

The founders of industrial nursing got the jump on the founders of the Shoe by fourteen years. In 1868, a nurse by the name of Miss Mulder (Her name would have made her ideal for Brake Shoe.) was hired by coal mines in Drifton, Pa., to visit the homes of employees promote their general health and welfare. Seven years later, the Marble Company employed a nurse for home visiting. She must have had a tremendous amount of energy and capacity for work, because it was her that she also taught school and "delivered babies in the community." In 1897, John Wanamaker Company of New York employed a nurse to visit their sick employees. It is very interesting to note that in all of these early instances the nurse was employed for service in the home rather than in the mine or the plant. I will refer again to this a little later.

In 1902, The American Brake Shoe & Foundry Company came into existence as the result of the consolidation of four companies which were independently engaged in the manufacture of brake shoes. Of these four original plants, two are still today part of the Brake Shoe family; one in New Jersey, and Amsco, Chicago Heights, Illinois.

In 1909, what appears to have been an important advancement in industrial nursing took place. The Metropolitan Life Insurance Company instituted a Visiting Nurse Service for its policy holders; and, almost concurrently, the Visiting Nurse Association introduced nursing service in industrial plants.

Brake Shoe, a year later, in 1910, acquired the American Manganese Company; and, in 1913, the Southern Wheel Company was added.

Meanwhile, in 1911, the various state legislatures began to enact Workmen's Compensation laws. This, of course, made it important for industry to put into effect programs for the treatment of occupational diseases. A still more important impetus came along in 1914 in the form of World War I. As to be expected, demands on industry for production created a vital need for conserving manpower resulted in a marked advancement in industrial nursing. For example, in 1914, prior to the United States' entry into the war, records show that only 60 firms in this country had industrial nursing service. By 1918, this had increased to 871 firms employing 1,213 graduate nurses. Incidentally, it was during that period, to be exact, that Brake Shoe's first nurse (a practical nurse, I might add) was employed. She was with us until 1935. However, our real nursing did not commence until 1941.

The period of World War I was for Brake Shoe one of great productive activity; and our program of expansion through acquisition of companies and other products was at a standstill until 1920 when we phased the Ajax Forge Company; and the forge end of the business what is now our American Forge Division. In 1922, the trackwork of the Ajax Forge Company was combined with Ramapo Iron Works what is now our Ramapo Ajax Division.

Also in 1922, the first industrial section was formed in the 1 Organization of Public Health Nursing (now the National League for Nursing). When, in 1926, this organization first prepared a Manual of Public Health Nursing, standards, guides, and procedures for the promotion of industrial nursing in public health nursing agencies were laid down.