

Notes from the Meeting of the Executive Board of the

Peoples Institute and Portland Free Dispensary

Held on Friday, July 21, 1928

The following report of the two visits of the Committee of the Peoples Institute and Portland Free Dispensary to the Multnomah County Commissioners was made to the Executive Board of the Peoples Institute on Friday, July 20, 1928.

The committee as appointed by Mrs A. E. Rockey, acting President, consisted of Mrs Gillison, Mrs Gerlinger, Miss Prichard and Mrs Rockey. At the first meeting they were accompanied by Dr. Dillehunt.

A tentative budget for 1929 of the Peoples Institute share of the Dispensary work was presented to the County Commissioners, such a budget as is presented to the Community Chest each year.

This budget estimated the entire amount needed from the County or Community Chest or both as \$13,000.00. The committee asked the County to assume a larger share of this amount. The members of the Commission present seemed to recognize the justice of asking from them a larger appropriation, but the Chairman, Mr. Amadee Smith said the entire subject would have to go before the Tax Commission before anything could be done, and another meeting was appointed at which time members of the Tax Commission were to be present. Mr Smith asked that a complete budget of the entire amount expended for the Dispensary be presented at that meeting.

The following week the committee with the exception of Dr Dillehunt met the County Commissioners and Mr Sabin of the Tax Commission and a complete budget including amounts expected from every contributing source was presented, which amounted to \$41,716.97 for the year 1929.

An estimate had been made based on the number of patients for the month of June 1928 and it was found that 97% of these patients were strictly county patients having a county residence of six months or more.

The estimated cost of each visit, based on statistics of 1927 was \$1.08. Estimated cost of each patient per year was \$3.84. From dues received the average paid by patient was .64 per year. The part to be paid by Cooperating Agencies would be \$3.20 per patient, therefore the County's share for each patient, 97%, would be \$3.10. On this basis the legitimate share for the County for 1927 would have been \$31,408.12.

The County Commissioners agreed that they should carry a larger proportion of our budget, but stated that money received from the County could only be used for one very definite purpose and that was to give Medical Aid to the indigent of Multnomah County and that all work that was classified as Public Health work, Social Service or Health Education work would have to be financed from some other source such as the Community Chest or private subscription.

The Commissioners stated it would be necessary for us to go before the chest again this year and ask for the sum necessary because no action no matter how favorable could be gotten until December of this year or later. Then the amount received from the County could be deducted from that received from the Community Chest.

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Following the report a copy of the minutes of the meeting of the Committee with the County Commissioners as taken by Mrs Gerlinger was read to the Board.

Dr. Dillehunt spoke to the Board of the necessity of proper housing and proper facilities to carry on the work of the Dispensary. The logical place for such a building seems to be in the Medical Centre of the City, that is, up with the County Hospital and State Medical School. The Rockefeller Foundation on being approached indicated that support might be given if there was an assurance that the Supporters of the Dispensary would continue their support after the building had been acquired.

Dr. Dillehunt stated that the Dispensary is in reality the Out-patient Department of the County Hospital. He stated that it would be necessary to give an even more detailed account of our budget in every respect to the county so that each item can be accurately charged to the source of income to which it belongs. This must be done so that the County can legally give the funds for a definite purpose. He also stated that the Medical School has a contract with Multnomah County regarding the operation of the County Hospital, legalized by the State Legislature.

Dr. Dillehunt explained his conference with the Education Board of the Rockefeller Foundation. He presented to them the work of the Medical School and the work of the Dispensary in connection with it and showed the need of a new building for this work in connection with the buildings of the

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Medical School.

He stated that they gave him to understand that if he could assure them that there would be at least \$50,000.00 a year promised here in Portland for the maintenance of this work that they would provide the money for a new building.

He spoke of the meeting which he called after his return from the east, of representatives of all organizations cooperating in the work of the Dispensary, at which time he presented this subject to them. Mrs. Rockey and Miss Prichard represented the Dispensary at that meeting. All present expressed their interest and willingness to cooperate in this larger plan, but none could speak officially. As the yearly amount now contributed for the Dispensary amounts to \$41,000.00 it was felt that it would not be difficult to secure the \$50,000.00 desired particularly as the County seemed inclined to increase their appropriation, Dr. Dillehunt stated that his desire was to secure an adequate building for the work of the Dispensary and to see the work grow and develop in the future in cooperation with the Peoples Institute as it had in the past.