

Public Health Nurses



The public health nurse is an important figure on the American scene, and Jackson county, known nation-wide for its superior public health program, now has a staff of nine nurses. At present two senior student nurses from the University of Oregon School of Nursing are assigned to the department for on-the-job training. One of these, Miss Harriet Johnson, Central Point, recently called at the home of the Richard Wootons, 1036 Winchester avenue, to consult with Mrs. Wooton on the care of her twin daughters, Jacque and Jody, and their older brother, Ricky, 1½. Public health nurses are prepared to offer help on child care, feeding and training and the department also has considerable resource material available on many phases of family health.



Mrs. Nina Van Dewalker (at left), Ashland, nurse for the Sparrow Memorial clinic, is shown here assisting Dr. A. Erin Merkel, Jackson county public health officer, as he gives a booster immunization "shot" to Donald Taylor. Donald was brought in by his mother, Mrs. Howard Taylor, mother of seven children, with his brother, Marvin (at back). Mrs. Taylor is a nurse's aide employed at a private nursing home in the county.



Mrs. Mary Helen Lehman, school nurse for the Prospect, Union Creek and Howard schools and communities, is shown here starting out on her day's work. The nurses all carry a bag with apron, soap, towels, thermometers and other necessary equipment. All are registered nurses with added training for public health work.



Interviews are necessary in the public health nurse's routine, and here Miss Alena Makinen talks with a mother in preparation for an appointment at the Southern Oregon Child Guidance clinic. The county nurses have an added load of such interviews now since the position of psychiatric social worker with the guidance clinic is unfilled. Most nurses have varied duties, and are not confined to one phase of the county public health program.



Public health nurses spend much time in the county schools and Mrs. Cleo Kent (standing) has Lane Pine, Eagle Point and Butte Falls under her care. Pictured with Mrs. Kent are (seated, left to right) Miss Barbara Ream, University of Oregon School of Nursing senior; Beverly Scott, Lane Pine first grader, and her teacher, Mrs. Opal Guetzloff. Nurses call at schools three times each month to check health problems and advise teachers.



The Medford school system employs three school nurses who work closely with the public health department. Conferring here with Miss Frances Clink (far right), supervisor of the public health nurses and in her 13th year with the department, are (left to right) Mrs. Juanita Anderson, Mrs. Martha Donahue, Assistant Superintendent Elliott Becken and Miss Olive Curry. The department is now planning to offer the third doses in the polio vaccination program, a new quantity of the vaccine having recently been made available. The task of giving the third round will start about November 18, according to plans laid by Miss Clink and the Medford schools.



Miss Loretta Costello, Ashland area nurse, last week conferred with Mrs. Helen Hicks, 115 California street, Ashland. Mrs. Hicks, who has recovered from tuberculosis, is planning to enroll in business college under the sponsorship of an Oregon state rehabilitation agency. Five-year-old Cena Hicks is youngest of the mother's four children. Public health nurses not pictured on page are Miss Elizabeth McGalliard, whose school and home territory is Gold Hill and Central Point area; Miss Mary Ellen Bell, assigned to Phoenix-Talent and Elk-Trail; Mrs. Ethel Mae Kanclier, Ashland, who works in Rogue River, Griffin Creek and St. Mary's schools and communities.