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DUTIES OF MILITARY GOVERNMENT PUBLIC HEALTH NURSES.

PUBLIC HEALTH AND WELFARE TECHNICAL BULLETIN

PH&W GHQ SCAP APO 500

December 1948

Note: This Bulletin is for the guidance of Military Government Public Health Nurses only, and will not be translated into Japanese nor will the English translation be given to the Japanese.

1. General

The Public Health Nurse of a Military Government Region or Prefecture Team in Japan will work with the Public Health Officer. She will be responsible for the guidance of all the nursing and midwifery education and services. This is a tremendous task and will require the full time of the Public Health Nurse. Her work will depend largely on reports received from Japanese officials and from inspections made in the field to observe operations.

She will exercise surveillance over the Japanese Government's public health activities, as they pertain to nurses, to ascertain if the directives of the Supreme Commander are being complied with.

SCAP, by memoranda, gives the Japanese Government directives, and by command letter directs the Eighth Army to perform certain functions. Memoranda to the Japanese Government from SCAP are numbered consecutively and have the short title of SCAPIN. Only a part of the SCAPINs pertain to public health matters. These directives are on file in all Military Government offices. SCAP may instruct the Japanese Government by memoranda from staff sections to a particular ministry or ministries, or may issue verbal instructions to the ministries concerned. In the event that surveillance is required, for instructions which are given by either of these two methods, appropriate directions for exercising the surveillance will be issued.

Eighth Army may issue Operational Directives to subordinate units amplifying SCAPINs or the letters of instruction that it receives from SCAP. These are numbered consecutively and have the short title OD. Corps headquarters may issue additional instructions amplifying ODs received from the Eighth Army. On purely technical subjects, SCAP sometimes issues Technical Bulletins. These have the short title TB-PH-. Translations, when given to Japanese technical agencies, are for the specific purpose of establishing a common basis of understanding between Occupation Force and Japanese technical personnel.

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A Weekly Bulletin is published by the Public Health and Welfare Section, GHQ, SCAP which is mailed directly to Military Government units. The purpose of this publication is to keep Military Government units informed of public health and welfare activities at the national level.

The Military Government Public Health Nurse will be responsible for the guidance and supervision of the nurses and midwives in their various programs. Many times this will mean demonstration and teaching, as the Japanese nurses and midwives do not have the same understanding of nursing as we do in America. Nursing and midwifery in Japan is not developed in accordance with western standards. Curriculum planning and ward organization is entirely new therefore, there is a marked need for guidance in these fields. The National Association will need guidance in its many detailed programs.

2. Objectives

The objectives of the public health program will be attained through the medium of Japanese agencies, using Japanese personnel and supplies. Surveillance of the nursing and midwifery program will be exercised by the Military Government Public Health Nurse to insure compliance with directives issued by the Supreme Commander to the Japanese Government. The Military Government Public Health Nurse supervises the execution of the Supreme Commander's instructions. She gives the local Japanese Government advice on technical procedures, and additional instructions when necessary to meet special or emergency situations.

The objectives to be attained are:

a. To provide for the nursing and midwifery programs to the extent of preventing disease and unrest in the civil population.

b. To establish or re-establish nursing standards to help prevent the occurrence of disease and to assure that the civilian population is not a health hazard to the Occupation Forces.

c. To establish and maintain the essential nursing and health activities at a level necessary to meet the requirements of the indigenous population and to prevent disease and suffering which would interfere with the accomplishment of the occupation mission.

d. To report to higher echelon as directed by instructions concerning recurring reports and such special information as is necessary to keep higher echelons factually informed.

e. To utilize Japanese material and personnel in all instance where possible. United States supplies will be used only when Japanese supplies are not available to provide a minimum standard of medical care and treatment on a disease and unrest basis.

3. Specific Duties

a. Surveillance. Frequent detailed inspections of Japanese health agencies and schools of nursing and midwifery. These inspections will be for the purpose of:

- (1) Determination of compliance with SCAP directives and policy.
- (2) Determination that health agencies and nursing services are functioning so that minimal requirements of the occupation are met.
- (3) Giving technical advice when needed or requested.
- (4) Maintaining liaison between various interested sections of the Military Government Team.
- (5) Effecting coordination between various departments of the prefectural and local governments when necessary.

b. Receiving and Rendering Reports.

- (1) Keeping the Senior Military Government Officer informed as to the health situation and nursing service requirements.
- (2) Preparation of recurring and special reports as required by higher authority.
 - (a) Special reports, as necessary.
 - (b) Monthly reports.
- (3) Receiving, analyzing and acting where necessary on reports received from Japanese agencies.
 - (a) Analysis of reports.
 - (b) Passing reports on to higher authority.
 - (c) Acting on reports received from Japanese agencies or recommending action to higher authority as indicated by the particular situation.

c. Planning. Plans for public health measures will consist in review of Japanese measures for:

- (1) The immediate future. With the means available to local governmental officials plan for the suppression of diseases known to occur seasonally in the locality by:

(a) Coordinating with overall national health programs as announced by higher headquarters. This will include dissemination of educational media: training of nurses, midwives and public health nursing leaders; and procurement of budget necessary to carry out specific programs.

(b) Adapting overall national nursing programs to suit and meet the needs of local conditions.

(2) Long range planning which is designed to ultimately produce an adequate and self-sufficient nursing, midwifery and public health service. This will be accomplished by planning to establish or reestablish schools of nursing and midwifery, public health courses and educational programs to meet the needs of the Health Centers, hospitals and other agencies requiring services of professional personnel.

4. Supply Procedures

Authorized supplies will be requisitioned by the Public Health Officer through channels.