

HOUSE ON THE POND  
SAUGATUCK  
WESTPORT, CONNECTICUT  
TELEPHONE WESTPORT 4632

May 1, 1936

Mr. Amon G. Carter  
c/o Star Telegram  
Fort Worth, Texas

My dear Mr. Carter:

May I approach you in your capacity as a member of the Will Rogers Fund Committee to ask your Committee to give favorable consideration to our suggestion for a suitable monument to Will Rogers' memory?

I once had the privilege of meeting him at the dinner of the Society of the Genesee and felt that he understood and appreciated the significance of the nurse who found her way into the homes of the people and not only nursed them in illness but helped to give them an education on the way to keep well.

We all know that Mr. Rogers, throughout his lifetime, was constantly and enthusiastically engaged in making the world conscious of the needy and the unfortunate, and that his largest personal gifts went always to the public health nursing units of his neighborhood, thereby proving how much he valued these services.

It occurs to me that a nurse would be proud to be working throughout the country in his name, and that if your Committee would permanently endow a Will Rogers Mem-

orial Nurse, she could be attached to the staff of the National Organization for Public Health Nursing and her time devoted to advising and inspiring the 20,000 nurses who today are working in town and country in the homes of the sick poor.

There are unnumbered communities where the people themselves, as you know, have assembled enough money to keep a nurse on duty. Such nurses could be multiplied. The services of all nurses could be standardized and spiritualized through the visits and supervision given by a nurse assigned to the staff of the National Organization for Public Health Nursing in Mr. Will Rogers' name.

Sincerely yours,

*Lillian D. Wald*

Lillian D. Wald, Honorary President  
National Organization for Public Health Nursing

RECEIVED  
MAY 5 1936

# THAN A TEACHER



SINCE countless homes where the community nurse serves know no nursing aid but hers, her professional standards must be the highest. All that is known must be put at the disposal of her patient. For the role of a nurse in the public health field is two-fold: she is more than a nurse, more than a teacher.

## More Than A Teacher . . .

SHE is a teacher, not of theory in the classroom, but of practise in the home, though she may be called upon, in the unknown case behind each door, to fight stark tragedy with anyone at hand as a pupil.

NO OTHER teacher in the world is called upon to teach under such handicaps. Her pupil may be so old and feeble or so young or the home may be so barren that instruction and assignment of responsibility demand the utmost of a nurse in adaptability and ingenuity.

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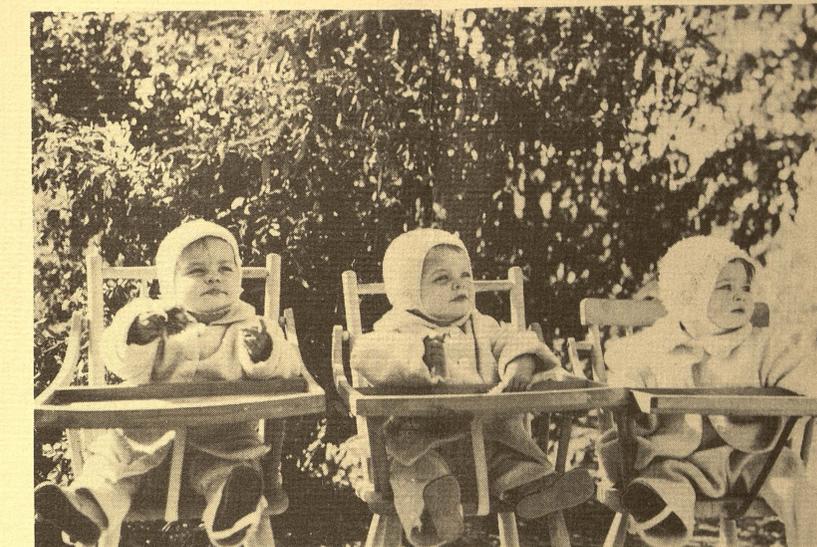
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NATIONAL ORGANIZATION FOR PUBLIC HEALTH NURSING  
50 WEST FIFTIETH STREET, NEW YORK, N. Y.

# NOPHN IS MORE



THE National Organization for Public Health Nursing is the public health nurse's link with all that is new and progressive in her field; it is the "unseen source of strength" as one nurse terms it, which accompanies her, as she and her 19,999 fellow nurses in the community nursing field make thirty million annual visits to homes stricken by illness or in need of advice on health.

## Bulwark to Spirit and Service

ON each of these visits the public health nurse, aside from her specialized training and her famous black bag, has something beyond her ingenuity to fortify her. This is why the NOPHN is as indispensable to her spirit as to her service. She knows all that is available in new techniques, and professional standards is unceasingly hers through its channels.



## TO TWENTY THOUSAND LIKE HER

# THE NOPHN'S VALUE TO YOU AS A NEIGHBOR

## Only One of Thirty Million Visits

HAVE you ever seen a public health nurse come into a home and watch her transform the family's desperate inactivity, from not knowing what to do or where to turn, into intelligent care of the patient?

IN THE wake of each one of her visits there is a family better equipped to handle the present illness, better able to prevent illness in the future.

MULTIPLY her visit to a home by the other twenty-nine million nine hundred and ninety-nine visits made by the twenty thousand public health nurses in 1,262 cities, towns and isolated hamlets in our country, and some idea may be gained of the vast educational value of the home teaching carried on during each visit.

## What This Service Means to You

BY increasing the knowledge of the public health nurse, as she teaches directly in the home and by setting standards for her service, the NOPHN plays its part in the far-reaching value of each nurse's visit. As a result, the health standard within the home is raised; costs of hospital care are lessened—since hospitals at present can handle less than seven percent of all illness and it is estimated that eighty-six out of every one hundred patients are cared for at home, subjected to nursing which through ignorance or poverty may be gravely inadequate. Institutional care is reduced through expert nursing before a case becomes chronic or permanently disabled, thus lessening the burden upon the taxpayer.

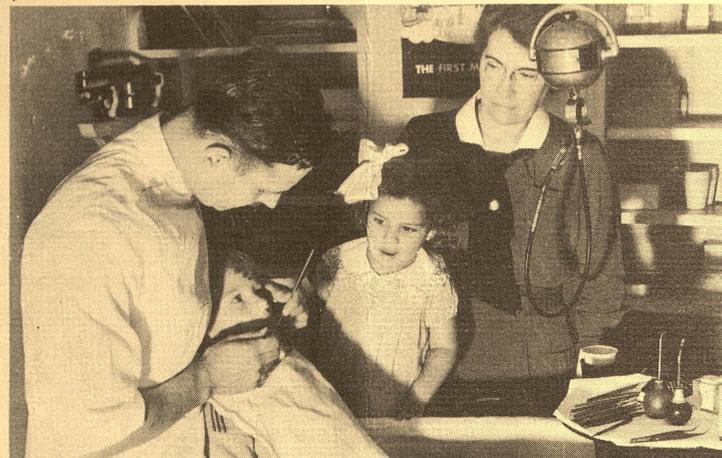
## 7000 Questions Yearly

SEVEN thousand letters come to the NOPHN from nurses and board members yearly, each with its question, each with its need for information, often available from no other source. Each year 150,000 letters, pamphlets, and reprints go out from the NOPHN in addition to the monthly magazine *Public Health Nursing*. Last year the NOPHN staff visited 73 communities in 37 states; held 35 round tables and institutes, made five studies and surveys. It gave advisory assistance to universities at their request on public health nursing courses, and to communities on all types of problems relating to better nursing service. Through its placement service, communities may secure nurses qualified to meet their health needs.

## A New American Epic

THE service of the public health nurse is fast becoming an epic in America. It costs \$128,989.00 to maintain this authoritative bureau of information in her behalf and to keep in touch with nation-wide developments in the public health field. At present the public health nurse meets 25% of the NOPHN budget. But she who devotes her life to assuming the burdens of others, on a meager salary, cannot be expected to carry the entire burden. The balance must be looked for from those who, though they can afford private nursing, recognize the life-saving value of health supervision and nursing care in the community and its direct relation to increased good health for everyone.

NATIONAL ORGANIZATION FOR PUBLIC HEALTH NURSING



Copy of unsolicited testimonial to  
the Visiting Nurse now being used  
by the Coward Shoe Stores in their  
newspaper and magazine advertising.

NATIONAL ORGANIZATION FOR PUBLIC HEALTH NURSING

50 West 50th Street, New York, N. Y.

MICHAEL M. DAVIS, *Treasurer*

Date.....

As my contribution to the National Organization for Public Health Nursing, Inc., I enclose the sum of ..... (\$.....) to be used in its efforts to serve public health nurses and the organizations employing them.

*Signed* .....

*Street* .....

*City and State* .....

**Y**OU who are attending today's luncheon are the old or new friends of public health nursing. We hope you are carrying away a clearer picture of what a necessary part the National Organization for Public Health Nursing plays in this indispensable service which 20,000 public health nurses are carrying to 6,000 communities.

¶ Won't you look over your budget and see whether, in terms of human need, it "balances"? Are you giving something to national as well as to local health-nursing services? Out of their own salaries 8,000 nurses send us membership dues. More than 300 nursing services send us agency dues, but these together meet only half the cost of our service which must be national in its scope. We receive no tax support of any kind and are dependent upon voluntary gifts.

¶ Won't you use the contribution blank on the back of this card to send us just as large a gift as you feel you possibly can?

HONORING THOSE

WHO HONOR THE COMMUNITY



## EVERY HOME IS A MANSION TO HER

*A child is ill . . . a frantic mother without money  
. . . a plea for aid.*

*Without thought to pay, a Visiting  
Nurse stretches out her hands . . .  
pneumonia must not snuff out the life  
of a child.*

**N**O matter where you live or how few pennies or how many dollars you have ready; you need not be uncared-for if you are ill. For waist-deep in the stream of life and death in this incredibly congested city is an unsung army of Visiting Nurses, dressing new babies and often closing the eyes of the dead. Every home is a mansion to them. Their paths are lighted by a simple torch — *illness is to a great degree preventative.*

Each uniformed woman with her magic bag is an indispensable carrier of the findings of scientists and laboratories (nursing is often called the official "wife" of medicine). She must use her personality, her sympathy, her training and her humanity to make the facts of health and life as intelligible as language permits in homes where untold squalor, suffering and despair often stand in her way. Who else has such occasion to peer so intimately into the lives of the under-privileged?

When a murderer in the form of pneumonia, diphtheria, typhoid, the flu or a hundred other troubles, steals into an unfortunate home, the nurse must help fight it. Pain and fatigue must not turn to disease. Contagious ailments must not menace other lives. The war against maternal mortality must be relentless . . . lives must be saved. The fierce loneliness of a great city must not lead to psychopathic troubles. Thousands of patients must be saved from mental ills as well as physical ones. Through the Visiting Nurse, the terribly sick go to hospitals, the aged are cared for, the poor get city

aid, the hungry get food, the under-nourished get nutrition.

Strong constitutions must carry these messengers of mercy up perilous tenement steps, over alleys, down dingy basements, assisting at births in hallways, on barges, calling on many who thought they were forgotten by man. Yet, though few professions have such honors, the place of Visiting Nurses in the development of the care and education of the sick is seldom recorded.

One-fourth of all babies born need their care; one-third of all mothers need their pre-natal attention. A steady campaign of education goes on — little by little preventable deaths are checked. Calls for their services come from Doctors, welfare agencies, insurance companies, from families themselves. Regardless of color or creed, help is always available. Ever an integral part of the New York scene, the Visiting Nurse has become indispensable with thousands of unemployed and others less able than usual to add the cost of nursing to meagre funds. Hundreds of these women have given years of training and their lives to help those less fortunate. A service given expertly, willingly.

For seventy years the Coward Shoe Company has, likewise, in no small measure, guarded the public health of millions by providing an unequalled service in the interest of foot-health. And so, Coward is proud to publish this humble recognition of the Visiting Nurse as one of the unthanked army of men and women who honor the community in which they live and work.

WRITTEN AND PUBLISHED IN RECOGNITION OF THE VISITING NURSE  
BY THE COWARD SHOE STORES OF NEW YORK, BROOKLYN AND BOSTON