

The Voice

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"Dedicated to the promotion of the cultural, social and spiritual life of a great people."

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Facts About Medicine and the Negro

The Federal Government, the states and the cities of this vast, rich nation spend many millions of dollars every year to improve public health. Yet, with tragic imprudence, we are doing very little to strengthen one of the weakest links in this endless chain of money and effort. We are perpetuating, through prejudice, a critical shortage of Negro doctors—a situation which contributes heavily to the high rate of Negro mortality and results in the spread of disease through colored and white populations alike. For contagion knows no color line.

Only 4,000 Negroes are now practicing medicine, as compared with 176,000 white physicians, and it is estimated that more than 5,300 more are needed to care for the increasing Negro population. The national average today is one colored doctor to every 337 Negroes, although the accepted minimum standard is one to 1,500. In Mississippi the ratio is one to 18,527.

"One important reason for this acute shortage of skilled medical men," declared the recent report of the President's Committee on Civil Rights, "is the discriminatory policy of our medical schools in admitting minority students."

Discrimination against Negro students is common in the North as well as the South, and it is not limited to the medical colleges. Only two of our seventy-seven medical schools freely admit Negro applicants, and these are Negro institutions. Many hospitals, vital to the training of all physicians, close their doors to the colored medical graduate. Yet every day mothers and babies die for lack of proper treatment. Meanwhile, the Negro's life expectancy is ten years less than the white man's.

The widespread notion that Negroes, as a race, are especially prone to disease is no longer held by any competent scientist. Negroes get sick because of poverty and neglect, exactly like all other members of the human race. Generations of bad housing, improper food and economic insecurity do not produce hardy men and women, but there is no proved racial susceptibility. More Negroes get tuberculosis and pneumonia, contract venereal disease and other ills because, in the main, they live under worse conditions and because they do not receive adequate medical care. Then they spread infection.

The physicians of the United States, through their prejudice and lack of foresight, must accept part of the responsibility. But they are not, of course, wholly to blame. Their attitude is merely the reflection of a deep-seated national prejudice which has always been written large across the dark history of the Negro people.

Some 10,000,000 of our 15,000,000 Negroes live in seventeen

My First Year's Work at Pittsburgh University

By Katherine Thompson

The decision to return to school has been well worth the sacrifice it required. The opportunity to learn the theories and methods of group work and to put them into daily practice was valuable and compensating.

First year students are required to spend twenty and a half hours each week in an agency. This assignment entails working with three groups, writing records of each individual and the group, and assisting with any projects that are sponsored by the agency.

The analyzing of our behavior and our group gives us the insight we need to help others move. This is one of the main objectives of group work. As leaders we try to help each member get the most out of his group experience. We try to help each member feel that he is loved and accepted. This kind of attitude helps many girls and boys progress in a manner which is both satisfying and remunerative.

My field placement was at Soho Settlement in Terrace Village 11.

Terrace Village and Addison are branch centers of Soho. These agencies are centrally located in the housing project to give service

to the people. These projects are widely known for their unique organization. The units have twenty-four apartments in which families live on a bi-racial pattern. In one unit the families live on an interracial pattern. The apartments are available to families within a certain income bracket.

My work in the agency was with a group of boys between the ages of five and seven, a Special Interest group for girls, from ten to twelve and a teen age club. Clubs were not available for children between the ages of five and twelve; the agency felt that better relationships were fostered through open activities. This plan seems to be a good one for it gives children a chance to become acquainted with others who are different.

This summer I was employed as Head Girl counsellor at camp Greenwood. The work there was similar to the school placement, except for the fact it involved closer contact with the children for a longer period of time.

My training at school and my summer's work has made me cognizant of the importance of learning how to get the most out of life. This in turn enables me to share freely with other.

Dr. Lawrence Reports From South Africa

Ed.: The first of a series of articles by Dr. E. A. Lawrence, minister and educator in the A. M. E. church in South Africa.

South Africa, with its new government which is composed of the most extreme nationalism for segregation, is in a turmoil. The colored people with the sympathetic whites are up against this new form of segregation on the city trains. Meetings of protest and decision as to what action they will take are now organized by all concerned.



E. A. Lawrence

Hitherto segregation on the trains was confined to the long distance trains and the city people traveled according to class and not color. This introduction of further repressive measures promises to be hot for the government as the people will not take any more segregation doses dished out by any government in South Africa.

The organized bodies are determined from now onward to fight the entire segregation laws throughout the Union.

The Teachers' League of South Africa is fighting the educational color bar plus any other discriminatory legislation.

The Communist party has been fighting the color bar for many years and has thrown in their lot with the colored organizations for the overthrow of all forms of discrimination against the non-whites of the Union of South Africa. Will write the outcome of this organized opposition to the latest segregation move.

Southern states and the District of Columbia and must attend segregated schools. In the capital, Negro teachers receive salaries equal to those in the white schools, but this is rare. In Georgia and South Carolina in 1943-44 they were paid at about half the white teacher's scale. Nearly everywhere the Negro schools are over-crowded and underequipped. The swollen mortality rate among colored Americans can be traced in part to poor teaching in the grade schools, to inability to finish high school, to the unquestioned

Sports Scope

All-American, Gets Overseas Post

INDIANAPOLIS. (ANP). Herman Joe Holiday, Tuskegee institute's 1937 Negro All-American football star, former local school teacher and UNRRA official, was notified here last week that he had been appointed to a post with the preparation commission for the International Refugee organization. He is scheduled to report to Bad Kissingen, Germany, for assignment in a few weeks.

The son of Mrs. Gussie Holiday, he was a member of the city recreation department's staff from 1937 to 1942. He then became physical education and industrial arts instructor at Crispus Attucks high school here.

In March, 1943, while working as director of the Senate Avenue branch Indianapolis Service Men's center, he was inducted into the army. He saw overseas service in China, Korea and Japan with the UNRRA as a field emergency shelter specialist.

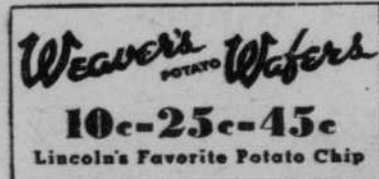
fact that the doors of many universities are closed to Negroes. Thus it is that medical-school deans can protest, whether it is true or not, that they do not admit more Negroes because not enough qualified students apply.

When they offer this excuse, the medical deans have a case, but it is far from foolproof. This was demonstrated in strange ways during the last war. Selective Service, reaching down into all layers of the American population, did more than uncover illiteracy. In some cases it found unsuspected genius.

—Selected.

Urban League Hobby Show

Even though this is mid-summer, it isn't too early to think about the Urban League Hobby Show on October 22 and 23, 1948. Anyone interested in a hobby is cordially invited to participate. Simply call 2-5531 and register your name and articles.



Our Children

By Mrs. William B. Davis.
 We should not let our children grow up without making it clear to them that their biggest job is parenthood. All else is secondary to it. The home is the social unit and the parents its representative, and what they do to make better human beings should be the concern of everyone. To know the needs of the mind and heart of a child and to have a part in the formation of the citizen of the future is the most interesting and satisfying job any man or woman can have. Surely we can find a method to handle it in a way to enhance the richness of family life both for our selves and our children. Put it in its most condensed form, the parent should have come to marriage prepared to give: the infant more affection and gratification; to the child at home, more patience and opportunity for supervised play, work and friendly association with other children; to the grade school child, more interest and inspiration; and the adolescent, more opportunity for romance and success. The biggest job of all is being a parent.

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