ABSTRACT

The research for this study was undertaken in 1968 in Trinidad among 153 trainee teachers for Primary Schools and 80 student nurses for the Island Health Service. The purpose of the study is descriptive rather than analytic, although attempts have been made to account for various phenomena.

Analysis of the data showed that the sample of students was fairly homogeneous in demographic characteristics, mainly due to the recruitment procedures of the institutions, the economic circumstances of the students, and the values influencing occupational choice in the society.

The students put a high value on the opportunity to study, but were divided on the question as to whether there had been a lot of opportunity for people to better themselves in the society. The motives for choosing nursing and teaching as careers mostly reflected the Ideal of Service of these occupations, although the students were not unconcerned about the material benefits of these occupations.

On the whole the students exhibited a high commitment to
their chosen occupation, but they were more ambitious for their children, and chose occupations of higher status especially for the boys.

When presented with a set of photographed female faces, students identified with the photographed faces that they had named as likely good nurses and likely good teachers. They were also ready and willing to give their opinions of the girls in the photographs, and to say what jobs they thought the girls in the photographs did. This part of the research project is regarded as highly experimental.