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The Bolton Act Provides Federal Funds for Postgraduate Programs

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QUALIFIED graduate nurses are urgently needed for administrative, supervisory, and teaching positions in institutions offering basic or advanced curricula, in nursing services in hospitals and public health agencies, and in fields allied to nursing, such as anesthesia and midwifery. For the purpose of assuring a supply of nurses for the armed forces, for governmental and civilian hospitals, health agencies, and war industries, federal funds for reasonable tuition, fees, and maintenance have been provided under the terms of Public Law 74-78th Congress (the Bolton Act) for postgraduate programs designed to prepare graduate nurses in such fields. These programs, for which federal funds are allotted, are in addition to the U. S. Cadet Nurse Corps plan.¹

The supply of graduate nurses for positions in these fields is rapidly being depleted, because large numbers of nurses have entered military service; because schools of nursing offering basic curricula are being expanded to prepare increasing numbers of nursing students (the quota of admissions is 65,000 by July 1944), and require additional teachers, supervisors, and administrators; and because hospital and public health nursing services are expanding daily.²

Hospitals, nursing schools, and public health nursing agencies are urged to build up their own administrative, supervisory, and teaching staffs, and to increase the supply of qualified nurses for these positions, by encouraging promising members of their staffs, and new graduates, to take advantage of the postgraduate opportunities described here. Individual nurses are urged to use their own initiative in taking advantage of the opportunities for further preparation which are provided under the Bolton Act.

¹ See PETRY, LUCILE: U. S. Cadet Nurse Corps, *Am. J. Nursing*, Vol. 43, pp. 704-708 (Aug.) 1943, and SPALDING, EUGENIA K.: The Senior Cadet Nurse, *ibid.*, pp. 749-751.

² See Postgraduate Programs, *Am. J. Nursing*, Vol. 43, p. 702 (Aug.) 1943.

Programs.—Funds are provided for advanced programs in universities and colleges to prepare graduate nurses for:

1. *Nursing service positions, including those requiring advanced preparation in one or more clinical fields, in hospitals, including outpatient departments, and in public health nursing organizations;*

2. *Faculty positions, including those requiring advanced preparation in one or more clinical fields, in institutions offering basic nursing curricula and in those offering advanced nursing curricula.*

These programs may lead to a degree or, in some instances, may be modified. Modified programs are those that have been realigned or otherwise adjusted to meet present demands for nursing service in this wartime emergency. Such programs may include only educational and professional courses; sometimes one or two general courses, such as English, are included.

3. *Federal funds are also provided for graduate nurses who enrol in supplemental courses in various clinical fields, such as medical, surgical, obstetric, pediatric, communicable disease, and psychiatric nursing.*

These courses are conducted in hospitals; they include appropriate units of instruction and guided experience to afford opportunity to graduate nurses for:

Rounding out or making up deficiencies in basic nursing preparation to qualify graduate nurses for admission to advanced programs in nursing education or to make them eligible for membership in the War Nursing Reserve of the American Red Cross.

Providing experience for graduate nurses who have had little experience in the particular clinical field since graduation.

Bringing graduate nurses up to date in present practices in nursing.

Acquainting graduate nurses from other countries with nursing methods used in this country.

Eligibility of institution to apply for funds.—To be eligible for participation in advanced

programs a university or college must be approved by an appropriate accrediting agency for universities and colleges. The school or division of nursing education in the university or college must have a well-established program or programs for graduate nurses meeting standards recognized by or equivalent to those of the Association of Collegiate Schools of Nursing and the National League of Nursing Education, or the National Organization for Public Health Nursing.

The nursing services of the institutions, or agencies in which students have field experience, must be approved by an appropriate agency, such as the American College of Surgeons, the National Organization for Public Health Nursing, or the American Psychiatric Association.

Certain other conditions must be met in relation to such phases as aims of the programs, administrative organization, finance, budgeting and accounting, requirements for admission and graduation, faculty, and curriculum.

To be eligible for participation in *supplemental courses*, the hospital providing such courses must be approved by the American College of Surgeons. In the case of institutions giving such courses as psychiatric nursing, the hospital must be approved by the American Psychiatric Association. Certain other conditions must be met in relation to admission requirements of students, qualifications of teaching staff, course content, including instruction and practice, maximum hours of study, practice, and instruction, educational and clinical facilities.

To be eligible for participation in programs for preparing nurse anesthetists, the hospital must be approved by the American College of Surgeons. Other regulations must be met in relation to such phases as admission requirements, educational staff, and content and plan of program.

To be eligible for participation in programs in midwifery, programs must meet standards equivalent to those of the Children's Bureau, U. S. Department of Labor, on such phases as aims, admission requirements, budget, and content and plan of program.

Eligibility of the student for receiving funds.—

To be eligible to receive a scholarship, as provided by the Bolton Act, the graduate nurse must meet the special admission and graduation requirements for the particular program or course she expects to pursue. In addition, she must present, upon admission to the program or course, evidence of physical fitness for the responsibilities of nursing or allied field of work. She must also present in her application a statement of availability for essential nursing or allied service (military or other federal, governmental, or civilian) upon completion of the advanced program or supplemental course.

Certification of availability for service.—The institution requesting federal funds must certify that all students enrolled in the postgraduate program or course will, in the judgment of the head of the institution, be available upon completion of the program for military or other federal governmental or essential civilian nursing or allied services for the duration of the present war, and must require from each student a statement to that effect.

Recruitment.—Institutions providing postgraduate programs or courses are urged to take advantage of every opportunity in making their own plans for publicizing the postgraduate opportunities they offer.

Application procedure.—An institution desiring to receive an allotment for any postgraduate program described here should request the necessary application forms from the Surgeon General, Division of Nurse Education, U. S. Public Health Service, Washington, D. C. The information to be supplied on these forms will include a proposed plan for participation in any of the programs or courses described, proposed request for tuition, fees, and maintenance costs for the current federal fiscal year, for the estimated number of students whom it is expected will take advantage of the federal scholarship.

The plan submitted by any institution will be approved if it conforms to the requirements of Public Law 74-78th Congress, and the regulations of the Surgeon General governing payment to provide training of nurses. If the plan is approved, federal funds will be allotted by the Surgeon General within the limits of available funds.

Allotments and Payments.—Allotments for any postgraduate program or course will be limited to tuition and fees as listed in the announcement or bulletin of the institution, and maintenance costs in accord with prevailing rates in the locality. Maintenance is provided only for full-time students. Payment from an allotment will be made on a quarterly *prepayment basis* for estimated expenditures in accordance with the approved plan. The first payment will be made as nearly as possible to the beginning of the first federal fiscal

quarter of the operation of the approved plan.

The *graduate nurse* should make application to the institution offering the postgraduate program or course in which she is interested and which is receiving federal funds.

Institutions offering postgraduate programs or courses which desire further information or to make application for an allotment under Public Law 74-78th Congress, should file requests at once with the Surgeon General, Division of Nurse Education, United States Public Health Service, Washington, D. C.

Wartime Nursing Is Different

WARTIME NURSING IS DIFFERENT. The changes already made in the distribution of nurses may be seen in the comparison of data from the national nursing inventories of 1941 and 1943 (Table 1, Figure 1). It is different in exactly the same way and for the same reasons that our menus are different. The food supply is adequate to maintain health, but on the basis of nutritional value. There is far less opportunity for choice than in peacetime. And so in nursing. These inescapable facts are rapidly gaining acceptance by physicians and so by their patients,

and by hospital administrators, and by nurses themselves. Decisions as to the amount and kind of nursing service must be based on essentiality and not on preference. The essentials of good nursing care must be taught and must be practiced, but the distribution of nursing service is different. It calls for all the imagination and administrative skill and for all the arts of diplomacy of which the profession is possessed.

Wartime nursing is different, but there are skeptics who ask, "Why must it be different?"

And the answer is, There are two reasons for

FIGURE 1

