

The founders of industrial nursing got the jump on the founders of Brake Shoe by fourteen years. In 1888, a nurse by the name of Miss Mary Moulder (Her name would have made her ideal for Brake Shoe.) was employed by coal mines in Drifton, Pa., to visit the homes of employees and to promote their general health and welfare. Seven years later, the Vermont Marble Company employed a nurse for home visiting. She must have had a tremendous amount of energy and capacity for work, because it was said of 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 three 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 point a little later.

In 1902, The American Brake Shoe & Foundry Company came into being 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; Mahwah, 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 Steel 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 injuries. 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 and a vital need for conserving manpower resulted in a marked advancement in industrial nursing. For example, in 1914, prior to the United States' entry to 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, 1918 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 program did not commence until 1941.

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

Also in 1922, the first industrial section was formed in the National 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 inclusion of industrial nursing in public health nursing agencies were included.