1925

The year in brief p 7

During 1925 the Rockefeller Foundation in spending 39,113,730 through its departmental agencies, the International Health Board, the China Medical Board, the Division of Medical Education, and the Division of Studies, …

Private Aid in Public Tasks p 9

The recent growth in the number and resources of privately endowed foundations, notably, although not exclusively, in the United States of America, has quite properly raised questions as to the place of these agencies in the social order and their relation to the work of governments. The new organizations are aiding elementary and high schools, colleges, universities, medical schools, teaching hospitals, and museums of science and art; they are promoting research in the natural and social sciences and in the activities of cities, states, and nations; they are providing fellowships for investigation and for the development of teachers; they are promoting international intercourse, scientific and cultural; they are helping societies for community service and civic betterment. Several of the foundations are at work in the field of public health and hygiene.

In only a few of these activities do the private Funds come into direct relations with the tasks of government. Aid to a state-supported university may raise questions of principle and policy.

Inquiry into the methods of government is quite obviously a matter of some delicacy. Any attempt by endowed agencies to influence public opinion or to secure specific legislation is likely to be resented. Efforts to substitute voluntary for governmental machinery are pretty sure to make trouble. This applies especially to the task of protecting a community against disease. For this the government must assume primary responsibility. Its power to tax and to command obedience is essential.

Moreover, the official agency is the continuing source of authority; it represents permanence; what it adopts as a part of its regular procedure stands a good chance of being perpetuated. It is only the government that can maintain the sole basis of a sound public health organization. That basis is the sanitation of the environment and the control of communicable diseases. Without good water and milk; proper disposal of wastes; clean food; sanitary housing; … a village, town, or city cannot hope to do effective work in infant and maternity welfare, school hygiene, and the other features of a well-rounded scheme of public health.

The Rockefeller Foundation, therefore, has adopted the policy, so far as public health is concerned, of working only with and through governments. Its International Health Board lends a hand only on the invitation of an official agency. Nor is any effort m a d e to over-persuade a government to undertake a forward step prematurely or with misgiving. The project for which aid is sought must be something new in the official program—a qualitative demonstration, not merely an expansion of the old.

The whole purpose is to help a health officer to prove to his community the value of an innovation. A further consideration has to do with cost. It would be a disservice to put a demonstration on a level which could not later be fairly well maintained out of the public funds, for the Board undertakes the co-operation only on the clearest understanding that its contribution is to diminish steadily until the public budget has assumed the whole expense. To withdraw entirely at the earliest moment that the success of the demonstration will permit is the Board's constant aim. Co-operation not rivalry, response not propaganda, economy not speculation, temporary aid not continued subsidy, official responsibility not usurpation of authority, a permanent gain not an ephemeral exploit, are the watchwords of the Foundation, a private agency, in its relations with official organizations of public health.

Yellow fever, hookworm

New use of parís Green

Training for health workers

Medical Education in Many Lands p 30

The Foundation's interest in public health goes back inevitably to medical education, for m u c h as well-trained officials may accomplish, real success depends upon the medical profession as a whole. Unless the average practitioner can be imbued with the idea of the prevention of disease and led to regard himself more and more as a promoter of positive physical and mental well-being for both the individual and the community, the cause of public health and hygiene is doomed to fall short of its larger possibilities.

Viewed internationally, medical education necessarily displays certain common ideas and procedures. But wide variations are also revealed.

The Rockefeller Foundation, through its Division of Medical Education, seeks to be of service in promoting the growth of effective medical education in influential centers in various countries. It offers no one model for universal imitation; it has no inflexible program. It recognizes that each type of, medical school has developed under certain conditions, racial, economic, governmental, social. It has responded to the needs and demands of its environment.

The Foundation seeks to promote interchange of ideas (see page 59) by which each nation may improve its institutions at the same time that it puts its own characteristic gains at the service of other lands. From this process certain commonly accepted ideas tend gradually to emerge. The Founda- tion helps to give wider currency and effective- ness to such principles and methods.

From Emergency to Development in Europe p 34

The aid to medical education reported in the preceding paragraph may be described as con- structive. It represents a permanent gain in buildings and equipment or in endowment or in both. Ordinarily the Foundation refrains from making emergency gifts. In cases of earthquakes and greatfires,floods,and famines, reliefisaspecialresponsibilityoftheRed Cross and similar agencies.

But within the special field of the Foundation there developed during the past five or six years in countries of Central and Eastern Europe, and to some extent throughout the Continent, emergencies which could not be consistently ignored.

It was precisely those essentials which were seriously threatened in the countries which had been isolated by the war and in which collapse of currencies and economic distress had reduced salary and maintenance funds of medical centers almost to the point of disaster. Through its Division of Medical Education, the Foundation began in 1920 a program of temporary emergency relief.

With gradually improving conditions it has been possible to begin a transition from a policy of emergency relief to a plan of developmental aid. P36

Thus the characteristic feature of the developmental programs will be not generalized assistance but the concentration of stipends and supplies in certain medical school departments whose leaders have shown their ability to con- tribute to the progress of science and to train men in research and teaching.

Peking Union Medical College Carries on p 36

The College is a unique item in the program of the Foundation, the only case in which complete responsibility has been assumed for the building, staffing, and temporary maintenance of an in- stitution. Elsewhere there has always been a

sharing of tasks with government or univer- sity which has carried the chief burden of cost and the whole duty of administration. But in China there were no suitable agencies of this kind. So, through a specially created subsidiary, the China Medical Board, the Foun- dation took over a school which had been co-operatively organized by certain missionary societies, British and American.

From the outset the Foundation made clear that its purpose was not to create a permanently foreign institution in China, but to transform the College gradually into a Chinese medical center with a Chinese staff and ultimately a Chinese board of trustees in complete control. It was recognized that this transition would have to be made slowly and carefully, as Chinese doctors and others proved themselves capable of caring for patients, teaching students, carry- ing on research, and doing administrative work.

The results of this policy have begun to show.

But not only within the College staff isChinese influence growing. In its relations with the public the institution enjoys the valuable aid of an Advisory Committee of prominent Chinese citizens who are interpreting the work of the College to the people.

"The Proper Study of Mankind Is Man" p 49

It has been said that in creating science human searchers began with the distant stars and only of late have come to man himself. There were good reasons why this should be so. Comte offered an explanation in what he called the "hierarchy of the sciences." Bodies of knowledge, he said, fall into a natural order of increasing complexity.

So the Rockefeller Foundation has naturally, if not inevitably, been drawn into at least the borders of the fields of biology and psychology, as these have a bearing on medicine and public health, and on man's development. ‘ 51

In the field of h u m a n biology, under which may be included physiology, psychology and psychiatry, and anthropology both physical and cultural, as these throw light on man's body, mind, and social relations, significant beginnings were made. P 51-52

A World Memory for Biology p 56

The enormous number of scientific papers and volumes published annually throughout the world in every field of research creates the need for some kind of systematic organization of this material in a readily accessible form.

Yet if a scientific worker is to avoid duplicating the research of others, if he is to compare his methods with theirs, if he is to have his mind steadily fertilized by relevant ideas and suggestions if he is to increase the chance of getting a happy illuminating flash upon his problems, he must have constant access to the world memory.

International Trade in Men and Ideas p 58

Aid to Biological Abstracts is in harmony with a guiding policy which leads the Foundation to encourage in many ways a constant exchange of knowledge and suggestion among the various countries of the world. This commerce of ideas, unhampered by tariffs, is carried on through personal intercourse and printed page. Thus the Foundation stations representatives in foreign countries, grants fellowships for graduate study, invites individuals and commissions to make study trips to countries other than their own, sends visiting professors abroad, etc ..

Working with Other Agencies p 65

In addition to its co-operation with govern- ments and institutions for medical training, the Foundation gives assistance to a number of voluntary agencies equipped to do certain spe- cialized work in public health, medical education, and allied fields ..

By-Products of Team-Work p 68

In this story of international co-operation in research, medical education, public health, and the development of the biological sciences, the reader may have missed familiar allusions to mutual understanding, good will, and worldwide peace. This reticence is due to no lack of interest in these things but rather to the belief that they are by nature peculiarly elusive w h e n directly and' consciously pursued. Like culture, refinement, good taste, esprit de corps, they seem to be precious by-products rather than ends in themselves. Leaving to others the purposeful promotion of amity a m o n g the nations, the Rockefeller Foundation fixes attention upon common interests of all peoples,in the development of science and its application to health and welfare. By fostering intercourse among scientists through travel and print, by helping each nation to put its characteristic contributions at the service of all, by deepening the conviction that there are great causes in which all have equal concern, by helping to make co-operation and comradeship easy and habitual, the Rockefeller Foundation seeks in its chosen field to realize the purpose of its charter, "the well-being of mankind throughout the world."

Finances for 1926 p69

Explanation why thge International Health Board was created p 101