committee were discussed, and the following plans made for activities during the remainder of this year and next term:

- I Oral questionnaire about the health service to be modeled on that of the E.P.C. It was suggested that certain groups be questionees, such as (a) infirmary users (b) infirmary non-users (c) houses in which members of the committee live -- Booth, Bingham, Franklin, and McCullough, and (d) certain percentages of each class and each division. Various questions were proposed to be asked and the discussion and revision of them was referred to a future meeting of the student committee. The suggestions were these:
  1. What are some of the things you would like in the infirmary to make you more comfortable?
  2. Would you like decoration in the infirmary rooms, perhaps murals, photographs, paintings, permanent or temporary exhibits of student work?
  3. Are you satisfied with the nursing care in the infirmary? If not, why not?
  4. Does it disturb you to have Dr. Chassell visit the infirmary? Why? Are you certain of his functions as a member of the Health Service?
  5. Would you like more Reproduction lectures, and would you approve of modeling them on Vassar's "Plan for Marriage" course with a possible lecture by Myra Jones on budgeting?
  6. Do you understand Hospitalization Insurance?
  7. Would you like a course on First Aid?
  8. Would you like better lighting? Where?
- II It was suggested that Myra Jones be asked to give a talk on hospitalization insurance in conjunction with a lecture by the former comptroller of Vassar on Group Health. The question of the exact use of the \$25 health fee was brought up and it was suggested that a paper of some kind on this point be written and distributed to the community. Compulsory hospitalization insurance seems to be advisable.
- III Because of the majority of cases of conjunctivitis and eye strain, and because of the noticeable decline in students' vision over a period of four years, the committee feels it necessary to do something about the lighting of the library and the student living rooms. The committee proposes to present a report to the trustees at the

June meeting on lighting conditions in the various rooms on campus.  
The possibility of showing an eye film next term was discussed.

- IV A possible research on infirmity patients and group health was  
discussed and Peg Stein may use it as her senior thesis.

Respectfully submitted,

Jean McNab Short,  
Secretary