

Speeding Up Production of Nurses

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THE MONTH that has passed since the outbreak of the war has been filled with many and varied activities on the part of nurses everywhere. By no group has the impact of the emergency situation been more acutely felt than by that group of nurses who are associated with our schools of nursing, and the hospitals with which they are connected.

For the past two years we have watched the steadily decreasing number of staff nurses available for service in our hospitals. We have been loath to increase student enrolment too rapidly, lest much of the ground so painfully won in the past decade should be lost, through a reduction in the ratio between graduate and student nurses, in our wards.

We have increased our subsidiary workers, added ward clerks, streamlined procedures, offered refresher courses, co-operated with the N.Y.A. and the W.P.A. in the preparation of non-professional workers in our field. Not all of us have done all of these things. Most of us, however, have done many of them, with varying success and satisfaction.

The thoughtful nurse educator, however, was well aware that while certain permanent values would come from the adoption of these measures, none of them would meet the need for increased numbers of well-qualified professional nurses.

In response to the request of the Nursing Council on National Defense, the University of California School of Nursing increased enrolment in its fall class in 1941. Sixty-two students were admitted instead of the fifty for whom we had planned. We have been admitting only one class a year in the fall term.

This school of nursing requires two

years of academic work in the university for admission to the school of nursing. During these two academic years the students complete courses in anatomy and physiology, in bacteriology and hygiene, in psychology and in economics, as well as in the more generally accepted liberal arts courses.

About 50 per cent of our students come to us directly from the Berkeley campus of the University. The other 50 per cent, take their first two years of academic work on other campuses of the University of California, in Los Angeles and Davis, or in some of the many private universities and colleges, as well as the junior colleges of this state.

For a number of years enrolment has had to be restricted since there were always many more qualified applicants than we could accept. Limited clinical experience in one or two fields formed the bottleneck. Admitting a second class in the spring semester would have permitted a better utilization of the clinical facilities. The number of applicants, however, who would be eligible for admission in the spring term was never sufficiently large to make it economically feasible.

The outbreak of the war and the desire of the university to use its facilities to the fullest extent in meeting the needs of national defense made us re-examine our program. We wanted to increase the output of graduate nurses as rapidly as possible, without in any way lowering our standards of admission or graduating less well-prepared individuals, into the field of nursing.

As a result of this study the University of California, is admitting a class of fifty students in January 1942, instead of

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PROPOSED PLAN FOR CLASS OF 1942

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA SCHOOL OF NURSING

Present Program		Proposed Program	
Spring 1942 (Berkeley)	Anatomy 102..... 3 units Psychology 2..... 3 units Economics 1B..... 3 units Bacteriology 5..... 1 unit Electives..... 5 units <u>15 units</u>	Anatomy 102..... 3 units Psychology 2..... 3 units Economics 1B..... 3 units Bacteriology 5..... 1 unit Nursing 435..... 3 units Electives..... 2 units <u>15 units</u>	
Summer 1942 (San Francisco)	No classes	4 weeks intensive ward practice, 48-hour week 10 weeks Nurs. 427A—Pharmacology.... 3 units H. Econ. 103—Elem. Nutrition.. 3 units Nurs. 421—History..... 2 units <u>8 units</u>	
San Francisco Fall 1942	Nurs. 435—Principles & Prac- tice of Nursing..... 3 units H. Econ. 103—Elements of Nu- trition..... 3 units Nurs. 417—Social Problems in Nursing Service..... 3 units Nurs. 421—History..... 2 units Nurs. 427A—Pharmacology... 3 units <u>14 units</u>	Nurs. 445—Child Psychology.... 2 units Nurs. 437—Introduction to Medi- cine and Surgery..... 1 unit Nurs. 440A—Medical Nursing... 2 units Nurs. 442A—Surgical Nursing... 3 units Nurs. 425—Pathology..... 1 unit Nurs. 417—Social Problems in Nursing Service..... 3 units <u>12 units</u>	
Spring 1943	Nurs. 425—Pathology..... 1 unit Nurs. 437—Introduction to Medicine and Surgery..... 1 unit Nurs. 440A—Medical Nursing 2 units Nurs. 442A—Surgical Nursing 3 units H. Econ. 104—Diet Therapy.. 3 units Nurs. 445—Child Psychology. 2 units <u>12 units</u>	Nurs. 448A—Obstetrical Nursing. 2 units Nurs. 444A—Pediatric Nursing... 2 units Nurs. 429—First Aid..... 1 unit H. Econ. 104—Diet Therapy.... 3 units <u>8 units</u>	
Summer 1943	4 hours conference, 44-hour week practice	4 hours conference, 44-hour week practice	
Fall 1943	Nurs. 444A—Pediatric Nursing 2 units Nurs. 448A—Obstet. Nursing. 2 units Nurs. 446—Principles of Commu- nicable Diseases..... 2 units Econ. 181—Care of Dependents 3 units Nurs. 441—Psychiatry..... 1 unit <u>10 units</u>	Econ. 181—Care of Dependents.. 3 units Nurs. 446—Principles of Commu- nicable Diseases..... 2 units Nurs. 418—Principles & Practices of Public Health Nursing..... 3 units Nurs. 441—Psychiatry..... 1 unit <u>9 units</u>	
Spring 1944	Nurs. 418—Principles and Prac- tices of Public Health Nursing 3 units Nurs. 415—Community Con- trol of Communicable Dis- eases..... 3 units Hyg. 102—Child Hygiene.... 3 units <u>9 units</u>	Nurs. 423A—423C—Professional Problems..... 3 units Educ. 110—Ed. Psychology.... 3 units Nurs. 415—Community Control of Communicable Diseases..... 3 units Hyg. 102—Child Hygiene..... 3 units <u>12 units</u>	
Summer 1944	4 hours conference, 44-hour week practice	4 hours conference, 44-hour week practice	
Fall 1944	Ed. 110—Ed. Psychology.... 3 units Nurs. 423—Professional Prob- lems..... 3 units Nurs. 439—First Aid..... 1 unit <u>7 units</u>	No Classes	
Spring 1945	4 hours conference, 44-hour week practice	Graduate, January 18, 1945	
Summer 1945	4 hours conference, 44-hour week practice		
Fall 1945	Graduate, August 1945		

waiting until the opening of the fall term. By a telescoping of the program of the second semester of the prenursing years with that of the first semester in the present program of the school of nursing and by utilizing the summer period of 1942 for additional classwork and practice, considerable time will be gained. Students who otherwise would have graduated from the school of nursing in August 1945 will complete the course in January 1945.

This extra class of students will be made up entirely of students who are completing their prenursing requirements on the Berkeley campus of the University during the spring semester of 1942. The proximity of the two campuses of the university, the Berkeley campus and the Medical Center campus, makes the plan possible. Students from other campuses and universities, as well as those registered in Berkeley who do not wish to follow the accelerated plan, will be admitted in August as usual.

This "accelerated plan" as we call it is really quite simple. Under our present program students enrolled in the second semester of the second prenursing year, have courses in anatomy, psychology, economics, and sanitation. Provision is made for five units of electives in a

normal fifteen-unit program. Under the accelerated plan, three of the elective units will be devoted to a course in the nursing arts. Students will be registered concurrently in the College of Letters and Science and the school of nursing. A suite of rooms, including a demonstration and practice laboratory, is being arranged in a new classroom building on the Berkeley campus, which will be opened for the first time this spring. Our present instructor in nursing arts, with an additional assistant, will teach the course on the Berkeley campus. An intensive practice period of one month immediately following the close of the spring term, in the University Hospital in San Francisco, will be provided.

The plan had to be studied and endorsed by many university committees, as well as by the California State Board of Nurse Examiners. The necessary funds have been found by the university. While we realize that fifty additional nurses is but a drop in the bucket compared to the great need, we hope that this sharing of our plan will help other schools to make similar studies of their own situations and make such adaptations as will ensure a steady stream of professional nurses to meet the challenge with which we are faced.

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