

Student Health Speaks

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By MARILYN THOMPSON
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If Florence Nightingale could reappear on this, her 155th birthday, and roam the halls of any South Carolina hospital, she would no doubt be shocked.

For even the recognized founder of modern nursing (commemorated each May 12 on International Nurses Day) probably had no idea her profession would come so far.

From her time until the recent past, nurses were considered little more than doctors' handmaidens: women only capable of menial tasks and hospital dirty work.

TODAY'S NURSES, however, have earned a name for themselves as competent professionals who share responsibilities with physicians in total health care delivery. Slowly but surely, nurses have acquired an expanded role, and many professionals say patients are reaping the benefits of their increased knowledge and technical expertise.

"When I came into the profession after finishing school in 1943, nurses were still learning to take blood pressures," observes Cleatus Walker, assistant administrator at Baptist Hospital. Now, she says, the nurse is expected to measure as well as interpret vital signs, carry out diagnostic tests and assist in such complicated procedures as spinal taps and

of duties and expectations is long and demanding. Of course, nurses have always had plenty of demands on their time, even in early civilizations when women were excluded from the profession because they were thought to be too inferior to be taught physician's secrets. In the second century A.D., nurses of the Indian physician Charaka were required to be competent cooks, trained in making and cleaning beds, capable of bathing and massaging the infirm and "Never unwilling to do anything that may be ordered."

ALTHOUGH NURSES practicing today have only second-hand knowledge of the "nurse as slave labor" concept that predominated through the centuries, many old-timers in the profession say they have seen sweeping changes since the post World War II period. Mrs. Walker claims she has watched the caliber of nursing candidates steadily improve since the 1940's.

"Back then young women coming out of the Depression had no money for college, so nursing attracted a different group than we do now, mostly for economic reasons. It was assumed in the late 1930's and early 1940's that those financially and scholastically able would go to college and the rest would do whatever they could. That's why many women were attracted into the short-term nursing programs," she said.

One of the most important developments in nursing, a change that has occurred in the last decade in South Carolina, is the gradual phasing out of hospital nurses'

training programs from which about 75 per cent of the practicing nurses in the state graduated.

ONLY ONE of the hospital diploma programs remains open at Orangeburg Regional Hospital. Most potential nurses are entering two or four-year programs at colleges and universities, and an increasing number are staying on to pursue advanced degrees.

Anne Moyer, director of nursing at Baptist Hospital, remembers some of the major weaknesses of the hospital programs. "It was kind of an exploitation of the students because they were used for service and cheap labor at the hospitals. The student might have a few courses taught by a physician, but often there was no clinical instructor who understood the nursing process. Though the students were inexperienced and unlearned, they were sometimes put on night duty by themselves," she explained.

Perhaps the most significant reason for the demise of the hospital programs, she added, was the realization by professionals that hospitals were supposed to provide the best possible treatment for the ailing, a job that could not be properly done by inexperienced personnel.

If there was one thing the hospital programs did offer it was practical experience - heaps of it. College programs are often criticized for falling short on this aspect of nurses'

new educational trends in nursing say that college-trained nurses are learning something equally important - the theory on which to base their professional decisions.

Dean Betty Jackson of the University of South Carolina College of nursing notes, "Of course, we as educators need to look very closely at the amount of technical experience we offer the student. But I believe nurses are much more capable of refining technical skills after they graduate than they are of building a broad knowledge base. Sometimes we tend to think only in terms of nurses doing things, but being able to think a problem through is also an important part of the job."

DAVID OWEN, looking much like a practicing physician as he makes his rounds at Baptist Hospital, is living proof of another major development in the past decade. He is one of three growing number of men who are entering the nursing profession after a long period of domination by females.

Owen, who received extensive training as an Army nurse and is now enrolled in the USC program, says he meets little of the open hostility he might have faced a decade ago when men, other than physicians, were not accepted at the hospital bedside.

Occasionally, he encounters female patients who object to his presence in the room, an attitude he considers ironic since most of the same women have male physicians. Some patients, confused by his unorthodox career choice, will ask pointedly why he did not study to be a physician. "They

October 4

Mt. Mitchell day, of course—the bus will take those who have already signed up (all 111 of us) to the summit. We eat lunch and hike back. To round out the day there will be a bonfire on the lawn by the S. U. at 8:30. Montreat musical talent will be showcased with singing and guitar playing.

October 6

David Holt, a mountain folk musician, will perform at convocation Monday. Holt, who teaches a folk music course at Warren Wilson, will play the dulcimer, dobro, spoons, jews harp, banjo, saw and other mountain musical instruments.



1ST DAY OF SCHOOL

Overnight the summer left us—

It never said goodbye.

Then the morning crept upon us

slow and oh so sly.

We wondered what the new dawn held—

How deep our wonder went.

The newness of our minds compelled

to sing a sad lament—

"Learn the ropes and find your place, meet the school year face to face, master all the tricks of youth til you catch up with the truth set your dreams upon a star then find out how dumb you are."

Moose Wall

can't understand I have no desire to be a doctor. I like being what I am," he says.

Despite the influx of men into the nursing profession, it remains about 99 per cent female nationwide. Many female nurses welcome their male counterparts, convinced they will be helpful in alleviating the fears of traditionalist doctors who dislike the nurses' expanding role.

"Hopefully, male nurses will point out to doctors that we're not trying to compete with them. We're just trying to work together to provide better health care," explains Mrs. Moyer.

Because the profession remains female dominated, however, nurses say they see close parallels between the women's movement and improvements in nursing.

Becky Jackson, executive director of the South Carolina Nurses Association, says nurses have begun to "go through a kind of consciousness raising about themselves and the contributions they are making in the employment setting. The development of the self-image of nursing has been an important trend."

WITH MORE confidence in themselves as professionals, she said, nurses are realizing the importance of making their ideas known, particularly in the legislative arena. Currently, nurses are working to achieve several legislative revisions of the Nurses Practice Act, originally passed in 1917, that would bring the law up to present-day standards.

As Mrs. Moyer explains, "This is an age of keeping up educationally. Nurses are

realizing that if you graduated from nursing school in 1950, that certainly doesn't educate you for life."

Mrs. Walker agrees, "Up to ten years ago, knowledge was rather limited. But now you have to read 15 articles on nursing a week or you get behind."

CAROLINE SEIGLER, assistant director of nursing at Baptist Hospital, thinks one of the most far-reaching developments in nursing has been the new emphasis on preventive programs, a concept which Florence Nightingale expounded over a century ago.

Nursing is becoming much less "crisis oriented," she explains, and with more nurses going out in the community to teach health and hygiene, fewer people will have to undergo hospital treatment for problems that could have been prevented with proper care.

As nurses become more competent and better educated, professionals are confident that the self-image of nursing will continue to improve and that the effects will be felt in better nursing care at hospitals and public institutions.

Geraldine Labecki, a registered nurse who served as dean of Clemson University's College of Nursing predicts, "The nurse of the future will be included in all policy-making bodies. Her presence will not be mere tokenism. She or he will be employed in some of the most strategic posts to influence car. Policy-making bodies at the federal, state and local levels will look to the professional nurse for leadership in health care.

October 8

The Rev. David Bryan, pastor of Ebenezer Presbyterian Church in Rock Hill, S. C., will speak in chapel Wednesday. Bryan is a graduate of Columbia Seminary and a former basketball star at the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga. He will be in Montreat in connection with a Covenant Fellowship of Presbyterian Young Ministers conference.

October 13

A special bicentennial movie called "Beyond the Birthday" will be shown in convocation.

October 15

Bobby Richardson, former baseball star with the New York Yankees, will speak in chapel.

Jive Talkin'

by LYNN BUIE

"Jive Talkin'" is my commentary on underground happenings at M-A C. No names will be mentioned in order to protect the innocent or the guilty. The views in this column are mine and do not necessarily reflect the views of Dust in the Corner.

The newest sport at Montreat is guy watching according to a certain group of young ladies. They were rating guys on physical appearance on a scale from one to ten. According to the results, there were no tens, very few nines, and even fewer eights. So shape up guys, you are being watched!

Number 17 on the baseball team happened to be in the lobby of MA-HALL one night as a very "confident" pretty blonde freshman walked in. "Did you know she wears 'spaced panties'?" he asked me. "No, why?" I replied. "Because she thinks her derriere is 'out of this world'!"

Montreat's head cheerleader has been in the company of a promising pitcher lately. Fortunately she doesn't keep him waiting on her long agenda. He's on top!

The head cheerleader in the shoe,
Has so many admirers,
She doesn't know what to do.
Because she's tall, pretty and thin,
And always wears a grin,
She's very popular with the men.

I'm sure you have all heard the joke that goes: Q. What's the difference between Montreat women and Montreat trash cans? A. Montreat trash cans get taken out at least once a week, Montreat women don't. So ladies, if you want a date, jump in a trash can.

Attention Please! Will the owner of a certain blue '71 Nova please contact a short cheerleader with braces for pep talk.

There are two ladies in room 502 on fifth floor MA-HALL who are tired of exercising for nothing. They are waiting for results.

Not only does her afro shine, but the stars in her eyes are also shining for: He's a player, He's a singer, Dresses like a "Hollywood" swinger!

A certain president of S. G. A. commented that there are three girls to every guy on Montreat's campus. He wants to know who's the wise guy who stole his three.

This is Lynn saying hope you will be with us next time for "Jive talkin' ". Remember any opposing letters are welcome. This doesn't mean they will be read, but they are welcome. Until next time remember "Everybody is a star, your shine is just different from mine."

