

# *Clinical Resources in Small Hospitals*

In order to determine whether small hospitals can provide a variety of experiences for student nurses, the Division of Nursing Resources of the Public Health Service designed a method for collecting data on discharge diagnoses and classifying them according to the similarity of nursing problems they present. This method is described and results of its field trial are reported in Public Health Monograph No. 24.

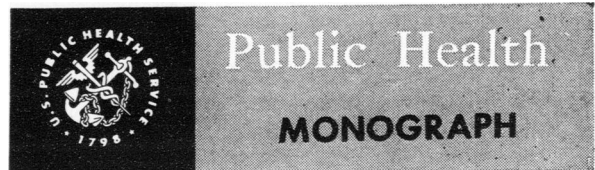
There is much of value for student nurses in receiving part of their experience in small hospitals. The contacts between the student nurses and the personnel of small hospitals are helpful to the clinical instructors in the nurses' home hospital. Through the student nurses, the clinical instructors have opportunity to establish relationships with patients' families and with community agencies and organizations. The small hospital also offers the student experience which is similar to that which she will find in a large number of the hospitals in which she may practice later as a graduate nurse, since at least 66 percent of the general hospitals in the United States have an average daily patient census of 100 or less.

The method used in this study consists of collecting diagnoses of patients discharged from hospitals, classifying the diagnoses by similarity of nursing problems, and comparing by statistical analyses the nursing problems of patients in small versus large hospitals to determine the value of small-hospital student experience.

The method of classifying the many different discharge diagnoses according to nursing problems consists of placing diagnoses together in a group when the following conditions are similar: (a) the major physical needs of the patient; (b) emotional problems, such as anxiety, depression states, and adjustment situations; and (c) rehabilitative measures involved

in the therapeutic plan. When a diagnostic condition presents nursing problems similar to those of one of the diagnostic groups, but the disease syndrome is especially important for the student to recognize, the condition is placed in a separate diagnostic group.

This method was tested in a pilot study in



## No. 24

The accompanying summary covers the principal findings presented in Public Health Monograph No. 24, published concurrently with this issue of Public Health Reports. The authors are with the Division of Nursing Resources of the Public Health Service.

Readers wishing the data in full may purchase copies from the Superintendent of Documents, Government Printing Office. A limited number of free copies are available to official agencies and others directly concerned on specific request to the Public Inquiries Branch of the Public Health Service. Copies will be found also in the libraries of professional schools and the major universities and in selected public libraries.

• • •

Abdellah, Faye G., and Levine, Eugene: Appraising the clinical resources in small hospitals. Public Health Monograph No. 24 (Public Health Service Publication No. 389). 39 pages. U. S. Government Printing Office, Washington, D. C., 1954. Price 30 cents.

Virginia. Thirty general hospitals of various sizes were included. The discharge diagnoses of patients discharged over a 4-day period were collected. This survey yielded a total of 1,915 discharged patients. Only primary diagnoses were used for classifying the diagnoses of these patients into 58 different nursing problem groups. Analyses of these groups showed that

small hospitals in Virginia provide a suitable variety of experiences for student nurses.

The monograph contains a detailed description of how the diagnoses are grouped according to the nursing problems presented and suggests the usefulness of the method in studying clinical resources for selecting student experience in other fields besides nursing.

---

## technical publications

---

### The Living Waters

*Public Health Service Publication No. 382. 1954. 24 pages; illustrated. 15 cents.*

The text of this booklet on the importance of conservation of water through pollution control describes the evolution of water uses by man, how the problem of pollution arose, and how the problem can be solved. The booklet explains the sources and effects of pollution, how sewage treatment plants work, and the necessity for action against pollution, particularly in view of the expected population and industrial growth.

The booklet is designed primarily for use in junior and senior high schools. Each of the six sections concludes with a group of questions for discussion.

### Drinking Water Disinfection

#### A guide for the individual

*Public Health Service Publication No. 387, Health Information Series No. 74. 1954. 2-fold leaflet; illustrated. \$2.50 per 100.*

How travelers, tourists, campers, or hikers away from the protection of inspected water supplies can provide themselves with safe drinking water is the subject of this leaflet. Such persons are advised to learn how to make the water safe to drink and to take the time to do so.

Vigorous boiling of water is rec-

ommended as the most positive method by which water may be made bacterially safe to drink. When boiling is not feasible, chemical treatment, if applied with care, also will make most water free from bacterial contamination. Methods of water treatment by iodine, commercial hypochlorite solutions, and chloride of lime are described.

### Refuse Collection and Disposal for the Small Community

*A joint study and report of the Public Health Service and the American Public Works Association. 1953. 39 pages; illustrated. Available only from the American Public Works Association, 1313 East 60th Street, Chicago. \$2.*

More than 33 million persons in the United States live in some 8,400 urban and rural communities of from 1,000 to 25,000 population. While the trend toward urbanization and concentration has brought many advantages, it has also brought problems, including those of providing sanitary refuse storage, collection, and disposal. Surveys have shown that many small communities do not follow sanitary refuse practices, in part because of the belief that adequate service is too expensive and because of lack of information on how to establish and operate a satisfactory system.

This publication, prepared jointly by the Public Health Service and the American Public Works Association, describes certain factors which need to be considered in establishing sanitary refuse practices, and presents representative operational and cost data in such manner that these data may be interpreted to meet local conditions.

The material contained herein covers such points as authorization to proceed and definitions of refuse, garbage, ashes, and rubbish. Methods of storage, collection, and disposal are described, showing illustrations of various types of collection trucks, methods of storage, and systems of sanitary landfills. Financing is considered in both text and chart form.

Appendixes include selected references and bibliography, a test solution for a town of 2,000 population, and suggested ordinances governing refuse storage, collection, and disposal.

---

This section carries announcements of all new Public Health Service publications and of selected new publications on health topics prepared by other Federal Government agencies.

Publications for which prices are quoted are for sale by the Superintendent of Documents, U. S. Government Printing Office, Washington 25, D. C. Orders should be accompanied by cash, check, or money order and should fully identify the publication. Public Health Service publications which do not carry price quotations, as well as single sample copies of those for which prices are shown, can be obtained without charge from the Public Inquiries Branch, Public Health Service, Washington 25, D. C.

The Public Health Service does not supply publications issued by other agencies.

---