

service for the unemployed, the professions and the relief officials in the localities under the immediate supervision of which the needy sick are cared for.

The use of federal relief money for medical care is limited to service in the home or office call. Federal funds can not be used to pay hospital bills or for treatment in nursing homes or clinics. Office service for ambulatory patients is permitted, on the understanding that it shall not supplant the services of clinics already provided in the community.

Standard agreements between relief officials and physicians provide for attendance of not more than two weeks or ten visits in cases of acute illness and not more than one visit a week for a period not exceeding two or three months. Cases requiring more protracted calls of greater frequency will be subject to reinvestigation by the local emergency relief administration.

In obstetrical cases, provision is made for prenatal and postnatal care, and exercise of "due caution" that undue risk be not involved to patients for whom hospital care may be imperative. Other and special cases and medical and nursing care, not included in the standard procedure, may be made the subject of special agreements in harmony with the general policy laid down by the administration.

The "essence of such a policy" is said to be, on the part of the relief administration, recognition of the traditional family and family-physician, physician-nurse and dentist-patient relationship in the authorization of medical nursing and emergency dental care of indigent persons in their homes, and agreement by the physician, nurse and dentist to "furnish the same type of service as would be rendered to a private patient, at a minimum consistent with good professional judgment, and an agreed rate which makes due allowance for conservation of relief funds."

"The common aim," it is stated, "should be the provision of good medical service at a low cost—to the mutual benefit of indigent patient, physician, nurse, dentist and taxpayer."

State and local medical, nursing, dental and pharmaceutical organizations will be asked to designate advisory committees to work with the relief executives in the states and communities in formulating more adequate and uniform policies.

THE NEW YORK BOTANICAL GARDEN

THE Botanical Garden will lose twenty-five of its "most efficient workers" at the end of this month, when the activities of the Emergency Unemployment Relief Committee's Women's Work Bureau cease, according to a statement made by Dr. Elmer D. Merrill,

director of the garden. Since November, 1931, groups of 6 to 132 women have been working daily in the laboratory, library, herbarium, offices and conservatory at salaries of \$12 and \$15 a week paid by the relief committee.

Almost two years ago Dr. Merrill requested Miss Ollie A. Randall, head of the work bureau, to supply the garden with "a half dozen women workers with no special qualifications," as an experiment. The six were set to work mounting botanical specimens and clerking in the reference library.

As a result the staff of women was increased gradually to ninety, ranging in age from twenty to fifty years and in occupations from telephone operators to reporters. When the committee's funds were low in the summer of 1932, the number of workers dropped to twenty, but last winter it was increased to 132 at one time. Lack of funds resulted in the present small staff.

The work done varied considerably. At one time there were six artists working on black and white colored sketches of specimens. Plates were made from these sketches later, and some were used to illustrate botanical articles.

The most important work accomplished, according to Dr. Merrill, "was putting the library into the herbarium." Four hundred thousand typed original descriptions and photographs of types of flora were pasted on folders containing dried specimens of the flora.

A card catalogue containing the names of all species of flora found in the Polynesian Islands was completed, giving the titles and authors of articles about each species, with the publications in which they appeared. More than 50,000 cards are in this catalogue and duplicates are in the Bishop Museum at Honolulu.

An index of all botanical literature pertaining to flora found in eastern Asia has also been completed. A page-by-page survey of 700 sets of periodicals, some of them containing more than 150 volumes each, was necessary to complete this index, as well as translations of many titles from Russian, Latvian, Japanese, Chinese and Polish periodicals. There are now about 17,000 cards, containing the titles, names of authors and publications and, in the case of foreign-language articles, summaries of all articles published on Oriental flora.

Two million specimens in the herbarium, formerly classified only by species in geographical units, were reorganized; 300,000 other species were labeled and filed. In addition, public exhibitions in the administration building, which "have been gathering dust and mold for twenty-five years," have been cleaned and polished.