

TRAINING COURSE FOR SOCIAL WORK  
INDIANA UNIVERSITY  
129 E. MICHIGAN ST.  
**Indiana University News-Letter**

---

Entered as second-class mail matter December 23, 1912, at the postoffice at Bloomington, Indiana, under the Act of August 24, 1912. Published twelve times a year by Indiana University, from the University office, Bloomington, Indiana.

---

VOL. XV, No. 10

BLOOMINGTON, INDIANA

OCTOBER, 1927

---

### SOCIAL WORK AT INDIANA UNIVERSITY IN 1927

1. **Enrollment.** Forty-six students are taking courses in the Indiana University Training Course for Social Work at Indianapolis this fall. They represent a variety of interests. One group of them is interested in family welfare work, another group in social work with hospitals, and still others are concerned with school attendance and juvenile probation work. More than half of these students are postgraduates who know what they want to do and who pursue their professional training with the devotion of mature persons.

Any student who has a bachelor's degree with sufficient work in the Social Sciences and Psychology from a college of recognized standing will be admitted to the Training Course for Social Work as a candidate for the master of arts degree. Students of Indiana University at Bloomington who have completed three years of college work with a major in the Department of Economics and Sociology have the privilege of taking the senior year at Indianapolis in the Training Course for Social Work, at the end of which they will receive the bachelor of arts degree. The Training Course for Social Work offers two full years of work.

2. **Teaching at the New University Hospitals.** The James Whitcomb Riley Memorial Hospital for Children offers an exceptional opportunity for social work with children. For many years Dean Charles P. Emerson, of the School of Medicine, has urged the importance of social work in diagnosing and treating disease. Under his direction the Social Service Department of the University Hospitals has grown to be one of the best in the country. Instruction in medical social work has gone right along with service to the families of patients in the hospitals. Medical students, nurses, and prospective social workers all receive training in social work. The psychological clinic conducted by Professor Herman H. Young at the Riley Hospital provides an excellent opportunity for students to observe children who are subnormal or who have emotional disturbances.

The Training Course for Social Work is extremely fortunate in having Miss Grace Ferguson, Director of the Social Service Department

of the Hospitals, as a member of its faculty. Records of over 15,000 hospital cases are on file in this Department, and those records which have the fullest social history of the patients are used for instructional purposes. All of the students who receive the certificate of social work or a degree come under Miss Ferguson's direction thru the field work which she conducts for students. This work is regarded as of such importance that all students, whether expecting to enter medical social work, family social work, or what not, spend some time in the Social Service Department before they are given field work in their special subject. Besides having direction of all field work for the Training Course, Miss Ferguson gives the following courses: "Seminar in Medical Social Problems," "The Field of Social Work for Nurses," and "Medical Social Service Clinic." The latter is given jointly with Dean Charles P. Emerson, who also gives a course entitled "Environmental Medicine" for social workers.

An important contribution to social work education is made by the course in "Clinical Psychology" given by Dr. Mary H. Young, a specialist, of Bloomington. This course is given at the Riley Hospital, where children who are being treated can be observed.

Another course with a medical slant is that in "Social Psychiatry" given by Dr. Joseph Kilman at the Central Hospital for the Insane. Lectures on different types of insanity are supplemented with clinical study of patients. Here social workers learn the process by which people become insane, and they see the end-results of this developmental process. They learn the obvious symptoms of some of the common kinds of insanity so that they can recognize them in persons with whom they will work later.

3. **At the Indianapolis Teaching Center.** Many of the courses in social work are given down town at the Teaching Center, 319 North Pennsylvania St. That is one of the interesting features of the Training Course for Social Work: the various courses are given at the place which offers the best opportunity to the student to learn the subject taught. At the Teaching Center courses are given by Mr. Homer W. Borst, Secretary of the Community Fund, in "Community Organization Technique"; by Mr. Eugene C. Foster, Director of the Indianapolis Foundation, in "Social Case Work Technique"; by Mr. L. H. Millikan, State Agent of the State Board of Charities, in "Child Welfare Problems and Methods"; by Professor Thomas S. Luck, of the University, in "Industrial Welfare Problems"; and by Dr. Thurman B. Rice, of the University, in "Public Health and Hygiene." The opportunity to get the services of these men who are actively engaged in social work is one which is prized very highly. They bring the atmosphere of the firing line with them.

Other courses in "Introduction to Social Work," "Family Problems," "Methods of Research," "Research and Thesis Writing," "Juvenile Delinquency," and "Social Legislation" are either given or organized with the help of others by Professor R. Clyde White who has been put in

active charge of the Training Course for Social Work by Professor Ulysses G. Weatherly, Director.

Professor White is a new addition to the social work faculty. He came to us this fall from New York, where he has been with the New York Charity Organization Society and the Brooklyn Children's Aid Society. Previous to that he had done settlement work in 1920 to 1922 on the Upper East Side in New York. From 1923 to 1926 Professor White was a professor in the Department of Rural Sociology at the Texas Agricultural and Mechanical College. In addition to teaching at the Texas college, he made a survey of farmhouses for the United States Bureau of Agricultural Economics and a survey of rural churches which was backed by the college and a group of people interested in the rural church. During the last four years he has contributed twenty-five articles to periodicals and social science journals which have dealt with these studies in Texas and certain sociological subjects. Professor White received his bachelor of arts degree at the University of Texas in 1917. After the war he went to New York, where he studied at the Union Theological Seminary, graduating in 1922, and at Columbia University, from which he received the master of arts degree in 1922. During the next year he did social work and completed the residence work at Columbia for the Ph.D. in sociology, passing the subject examinations for this degree in May, 1923.

#### THE AIMS OF SOCIAL WORK EDUCATION

1. **Roots.** The roots of social work lie far back in the beginnings of mutual aid, charity, and the philanthropic motive, when people lived in tribes or small nations. In the western world charity toward all regardless of race or color derives from the Hebrews and their spiritual descendants, the early Christian Church. That care for the poor, the infirm, the deformed, the injured, and the sick in mind and body has survival value is amply supported by the vigor of the modern Jews, among whom mutual aid and charity reached a high development early. That disregard for and elimination of these classes does not insure survival is attested by the disappearance of the Spartans who practiced a rigid eugenics in the ancient world. Mutual aid enriched by the philanthropic motive has played an important part in the survival of modern peoples, and it is reasonable to believe that it will do no less in the future.

On the side of method of work social service has its roots in the scientific movement. Charity was the predecessor of social work, because science had not made available the tools with which social work must operate. Charity leaned heavily upon goodness of motive and sympathy. Social work does not lack this motivation, but it makes use of science to direct these motives. One of the aims of training for social work is to make fruitful this marriage of science and goodness.

2. **Needs.** People do not sink into dependence deliberately. They may appear often to be "lazy and shiftless," but these words embody charges, not explanations. Why is a man "lazy"? Science does not permit us to charge it to free will or any other scapegoat. It insists that an explanation in terms of cause and effect be found. Here are the great causes of human distress, over which the individual has little or no control: (a) natural calamities, (b) epidemics, (c) miscellaneous diseases, (d) mental deficiency, (e) mental disorder, (f) wars, (g) business depressions, (h) new inventions. It may seem strange to call new inventions a cause of distress, but as a matter of fact men and women are continually thrown out of work by the invention of a new machine which can be operated by a smaller number of workers. Then these unemployed have to be re-absorbed into the economic order, and the process is often slow. Here social work finds one of its tasks. It must make readjustments and see that children survive the onset of the vast array of misfortunes to which man is liable. Training for social work awakens the student to the urgency of these needs.

3. **Professional Standards.** Another aim of the Training Course for Social Work is to contribute to the maintenance and improvement of professional standards of work. This is accomplished in three ways.

First, the social agencies need new recruits continually. They are eager to find young men and women who have professional training, because they adapt themselves more readily and are sooner worth their salaries. They make fewer mistakes than untrained workers. They see problems more clearly and diagnose them more accurately. They have a more comprehensive grasp of resources for treatment. In short, they have social work technique, where the untrained worker has rule-of-thumb.

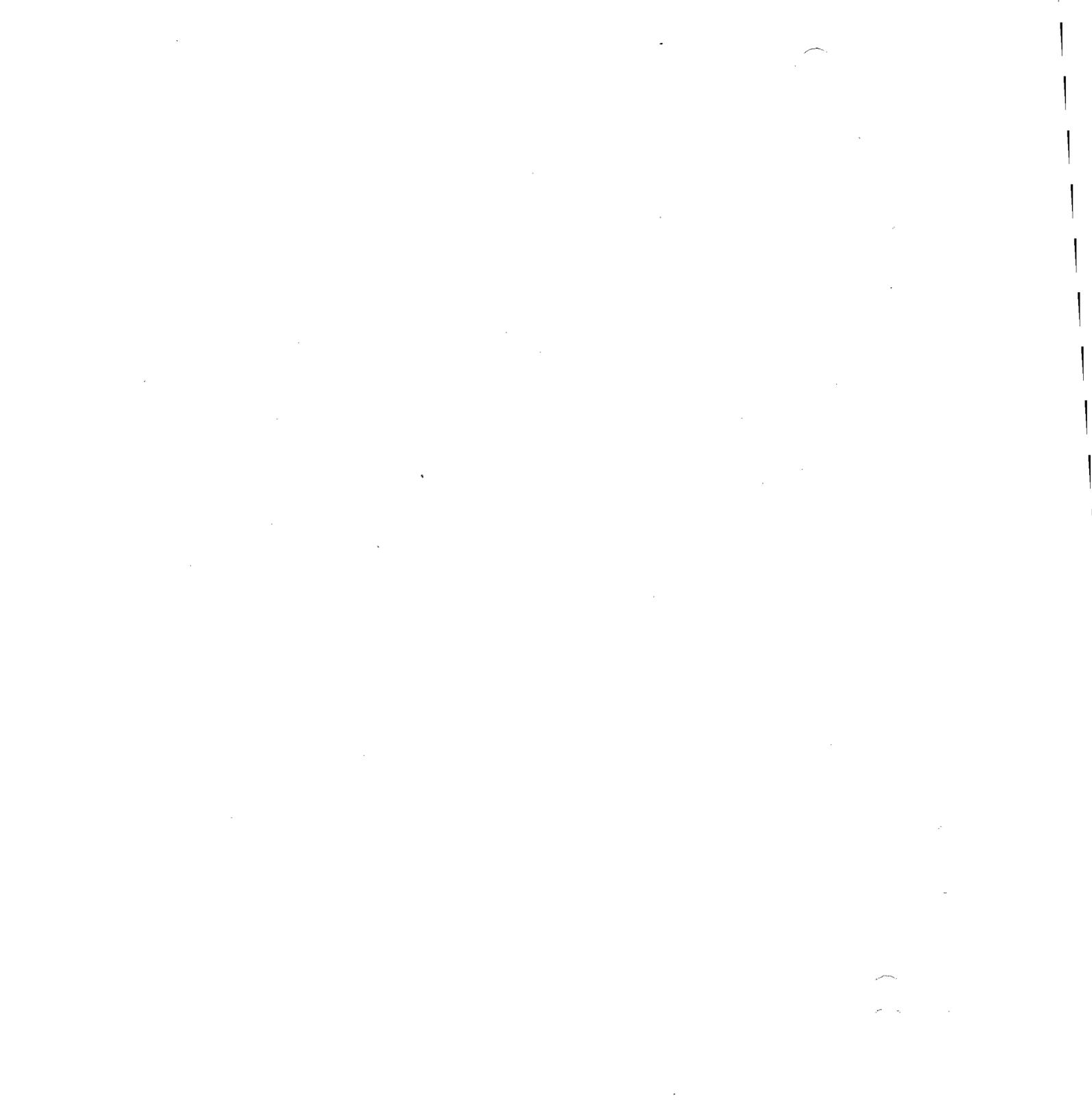
Second, it is one of the functions of a school of social work to assemble new knowledge bearing on the problems of social work, and it is the business of the teaching staff to know the current literature of their subjects. This accumulating knowledge is passed on to the students and thru contacts with agencies to those actively engaged in social work. The Training Course for Social Work should be a clearing-house for the best in methods of social work.

Third, the Training Course for Social Work creates an atmosphere favorable to self-criticism. Social workers, like all other professional workers, easily fall into routine in which they become so enmeshed that they are no able to take an objective, critical view of their own organizations. But the scientist and the teacher ask questions. They have a habit of asking why and how. This habit is acquired in many ways, but one of the best places for a student or old worker to get it is in the professional school which holds that no question is a closed question.

## THE DEMAND FOR SOCIAL WORKERS

More than 50 new social workers have been added this year by the social agencies in Indiana. This is not an unusual situation. The turnover is rather rapid, and most agencies are increasing their staffs rather than decreasing them. In 1926 Mr. Ralph G. Hurlin of the Russell Sage Foundation estimated that there were 25,000 paid social workers in the United States. Between the years 1920 and 1925 reports from 144 social agencies indicated that their paid professional positions had increased 31 per cent. Only 13 out of this number showed a reduction in personnel. Salaries for case workers range from about \$1,100 to \$1,600; for supervisors from \$1,700 to \$2,000; for sub-executives from \$1,950 to \$3,200; for executives from \$2,000 to \$15,000.

The higher and better-paid positions naturally go to the best workers. It is reasonable to expect that in the future these will in large measure be products of the professional schools. According to a recent study, there are 38 schools of social work in the United States with a total enrollment of about 2,500, of whom nearly 700 were post-graduates. The graduate of a school of social work gets a beginning salary of 20 per cent to 50 per cent more than the new, untrained social worker. All social agencies in Indiana have expressed preference for the trained social worker.



OFFICERS AND FACULTY OF INDIANA UNIVERSITY TRAINING  
COURSE FOR SOCIAL WORK, INDIANAPOLIS**Administration**

WILLIAM LOWE BRYAN, Ph.D., LL.D., President of the University  
(Bloomington).

SAMUEL EDWIN SMITH, M.S., M.D., Provost.

CHARLES PHILLIPS EMERSON, A.M., M.D., Dean of the School of Medicine.

SELATIE EDGAR STOUT, Ph.D., Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences  
(Bloomington).

ROBERT E. NEFF, A.B., Administrator of the University Hospitals and  
Registrar of the Indiana University School of Medicine.

**Faculty**

ULYSSES GRANT WEATHERLY, Ph.D., Litt.D., Professor of Economics and  
Sociology, and Director of the Training Course for Social Work  
(Bloomington).

R. CLYDE WHITE, A.M., Associate Professor of Sociology, Training  
Course for Social Work.

CHARLES PHILLIPS EMERSON, A.M., M.D., Dean of the School of Medicine.

GRACE BEALS FERGUSON, A.B., Instructor and Director of the Depart-  
ment of Medical Social Service, University Hospitals.

THOMAS S. LUCK, A.M., Assistant Professor of Economics and Sociology  
(Bloomington).

**Associates**

HOMER BORST, A.M., Executive Secretary of the Indianapolis Community  
Fund.

EUGENE FOSTER, Director of the Indianapolis Foundation.

JOSEPH KILMAN, M.D., Central Indiana Hospital for the Insane.

(Mrs.) MARY HOOVER YOUNG, Ph.D., Special Lecturer in Clinical Psy-  
chology.

L. H. MILLIKAN, A.B., State Agent of the Board of State Charities.

THURMAN B. RICE, M.D., Assistant Professor of Hygiene and Sanitary  
Science.

All inquiries concerning the Training Course for Social Work should  
be addressed to Professor R. Clyde White, 319 North Pennsylvania St.,  
Indianapolis, Ind.

