Recognition

BY L. W. KIBLER, '16

The work of the extension division of the University in reaching Oklahoma communities is attracting nation wide attention. In three divisions particularly is this community work being carried on (in addition to the centers at Tulsa, Oklahoma City and Ponca City, where instruction is given): Dental post-graduate, medical post-graduate and community institute work. Mr. Kibler, who has been in charge of the dental and medical post-graduate work since 1925, has given the profession a unique and valuable service, which was given the signal recognition described in the article that follows. The whole extension program is being carefully directed by Dean Paul Vogt, so that it may give the state's communities the maximum of service.

On September 24, 1930, notice was received from Dr. M. M. Davis, director of the health service department of the Julius Rosenthal Foundation, that an award of $13,725 had been made by the foundation to the Extension Service Foundation of the University of Oklahoma. This grant was made for the development of a part-pay dental program in the state of Oklahoma. The project had been under consideration for a number of months and has the approval of the state dental society, the department of public health, Oklahoma Society for Crippled Children, the University of Oklahoma and one or two other cooperating agencies. The state dental society has manifested its interest in the program by underwriting the expense of the project to the extent of $1,000. The Oklahoma Foundation will act as local director of the funds, disposing of them in harmony with the program agreed upon by the advisory council representing the Service Co-operating Agency.

The program contemplates the employment of a dental director with headquarters in a central clinic, located in Oklahoma City, housed in special quarters at the university hospital. He will be responsible for the technical work accomplished in the central educational clinic and for the furtherance of the work in the several local clinics to be established in selected centers or counties throughout the state. The work of organization in the educational program will be carried out by the extension division of the university. The state department of health will co-operate by doing advance publicity work in preparation for the work of the clinics.

In the organization of local clinics throughout the state, it is proposed to have full time employment of dentists who will be responsible for the examination and treatment of such cases as do not fall within the scope of dentists practicing in the communities. As far as possible, the organization will be on county basis with a county seat as headquarters where such county seats are geographical centers and the population makes a clinic expedient. The local work will be under the advisory direction of a committee made up of representative dentists and persons selected for the leading civic organizations. The work of these clinics will be financed in the beginning by funds available from the Julius Rosenthal Foundation and in part by funds presented by those interested in local communities. It is expected that in a short time these local clinics will become practically self-supporting. The state dental society in cooperation with the University of Oklahoma school of medicine, will ask the coming session of the legislature for an appropriation for the establishment of central dental clinics for use in post-graduate dental education. A request for funds will also include an item for developing the educational phase of the local dental clinics throughout the state. The plan of the program is to bring to practicing dentists, both at central clinic and in the local clinic, such educational facilities and opportunity as are desired by dentists throughout the entire state.

While special emphasis will at first be placed upon children's dentistry, it is expected that the program will be broadened greatly to include all branches of dental service.

It is believed that this part-pay dental clinic program that is being sponsored at this time in Oklahoma by the Julius Rosenthal Foundation, is a unique development in the health educational work of the nation. It is hoped that this program will give experience which can be utilized in the development of a much larger program.

The attention of the Julius Rosenthal Foundation was attracted to Oklahoma through the post-graduate courses in dentistry offered by the University Extension Division in cooperation with the state dental society. Dr. Arthur D. Black, dean of Northwestern dental college, Chicago, while in Oklahoma with his faculty employed by the extension division, presented the program for Oklahoma, to the Rosenthal Foundation.