

# SEES HEALTH WORK WELL MAINTAINED

Commonwealth Report Shows  
Child Guidance Clinics Are  
"Holding Their Own."

## SOME STAFFS REDUCED

\$1,573,438 Spent in Year, of  
Which \$808,457 Was for Medi-  
cal Service in Rural Areas.

The fourteenth annual report of the Commonwealth Fund, published today, records the expenditure of \$1,573,438 during the past year by the fund established by Mrs. Stephen V. Harkness "to do something for the welfare of mankind."

Of this amount, \$808,457 went to advance public health and better medical and hospital service in rural areas and to support medical research. In this connection the report of the fund, under the presidency of Edward S. Harkness, expresses the opinion that public health and child guidance services are being maintained at a reasonable level despite the depression.

"So far as the contacts of the fund indicate," the report states, "public health holds its own by comparison with other governmental services. The loss of income which health departments must naturally share with other public agencies has not yet reached the point of disaster.

"Child guidance clinics hold their own in a period when the shrinking of social resources and the pressure of relief funds might well have taken heavy toll of them. Only one clinic of major size has closed its doors during the year—that in New Orleans. There have been some reductions of staff and salaries in other clinics, and several are still uncertain of their future, but they have kept at work."

The report records the experiment of the community hospital in Glasgow, Ky., to meet the increase in requests for free care or reduced costs of care for those who have suffered from the depression.

"The hospital," it says, "has begun to experiment with family membership certificates, payable in small instalments, which entitle the holder to a rebate up to the paid-in value on any charges which he may incur for hospital service during the life of the certificate. The fund is now studying the mechanics of the fixed charge or voluntary insurance plan for meeting the costs of hospital service in the hope of applying it experimentally to a new rural hospital. The extension of this plan to cover medical fees is not contemplated."

In addition to the \$808,457 expended by the fund for public health and medical and hospital service \$384,252 was appropriated for training psychiatrists and psychiatric social workers and other activities for the advancement of child guidance and social hygiene in the United States and Great Britain; \$250,000 for fellowships for British students at American universities, and the remainder was devoted to legal research, publications and grants to individual agencies, including family welfare societies in New York.

"One of the most important of the grants made by the fund in 1932," the report records, "was the gift of \$36,200 to the Massachusetts State Department of Health for the continued study of pneumonia. Under this plan the State antitoxin and vaccine laboratory has made a special investigation of pneumonia serum and fourteen centres have been set up throughout the State for diagnostic and consultation service to physicians."

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