

History of Nursing News

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President's Message by Kathy Murphy

As we reflect on the past year, the History of Nursing PPG can be extremely proud of the many accomplishments carried out by a dedicated group of enthusiastic nurses. The monthly meetings are filled with the reporting of the activities of the 10 committees and the Officers. Topics on the agenda of each meeting include:

- receiving and storing archives and artifacts,
- preparation and staging of displays at several sites, including the RNABC office and the UBC School of Nursing,
- production of the regular Newsletter and updating of the Web Page,
- recording of oral histories by interviews,
- research for the Memorial Books, biographies, and pages of history.

In addition, a scholarship is awarded twice a year to successful applicants and educational programs are presented for members and guests. *Continued on page 2*

The HoN Newsletter is published four times a year. Submissions for the next newsletter are welcome. Please submit articles and news to Beverly Leipert (bleipert@uwo.ca) or Beth Fitzpatrick (bethfitz@shaw.ca) by February 15, 2004.

President's Message *Continued from page 1*

Over the past year, additional energy was required to promote the resolution passed at the RNABC Annual Meeting. All Registered Nurses in B.C. are asked to donate an hour's pay toward the "Home of our Own" project, which would house B.C. Nursing's archives and artifacts.

As we look forward to the New Year, the Group will focus on fund raising for the "Home of our Own." On behalf of the Executive members, best wishes for a happy, healthy and historic 2004.

Pioneer TB Nurse: Laura Glanville McPherson**By Naomi Miller**

Kamloops was electrified with news of a train crash on the afternoon of Thursday, May 28, 1942. The Wednesday CNR passenger train No. 2 eastbound had been held up repeatedly on its journey by high water and slides. When it stopped at Avola to take on water that Thursday, No. 2 train was supposed to be 20 minutes behind. But the second train ploughed into the rear of the standing train. The solarium car in the rear was split in two. Steam lines to all cars ruptured releasing scalding spouts which burned some of the passengers. Others were thrown around in the dining car, suffering bruises and even fractures. The baggage car bulged from being rammed into the tender. Gordon McKenzie, CN chief of engineering staff out of Vancouver, was killed. A short relief train was sent out of Kamloops carrying Dr. J.S. Burris and Dr. I.G. Smillie with four nurses. Many beds were prepared at the Kamloops Hospital and extra nurses recruited.

Connie Lapadat, masters student in the UBC Nurse Practitioner Program, was awarded the Fall bursary by the History of Nursing Group's Scholarship Award Committee.

The History of Nursing Group administers a tax-deductible fund to raise money for awards for students working on history projects. The award is made twice a year. Contact Ethel Warbinek c/o Website for more information.

Pioneer TB Nurse Continued

When 92-year-old retired nurse Laura Glanville McPherson was interviewed, she told her interviewer that the train wreck and its aftermath was the most dramatic point in her career. She found a news clipping to substantiate her memory. Laura McPherson was diverted from her job at Tranquille to nurse the accident victims. One of the trauma cases was Mr. Grant Whytock of Los Angeles, California. This gentleman was a Hollywood producer. When he recovered he showed his gratitude by inviting Laura and her family to be his guests in Los Angeles. They accepted, stayed at the mansion and were driven around Hollywood on a guided tour.

Laura Glanville, born April 7, 1912, was the second child of a pioneer family in Grand Forks. Her parents operated a dairy farm four miles out of town. She had to board in town for some of her schooling or ride in a boat, wagon, or sleigh to Sand Creek School across the Granby River from the family home. On completing high school Laura enrolled at the Kelowna General Hospital. Mr. Glanville proudly drove his daughter over the dusty roads to Kelowna in his first car, a Model A Ford.

Laura graduated in 1933, receiving the General Proficiency Award, passed her Registered Nurse exams, and went to work at Tranquille, a TB Sanatorium near Kamloops. Her leadership abilities earned her a promotion to Supervisor. Staff at Tranquille lived in residences adjacent to the hospital buildings and they held occasional dances or parties in the hall. One of the guests at a staff dance was a young real estate salesman, Doug McPherson. He soon became a regular visitor, courting Miss Glanville. When Laura said, "Yes" they travelled to Mount Vernon, Washington, where they were married on the 12th of April, 1938. Laura moved out of residence and into a home in Kamloops. She purchased a small Model A Ford Coupe which she proudly drove home to visit in Grand Forks, then to commute to Tranquille. In January 1939, son Glen was born, followed by sister Sherron in December of the same year. *Continued on page 4. See Photographs on page 22.*

Pioneer TB Nurse *Continued from page 3*

Doug stayed home with his young family during the early years of World War II. Later he volunteered for the RCAF. After training he was sent to the far east, shot down behind enemy lines in Burma, rescued, and returned to civilian life in Kamloops. Laura was a respected senior nurse at Tranquille, scrubbing for some of the surgical procedures, and inspiring staff and patients during the lengthy healing period needed to overcome tuberculosis in those years.

Doug visualized greener fields at the coast and the family moved to Victoria. There Laura worked at the TB Pavilion of the Royal Jubilee Hospital from 1948 to 1950. Next it was Vancouver. Laura went on staff at Willow Chest Centre from 1951 to 1954. Then she decided it was time for a change. She passed exams so that she, too, could work in Real Estate. After about five years, however, she returned to nursing, this time at Shaughnessy Hospital.

In the late 1950's, the McPhersons bought property at Lindell beach on Cultus Lake where they built a summer cabin. Next they acquired 220 acres five miles south of the lake. They cleared the land, grew hay, and later brought in some highland cattle to turn the property into a hobby farm (which their son still owns). By this time, most of Doug's energy was going into farming, the cabin was expanded to serve as a permanent home. Laura was invited to come on staff at Coqualeetza TB hospital near Chilliwack. She worked there from 1960 to 1965 and also sold real estate in Chilliwack. The couple enjoyed their Cultus Lake home until Doug's death in 1981. Mrs. McPherson moved to Berwick Care Home in Victoria to be near her daughter.

Editorial by Bonnie Lantz

The red maple leaf flying in the November wind from the spire of the Peace Tower. The imposing gothic architecture of the Parliament Buildings, the seat of our democracy. The National War Memorial with 22 military figures straining through a soaring archway that symbolizes the passing from war into peace. The Tomb of the Unknown Soldier. Our remembrance of Canadians who gave their lives so we can enjoy the freedom we have today. And 50 Driveway, the address of CNA House where the moral voice of Canadian nurses resides.

Being in Ottawa in November engulfs one in history – a rich history that has made Canada one of the best countries in the world in which to live. CNA House is a reminder of nursing's roots. In some ways, we have come along way but in others we have not.

In health care today, the focus is on reducing costs to make health care sustainable for the future. Nurses must be included in the decisions around cuts to health care – but their voices are being stifled. Nurses are one of the most trusted professions in Canada, yet nursing work is not understood or valued by the majority of Canadians. When nurses speak out about the effects of placing non-nurses into manager positions of nursing units in hospitals, or try to express how cuts will affect patient care, or attempt to advocate for patients and families, they are silenced by having their jobs deleted. This has happened to three nurse leaders in the past two months in B.C. If nurses cannot speak out and advocate for their patients, residents, and clients, who can or will? Nursing is still oppressed.

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Book Review

Forging the Future: A History of Nursing in Canada, by Diana J. Mansell, RN, PhD. Ann Arbor, MI: Thomas Press, 2003. \$19.95 Canadian. Copies available RNABC Library.



Right off the mark, Diana Mansell says it like it is. Framing the main theme around the professionalization of nursing, Mansell captures the gist of the history of nursing in Canada as if it were a novel. From beginning to end, I was there with every nurse, every crucial milestone of our nursing's past in Canada. It might be, in part, to do with some appreciation for nursing in Canada and my age; never-the-less, this work is important for nurses and Mansell is to be commended for such a comprehensive script. Not only does the book outline the chronology of Canada's nursing history but it also has a lateral view of nursing as well.

There are four main themes: the relationship of the nurse to the physician; the relationship of the nurse to the public and communities; the public health nurses; and the private duty nurses. Interwoven through these themes is the striving of nursing leaders to understand and promote professionalism to hard-working nursing groups who are seldom able to find voice for their

Book Review Continued.

concerns. Mansell tells how groups of nurses become fragmented although there is always a need for homogeneity. Despite their dedication to the authentic, altruistic practice of nursing – the *doing* of nursing – Mansell points out how the values of the leaders are often the pitfalls of bedside nurses. The struggles of nurses through this backdrop strike home with parallels even for today's nurses. The reader begins to integrate meaning of his or her own nursing experience to those of the nurses in the book.

It is easy to identify with the nurses Mansell depicts. She draws from accounts of their lived experiences carefully, and insightfully brings to life nursing's ambiguous history. The reader nods in agreement and recognition as accounts of the health crises unfold: World War I, the Spanish Flu, World War II.

The book ends and, to the delight of this reader, Mansell adds an afterword that links our present nursing experiences with the past.

Not only is this book a must read for nurses but also the references and bibliography are outstanding and of great value. Indeed, Diana Mansell has forged the future for nursing in this most valuable and remarkably succinct account

Reviewed by Lois Blais

In Print Cynthia Toman (2003). *Officers and Ladies: Shaping the Military Nurse, 1939-1945*. In *Out of the Ivory Tower: Feminist Research for Social Change*, edited by Andrea Martinez and Meryn Stuart. Ottawa: Sumach Press and the Institute of Women's Studies at the University of Ottawa. Released, December 2003. Softcover, 312 pages. \$26.95. Available from University of Toronto Press Distribution (1-800-565-9523) or contact Sumach Press at sumachpress@on.aibn.com

The Art of Private Duty Nursing by Ferne Trout

*Ferne Trout, born 1919, now retired and a member of the History of Nursing Group, received a Bachelor of Arts from the University of B.C. (1939), a diploma from Vancouver General Hospital (1942), and a Bachelor of Applied Science in Nursing from UBC (1944). She also has a masters-equivalent Diploma in Hospital Administration from University of Toronto (1964). She had an extremely diverse early career as an emergency nurse, camp nurse, tuberculosis nurse, and later in nursing education and administration. Near the end of her career, she was Associate Executive Director of the Canadian Council on Hospital Administration (1973-78), Director, Patient Services, Shaughnessy Hospital, Vancouver (1978-80), and Director, Special Projects, Vancouver General Hospital (1980-83) before retiring and moving to Penticton. Copies of the chapters of her **Memoirs** are available in the B.C. History of Nursing Biographical Files. Copyright 2000. Excerpt used with permission of the author.*

The private rooms, private wings or private pavilions built for those who could afford them were more luxurious than the public wards. Each unit had its own bathroom, and was furnished with fancy drapes and an easy chair or two as well as the usual hospital furniture. Some were even more elaborate, extending into suites. As technology progressed, telephones, televisions and computers were added. The menus were more expansive. I worked in one private pavilion in Montreal in 1949 where meals were served from a giant steam table in the ward kitchen. The food was sent up from the Main Kitchen and two kitchen aides staffed the ward kitchen. They squeezed fresh orange juice for all the patients for breakfast and made sure the food when it arrived was properly cared for (i.e., "hot things hot and cold things cold") and ready for serving. The patients not on special diets could have anything they wished to eat. They ordered by menu but there was always roast chicken if you found nothing else to your taste, or a special order was sent to the main Kitchen and the dietitians ordered in or prepared whatever was ordered (such things as oysters-on-the-half-shell, for instance, or kosher food). The Head Nurse or her

The Art of Private Duty Nursing *Continued*

Assistant were solely responsible for “dishing up” the meals and we (staff nurses) transported the trays to the patients and ensured everything was to the patients’ satisfaction. There were, of course, no students - either nurses or dietitians - assigned to the private pavilion. The staff benefited as well; after serving the trays we helped ourselves to breakfast (complete with fresh squeezed orange juice), which we ate in the lounge. ...In contrast, the public wards at the Vancouver General Hospital where I trained contained 20 to 27 beds each. A bed unit consisted of a bed, bedside table, and one straight-backed chair. There were no over-bed tables and the units were separated by curtains. Most of the beds were ‘modern’ Gatch beds where the head and foot of the bed could be raised by cranking – but the odd one was still the old type ... and the patient was raised to a sitting position by means of a frame holding a canvas sling. A nurse got on each side and lifted the frame and the patient to the desired position. It was held in place by the frame support being slipped into notches on the bed frame. We thought we had reached the ultimate in “high-tech” when all the beds were converted to Gatch beds.

The Vancouver General Hospital had a Private Ward Pavilion staffed solely by graduate nurses. If the patient could afford it, he/she also hired a “private duty nurse.” The Registered Nurses Association of British Columbia (RNABC) at that time kept a registry of nurses who did nothing but private duty nursing. The Registry checked their credentials, evaluated them and did all the “bookings.” Doctors or patients could request certain nurses, and nurses could request certain types of cases. During “the Depression,” most nurses were happy to take any case they could get. The pay was \$7.00 a shift. As University students-in-training, we were exposed to all services VGH had to offer and included was a two-week stint in the Private Ward Pavilion “specialling a patient.” I was given my assignment to this service in my senior year. My patient, Mr. Kirk (not his real name) had Buerger’s Disease. He was not suffering a great deal and my duties were not onerous. With only one patient to look after it was a holiday as far as I was concerned. One thing I do recall was a specific

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100 Years of Nursing in Germany - 1828 - 1927

The History of Nursing Group's fall program, given on November 15 by **Inga Von Maydell**, focused on origins of professional nursing in Germany from 1828 to 1927. Inga's presentation was based mainly on three remarkable, rare books, all in German. Drawing on a biography of Friederike Fliedner (1800-1842), the first part of the presentation dealt with the founding of Kaiserswerth (1828 to 1842).

Although nursing histories available in English give most of the credit for Kaiserswerth to Theodore Fliedner, Inga made it clear that this was a remarkable partnership and that Friederike initiated most of the advances that led to the development of the Kaiserswerth nursing education program.

The Fleidners opened Kaiserswerth in 1828 originally as a refuge for women discharged from prisons in the area. The program soon proved that, with a sound nutritional and educational program, these women could develop into citizens capable of making major contributions, especially as deaconesses (lay nurses) caring for the sick and destitute. With Theodore as fund-raiser and promotional expert, Friederike eventually had nursing programs in 11 centres throughout Germany, all of them focusing on principles of nursing care, cleanliness, nutrition, and improved conditions for caregivers as well as for patients. If new programs did not allow enough funds to support the standards recommended by Friederike, she had no qualms about closing the programs and bringing her deaconesses back to the main centre in Kaiserswerth, where her nurses were much in demand elsewhere.

Unfortunately, Inga has not yet extended her research into what happened at Kaiserswerth after Fredericke's death in 1842 – and that would be a wonderful story to “round out” the amazing contributions of this school to development of nursing education in Britain and other English-speaking countries. Florence Nightingale went to Kaiserswerth in 1848 and used many of its principles in establishing her changes in England.

100 years of Nursing in Germany *Continued from page 11*

The next part of Inga's presentation centred on contributions of Agnes Krall (1868- 1927), a determined young woman who took a nursing program, then set out to improve standards of nursing in Germany. A chance trip with a grateful patient to the United States allowed her to spend three months learning English and seeing what was happening in nursing in America. She had the opportunity to meet with Ethel (Gordon) Benford-Fenwick of Britain and several North American nursing leaders, including Lavinia Dock and M. Adelaide Nutting, and to discuss progress on the development of the International Council of Nursing. Krall returned to Germany, established standards for nursing education, and initiated registration. She was so successful in organizing and developing nursing in Germany that the German Nurses Association was able to host the 1904 ICN meeting in Berlin and Agnes Krall became ICN's third president.

The presentation provided extraordinary food for thought, including Inga's comments on the decline of professional nursing in Germany following Agnes Krall's death.

The Nurses Alumnae Association of the Vancouver General Hospital co-hosted this interesting program and provided refreshments and a tour of the VGH Archives for those attending. *See photograph on page 23.*

CAHN/ACHN Annual Conference 2006**St. Paul's Hospital, Vancouver****June 8-20, 2006**

Theme for the conference will be "The Frontline Nurse: Historical Milestones." Chair is Sheila Zerr. A planning committee is formed, if you would like to participate contact Sheila Zerr.

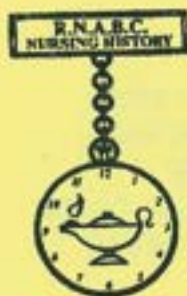
A Probationer's Life ... 1900 - 1902

By Gertrude "Billie" Wilshire Buckland

Gertrude Nellie Wilshire (later Buckland), known as "Billie" to friends, was born in Sydney, Australia, in 1881. She and her sister attended a fashionable girls' school and had just graduated when their father died in 1889. To help ease the financial burden, Billie decided to train as a nurse but it took time to get accepted. She took a job as a probie (probationer) at the Molong District Cottage Hospital. In 1959, Billie wrote down memories of some of her experiences and sent them to her sister. These memoirs were passed down to Kirstine Buckland Griffith, a daughter-in-law of Billie and one of our History of Nursing Group members. Selected excerpts from Billie's recollections, compiled by Beth Fitzpatrick, follow. We hope to print further excerpts in future issues. – Ed.

I can remember too well my own insecure feelings in that nerve racking time when I was in my first weeks in the Molong District Hospital, for although we were quite a long distance away, the Governors were reported to be here, there, everywhere in New South Wales, and no one knew where they would turn up next and commit more murders. The papers came in the evening and we read of the terrible massacres and the dreadful fear of the people on the stations. *(Editor's note: The Governor brothers were aboriginal bushrangers who in 1900 went on a murderous three-month rampage killing 10 people.)*

I was put on night duty alone in that 20-bed hospital, a sprawling building with two wards opening on to verandahs, and a lattice-covered walk from the building to the kitchen. There were no big trees, or garden or high fence, the hospital stood on a bare hill a mile and a half from the town, and oh! those sounds in the night to my young imaginative ears! I really went through a horrible time of fear, and loneliness, and bewilderment. *Continued on page 13*



**B.C. HISTORY OF NURSING
PROFESSIONAL PRACTICE GROUP**

P.O. Box 872082, RPO Sasamat

Vancouver, B.C. V6R 4P2

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MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL January-December 2004

Dear History of Nursing Member

It's that time of year again – time to pay membership fees for January 1 to December 31 of 2004. Last year was a record year, with 135 members. We hope you are one of our “satisfied members” and will renew.

This year we again enclosed the Renewal Form in the Newsletter as a cost-saving measure. Pull out the four centre pages, and mail the form with your cheque. (The back of this letter page is an order form for History of Nursing Note Cards, in case you wish to order these at the same time.) If we have not heard from you by February, we will send a “reminder” letter.

Fees remain same, and for this you receive four *Newsletters* and a Membership List (mailed about June). We also hope you will be able to attend our Annual General Meeting (held in conjunction with the RNABC Annual Meeting so more out-of-town members might be able to attend) and any of the Executive meetings, which are usually held the first Thursday of each month at the RNABC offices in Vancouver. As well, there are usually four “programs” held in the Vancouver area each year; details about these are included in the *Newsletters*. If you have a computer, check our Web site (see address above).

If you would like further information, please get in touch with me. We do hope you will renew.

Membership Chair: Glennis Zilm

Phone 604-535-3238 E-mail Glennis1@aol.com



NOTE CARD ORDER FORM - 2004

COST IS \$10 FOR A PACKAGE OF 8 CARDS (includes taxes)
SHIPPING AND HANDLING IS EXTRA -- \$2.50 FOR 1 PACKAGE,
AND ADD \$1 FOR EACH ADDITIONAL PACKAGE
FOR LARGER ORDERS, PLEASE INQUIRE ABOUT SPECIAL RATES
CARDS MAY ALSO BE PURCHASED AT THE RNABC LIBRARY
TO SAVE SHIPPING CHARGES

I would like to order the following:

	No. of Packages	Total
<input type="checkbox"/> Nursing Sister Memorial Stained Glass Window	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Christ Church Cathedral Stained Glass Window	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Lennie Marble Sculpture (Shaughnessy)	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Florence Nightingale Stained Glass Window	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Mixture: 2 of each of above cards	_____	_____
Shipping and Handling		_____
Total (Cheque enclosed)		\$ _____
(Make cheque payable to History of Nursing Group)		

For savings on larger orders, please enquire from the Treasurer.

Send Cards to:

Name _____

Address _____

City / Province _____ Postal Code _____

Cards may be viewed on our Web site at www.bcnursinghistory.ca

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL January-December 2004

It's time to renew your membership in the B.C. History of Nursing Group for 2004.
Check the type of Membership that applies:

- ☐ **Full** (RNABC members who pay practicing or non-practicing fees) **\$30.00**
☐ **Affiliate** (all other eligible nurses, individuals, or groups) **\$30.00**
☐ **Student** **\$ 5.00**

Please print your name and address as you wish it to appear on the mailing label. Your name and city will be published in the Membership Directory, which is sent to members about June. However, the B.C. Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act, RSBC 1996, C165, s30 states that groups that maintain membership lists "must protect personal information by making reasonable security arrangements against such risks as unauthorized access, collection, use, disclosure or disposal." Please indicate clearly each other item of information that you are willing to have published in the Directory.

Publish in Directory
Yes

Name _____
(Your name will be published)

Address _____

City / Province _____
(Your home city will be published)

Postal Code _____

Phone (Indicate whether home or work) _____
(Only one telephone number will be published.)

E-mail _____

Make cheque payable to: History of Nursing Professional Practice Group
Forward by March 1, 2004 to:

B.C. History of Nursing Group (Attn: Faye Meuser, Treasurer)
P.O. Box 872082, RPO Sasamat, Vancouver, B.C. V6R 4P2

INFORMATION ABOUT YOU (For use by Executive):

We would welcome information about History of Nursing projects on which you are working, especially if you would like to be in touch with other Group members with similar interests. For example: Were/ Are you a member of Canada's Military Medical Corps? Are you a student working on a thesis or dissertation related to History of Nursing? Are you actively involved with a School of Nursing Alumnae Association (and which one)? Would you like to be involved in a project – and if so in which area? Can we publish this information in the *Newsletter*?

I would be interested in serving on one or more of the following committees during 2004:

Archives	_____	Membership	_____
Biography	_____	Programs	_____
Memorial Portraits	_____	Nominations for Memorial Books	_____
Newsletter/ Editorial	_____	"Pages of History"	_____
Oral History	_____	Displays	_____

Please Remember: All members are welcome to attend Executive meetings, which usually are held on the first Thursday each month at RNABC. However, to be sure, please telephone a member of the Executive to check date, place, and time.

Office Use:

Received: _____ Receipt Sent: _____ Entered Member List: _____ Label Made: _____

A Probationer's Life

The Hospital had two wards, in which there were 12 beds in the male sections and eight beds in the women's section. Operations were done at the end of the men's ward in a large bow window with screens dividing it from the ward. Medical, surgical, D.T.'s and what would now be known as psychiatric cases, all filled the men's ward. Medical, surgical, and maternity filled the women's ward.

Our staff consisted of a rather young Matron who was in her middle thirties, a graduate nurse, and a trained maternity regular nurse, as well as myself, a probationer. Dr. Lamb, a typical English gentleman who was the senior practitioner, lived in the township as also did Dr. Leach, a boisterous Irishman who did most of the operations. Both were married and had nice homes of their own. There were no orderlies to help with the heavy work of lifting. We worked all hours when a baby came or an accident or unexpected operation occurred.

For 25 pounds a year I worked from 6 AM to 8 PM at which time all patients were treated and given an evening drink before the lights were turned out. Sometimes it was 9 o'clock before we were finished. We had two and a half hours off if we could get our work done, usually between 1:30 and 4 PM. This was frequently not possible. The graduate nurse and I took turns for night duty from 6 PM to 8 AM.

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REMINDER

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP FEES ARE NOW DUE!

A Probationer's Life *Continued from page 13*

We had no electric lighting, nor hot water laid on. Every drop had to be carried from the kitchen. That trellis-covered walk to the kitchen at the end of the hospital was my horror on my nights on duty. Wind or rain, and flurries of snow in the winter beat through the old lattice with its poor gates held by a latch inside. One night, before the Governors were captured, I was sure I heard someone fumbling with the latch as I hurried by with my kerosene lantern to get something from the dark kitchen.

Saturday was always a very busy day cleaning verandahs and windows, and polishing the passages. We had no male assistance. We had a big heater in each ward for which we cut chips of wood in our spare time at a big woodpile in the yard.

There was a very inadequate laundry. Soiled sheets, pillow slips, towels and patients' bed garments we put each morning in one of the two baths and we washed them out in our spare time. There was no sewerage and the sanitary arrangements were appalling. Behind each ward were toilets with two cans under separate seats. The nurse and I took turns week about to take those four cans away daily on a wheel-barrow (two trips) to a deep pit beyond the back garden shrubs where we emptied them and dusted them thoroughly with unslacked lime kept in a little shed. Rain or snow, or sweltering hot days, this had to be done at 6 AM before we went on duty.



A Probationer's Life *Continued from page 14*

We had a morgue close behind the hospital and I can remember four deaths when I was alone on night duty. After laying them out, Matron helped carry the bodies to the morgue with a kerosene lantern to light the way.

I don't really know what kept me going, except that I had to work and fill in the time until I was 20, when I was to go to Sydney Hospital for training. I had wonderful health and strength and a longing to be a doctor some day.

Photograph page 14. **Nursing Graduate Sydney Hospital C. 1900.**

The appeal of this photograph lies in the charming subject matter. The wealth of detail is provided in the nurse's uniform. Note the intricate folding in the cap and the crisp high collar with the hospital badge. See the fine needlework in the apron bib. Note the scissors, watch and the smelling salts attached to the nurse's wide belt.

CAHN Report

The Executive and Committees of the Canadian Association for the History of Nursing (CAHN/ACHN) met by teleconference November 19. The meeting was chaired by newly elected president Anne- Marie Arseneau. Highlights from the committee reports:

- Membership stands at 94
- Scholarships for 2003 have been awarded.
- Associated Medical Society will continue to fund the Hannah Lecture series.
- CNA has not issued a final draft of the position statement on nursing history.

The Long-Range Planning Committee, chaired by Marg Gorrie, shared the report on the forthcoming meetings (see Coming Events).

- Submitted by Sheila Zerr

Editorial Continued from Page 5

History is a great teacher if the lessons are used. Lessons from the past show nurse leaders are critical to safe patient outcomes. Patients go to hospitals for nursing care. There needs to be enough qualified nurses and credible nursing leadership to enable nurses to carry out nursing care. As recently as the 1990s, half of Canada's nursing workforce was casualized and many nurses left the profession, the province, and the country because they could not get jobs in B.C. due to fiscal restraint.

By 2006, B.C. could loose as many as 8,700 nurses to retirement. Our focus must be on the retention of our experienced nurses. But this is not happening. We are repeating past errors. Nurses are described as the backbone of the health care system and history supports it. Canadian politicians and health care administrators must start attending to the lessons of our history to ensure that the future of health care is not only sustainable financially but that it listens to nurses when making changes that affect patient care.

CAHN/ACHN Annual Conference 2005**(Canadian Museum of Civilization or hotel in area)****Ottawa, June 17-19, 2005**

This conference will be held in conjunction with the opening of the Canadian Museum of Civilization's Nursing History Display (June 16, 2005). This major exhibition will cover the history of nursing in Canada from New France to the present. It will be called *The Caring Profession*. Chair for the conference is Lynn Kirkwood (one of the BC HoN Group's affiliate members).

The Art of Private Duty Nursing *Continued from page 9*

task: I was to be sure and get the flowers sent by his 'girlfriend' out of the room and safely hidden before his wife arrived to visit - back again before the lady friend arrived.

It was our graduation year and a dance was coming up, given in honour of the graduating class by the intermediate class. This was a VGH traditional part of the graduation functions and therefore very important. Everyone on the ward knew about it and when the great day came Mr. Kirk whispered to me to be sure to come and see him before I left the ward. He was going to contribute a bottle of wine to the festivities. The graduate staff were all urging me to leave early and assuring me that they would take good care of Mr. Kirk. So I was faced with the dilemma of how to smuggle a bottle of wine out of the hospital to the residence without getting caught. I was feeling guilty because I knew it was wrong - we had been taught never to accept "gifts" from patients. On the other hand, how could I hurt his feelings! In the end my baser instincts won. I devised a plan. I had given my report in detail on the current status of Mr. Kirk's health to the graduates who were pushing me out the door so to speak. I had my cape on ready to go. Suddenly I said, "Oh! My cuffs, I must have left them in Mr. Kirk's room" It was a rule never to leave the ward without your sleeves rolled down and your cuffs in place. I rushed off. Mr. Kirk whipped the bottle of wine out from under his foot cradle and in a

twinkle it was under my cape and I was gone. As I recall, we had a wonderful evening.

I graduated in 1942 and worked in the Powell River General Hospital for the summer. In the fall I returned to University to complete my degree in Applied Science (Nursing). Halfway through my senior year at university, I was diagnosed as having tuberculosis and spent a year in the Sanitarium at Tranquille—a very

Continued on page 22

Membership Report

In 2000, the History of Nursing Group once again broke its membership record (set last year). There are now 135 members - and members paid since October are considered paid for the 2004 membership year. All others should note the coloured insert in this Newsletter as the Annual Fee for members are due January 1.

The membership Chair now has the Group's first ever committee. Four people, Genelle Leifso, Don Ransom, Beth Fitzpatrick and June Pratt volunteered to help. This is fortunate because the Summer Workshop Meeting of the Executive recommended an aggressive campaign to attract more full members. We would appreciate help from all the HoN members in this campaign, and ask you to let the Chair know of anyone who should be approached to join. Or, if you would rather, you can request copies of the Group brochure and membership application form and approach the individual yourself.

If you wish to suggest names, or need brochures, please contact Chair, Glennis Zilm at 604 535-3238, or by e-mail (Glennisl@aol.com).

Members for the Executive Needed!

Don't be surprised if someone calls you in the next few months to ask if you would be willing to serve on the History of Nursing Executive. There are three vacant positions: President, Vice-President and Member-at-Large. Elections take place at the meeting and candidates must be full members of the History Group. If you are interested, contact Beth Fitzpatrick, Past President at 1-604-898-3156 or by e-mail (bethfitz@shaw.ca).

CAHN/ACHN Annual Conference 2004**York University, Toronto,****June 11-13, 2004**

Keynote Speaker is Dr. Dan Hickey, University of Monston, a specialist in history of hospitals in pre-revolutionary France. Chair for the Conference is Dr. Kathryn McPherson.

The deadline for call for abstracts for papers for this conference is January 15, 2004 Registration is \$175.00. Information is available at www.ualberta.ca/~jhibberd/_ACHN which is the website.

Marie (Sorenson) Montgomery died in early December at the age of 81. She was a graduate of both Vancouver General Hospital and University of BC Schools of Nursing. We extend our sympathies to her family.

News Item

The Board of the Canadian Nurses Association approved the draft of a Position Statement on Nursing History at its November meeting. The draft statement includes background, key concepts and references. During the summer, provincial associations, interested groups and individuals will be invited to comment on the draft.

Nursing History Exhibition June 2005

The Canadian Museum of Civilization in Ottawa/Hull is preparing a Nursing History Display that will be launched in 2005. This major exhibition, to be called *The Caring Profession*, will cover the history of nursing in Canada from New France to the present. Nurses will be shown in every environment that they work, hospital, home, community, frontier and battlefield.

Plans call for a version of this exhibition to be toured across Canada from late 2005 through to 2008; the latter date marks the 100th anniversary of the founding of the Canadian Nurses Association.

The museum also plans to launch its *Canadian History Collection On-line* in 2004. Users will be able to browse through the collections housed in the Canadian Museum of Civilization and the Canadian War Museum in this "virtual museum".

The Canadian Nurses Foundation's "Lighting the Lamp" campaign has raised \$127 900.00 to help support the collection.

CNA has sent a submission to the Stamp Advisory Committee of Canada Post to request a special stamp be issued in 2008 celebrating the 100th anniversary of the Canadian Nurses Association
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Member News

Marg Gorrie, Recently moved to New Westminster and joined our Group, has been named Vice President of the Canadian Association for the History of Nursing. **Carol Helmstadter**, one of our affiliate members, is past president.

New member, **Sarah Baker**, moved to Saanich this summer and looks forward to hearing about early nursing on the Island.

Jessie Mantle passed along a recent article related to Florence Nightingale's health. As you may know, physicians and historians since her death have debated and theorized on, with no definitive diagnosis, the cause of her post-Crimean illness, which caused her to retire to her London apartments and generally isolate herself. Brucellosis, a tuberculosis-like bacterial infection commonly passed through cow's milk, has been the theory of choice in most recent medical articles. However, Dr. Mirkin's theory is that she suffered from bipolar disorder, which he believes would account for her severe mood swings and "the fact that she could be so incredibly productive and so sick at the same time".

Affiliate Member **Carol Helmstadter**, past president of CAHN, received the Lavinia L. Dock Award from the American Association of the History of Nursing.

Laura GJanville McPherson*Continued from page 3***Private Duty Nursing** *Continued from page 17*

Pleasant place to be if you had tuberculosis in those days. Upon my release I finished my university year and was offered a job at the Division of Tuberculosis Control as the Student Instructor. It was an ideal position for me at the time as I was still undergoing pneumothorax treatments. The salary was excellent - \$150 a month. All tuberculosis facilities in the province were either provincially or federally funded. By contract, VGH as the municipal hospital was funded by the city. My apartment mates (both university graduates, one clinical instructor and the other a head nurse at VGH) received considerably less.

100 Years of Nursing in Germany Continued from page 11.

Friederike Receives Two Probationers

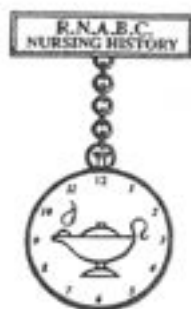
"Gar zwei auf einmal"

Fahrbuch für Christliche Unterhaltung, Kaiserwerth, 1894



History Group executive meetings are usually held the first Thursday of every month at the RNABC offices. They begin at 4:00 p.m. and end about 6:00 pm. All members are welcome to attend. For further information, call President Kathy Murphy at 604 739-6931 or check the Website.

Regular meetings of the Archival Development Sub-committee occur monthly at the History of Nursing Office at UBC. If you are interested in working on this committee, call Lois Blais at 604 224-5130.



**B.C. History of Nursing Group
Annual General Meeting
2004
Hyatt Hotel, Vancouver
Monday, April 5, 2004.**

Notice is hereby given of the forthcoming Annual General Meeting of the B.C. History of Nursing Group to be held at the Hyatt Hotel, Vancouver, on Monday, April 5, 2004. The meeting will be held during the meeting of the Registered Nurses Association of B.C. Further information will be in the next Newsletter or can be obtained from members of the Executive.