

from them, a requirement of this type would make it more possible in the future—when an institution is undertaking such a program—for there to be modification or other uses for the facility in training other kinds of personnel, and that this is a more realistic time than a 20-year commitment on the part of the school.

Mr. ROGERS. Suppose you build a medical school. Are you only going to require it to exist 10 years?

Dr. LEE. That is a requirement, but, of course, they do use the facilities for much longer. And in most cases we anticipate they will use the facilities much longer.

Some of our nursing school facilities today are 50 years old, and older.

Mr. ROGERS. You won't have the building changed by the time he graduates, because it takes 10 years.

I think we need to look at the law again on that.

I will yield, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. JARMAN. Mr. Nelsen?

Mr. NELSEN. Usually on the floor of the House, when this kind of bill reaches us, Representatives Cahill and Bolton ask questions concerning care for bedside nursing.

Maybe a young lady would not have the resources to go ahead for a nursing degree, but her training could emphasize bedside nursing. Every time we report a bill concerned with nursing, this question comes up on the floor. Do you have any comment about the possibility of expansion in the area of bedside nursing?

Dr. LEE. If I understand the question correctly, it relates to practical nurses, and we do have a program in the Office of Education which is supporting the training of practical nurses. We can provide for the record the numbers of students trained each year in this program in the last 5 years. It is a very significant number. But I don't have the exact figures.

(The information requested follows:)

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, EDUCATION, AND WELFARE STATEMENT
ON PRACTICAL NURSE TRAINING

Advances in medical science and nursing practice coupled with the growing demand for health care have made it impossible for the registered nurse to provide all of the nursing services patients require. The registered nurse is now assisted by licensed practical nurses, who receive one year of formal training, generally in public vocational school systems with clinical instruction in a hospital setting, and by nurses' aides who usually receive informal, one-the-job instruction.

Registered nurses continue to give patients the nursing care which they alone are prepared to give. They have responsibility for assessing the patient's nursing needs and making decisions regarding his nursing care. The registered nurse determines and assigns to licensed practical nurses aspects of care for which she is trained. Nurses' aides relieve the registered nurse and the licensed practical nurse from the more routine tasks which are important to the patient's personal comfort. Both licensed practical nurses and nursing aides are supervised and taught by the registered nurse.

The Nurse Training Act of 1964 provides financial assistance for the education of registered nurses only. Federal aid for practical nurse education is provided under the Manpower Development and Training Act and the Vocational Education Act. The following table shows the number of practical nurse education programs and graduations for the years 1954 to 1967.