DISCUSSION (Mrs. Rita George's Paper)

In commenting on this excellent, practical talk Dr. Hamlin voiced the opinion that most of the nurses present had experienced the same thoughts expressed by Mrs. George in connection with their own occupations. He thought that Mrs. George had done an exceptional job in the time she has been employed as a Brake Shoe nurse, and the idea she introduced with regard to a nurse "minding her own business" was something which should be taken seriously. Every so often, through over-enthusiasm in her work, the nurse becomes frustrated because she feels that very little is being accomplished. Perhaps she needs help and encouragement, but most of these things can be resolved if the nurse will try to arrange her work so that it fits in with the schedules of those with whom she has daily contact. One of Mr. Given's "yardsticks" mentions "fighting your Boss" but one is expected to be sure he is right before doing so. The nurses attitude therefore can make all the difference in the world in selling the program to management.

The nurse, as pointed out by Mrs. George, can help by arranging suitable appointments with the plant physician for the examination of applicants for work as well as those undergoing periodic health checkups. She must arrange these to fit in with the plant schedule and should always cooperate with foremen and the plant superintendent. Here is a chance for the industrial nurse to demonstrate her value in "screening" applicants for work so that needless preplacement examinations can be eliminated. We realize that in the interests of rehabilitation and human relations we must accept our fair share of employees with physical defects. There is no reason why these people cannot be hired provided they can work with safety to themselves and their fellow employees. They have as much right to earn a living as those more fortunate ones who happen to be healthy. These applicants therefore should be reviewed with critical appraisal to be sure they are properly placed. In this regard, the records are of prime importance and the efficient nurse will see to it that they are complete in every detail.

Dr. Hamlin stated that he was particularly impressed with one of Mrs. George's statements to the effect that "no one person can get along with just everybody but at least the nurse should try." In his opinion this was one of the basic essentials for success in the entire industrial nursing field. Ability is one thing but getting along with people is another. The nurse who can do this has already won half the battle in reaching the top in her chosen profession.

Another important point in this paper was with reference to the nurse having difficulty with the physician who services the plant. Doctors are not infallible and are subject to the same human frailties we all are. He is busy so that it is essential that appointments be kept. The doctor should also remember that keeping an employee waiting costs the Company money. The nurse can overcome most of these difficulties by frank discussions with the doctor so that misunderstanding can be corrected.

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