

clined much more seriously in the postwar years. More than 10 percent of new physicians added to the total supply in this country since 1950 were educated outside the United States. About 400 of the 1,300 foreign medical school graduates added to the supply in this country were American citizens studying abroad, but the rest were aliens. Thus the output of medical schools in the United States was supplemented by the equivalent of 10 to 15 medical school graduating classes from abroad. Such dependence on foreign-trained medical doctors clearly indicates inadequate output of physicians by American medical schools.

Dentists

The number of dentists in the United States increased from 81,000 in 1947 to about 100,000 in 1958, thus maintaining the ratio of 57 to 59 dentists per 100,000 population which has existed since 1949. However, the national average fails to exclude an estimated 12,000 dentists who are retired or active outside the dental profession.³⁴ Also, the national average includes dentists in Federal service, almost 7,000 in 1958.

As in the case of physicians, there is a wide range in distribution of dentists. New York had a 1958 ratio of 85 dentists per 100,000 population and South Carolina a ratio of 20 dentists per 100,000 population.³⁵ Increased use of auxiliary dental personnel such as technicians and dental hygienists has resulted in a better supply of dental services, but needs for dental research and adequate dental services in the future will require a greatly increased number of dentists.

The Nation could use 13,500 more dentists now, and unless more dentists per year are produced, the dentist-population ratio will continue to decline. While four new dental schools have been established during the past 2 years, more new schools are needed. Indeed, two new schools, each with a graduating class of 50, would be required each year between 1957 and 1970 to reestablish the 1955 ratio of 1 dentist for each 1,900 persons.³⁶

The American Dental Association has made a similar estimate. Public Health Service estimates, based on projected current levels of dental schools output, indicate a decline in the supply of dentists to 52.8 per 100,000 population in 1970 and 50.2 per 100,000 population in 1975.³⁷ Dental schools in the United States have graduated about 3,000 students a year since 1952. Nearly all of the 45 dental schools reported that they are operating at full capacity and would apply for Federal matching construction grants to expand teaching facilities, if such funds were available.³⁸ (See table 8.)

Nurses

In contrast to continuing declines in the physician- and dentist-population ratios, the supply of active professional nurses has been rising and is expected to continue rising to provide higher nurse-population ratios in the future. (See table 8.)

Nurses are the largest single group of health workers and nursing service is fundamental in supplying adequate hospital care. About 60

³⁴ U.S. House of Representatives. "Medical School Inquiry," staff report to the Committee on Interstate and Foreign Commerce, 85th Cong., 1st sess., 1957, p. 435.

³⁵ Ibid., p. 436.

³⁶ Bayne-Jones report, p. 37.

³⁷ U.S. Department of Health, Education, and Welfare, Health Manpower Source Book, sec. 9, Physicians, Dentists, Nurses. Public Health Service Publication No. 263, 1959, p. 58.

³⁸ "Medical School Inquiry," p. 71.