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*September Get-Together***"MISSION'S LIVING MEMORIALS"****A History of Health Care and the****Story of the Hospitals in Mission, B.C.****Saturday, September 12, 1992, 2:00 PM****Mission Memorial Hospital, Mission, B.C.**

The September Get-Together for the History Group will be held at the Mission Memorial Hospital in Mission on Saturday, September 12, 1992 at 2:00 p.m. This is a special "out-of-town" event, but we hope that many of the Vancouver-area members will also try to attend. Most members of the executive are attending and will be driving up to Mission on the Saturday morning; if you would like to attend and need a ride, please call one of the executive and we will try to arrange the car pools. (Telephone numbers are in the membership list enclosed with this newsletter.)

Betty Robertson, one of our members and co-author of the forthcoming book Mission's Living Memorials, is arranging the event. We will receive a "preview" of the book, which is to be officially released in October. The book covers 100 years of health care in the Mission area and describes the building of the three hospitals from several points of view.

Co-authors Catherine Marcellus and Betty Dandy will also be on hand. Slides from some of the 77 photographs collected for the book will be shown. Those who are interested in learning about an historical book project will have a splendid opportunity to discuss this with the authors.

Our Mission hosts will also arrange for a visit to the "Founder's Corner," a permanent display of historical artifacts located in the hospital.

The executive committee is planning to drive up on the morning and hold a brief executive meeting over lunch at the Heritage Lodge. This group will meet there with Betty Robertson at 11:45 a.m.

All members are welcome to attend the executive meeting as well, but if you do plan to do so, please let us know so that lunch arrangements (Dutch treat) can be made. See you there!



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• NEWS FROM THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE •

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Brief items from the meeting of the Executive Committee, July 28, 1992:

\* Brainstorming Session on Funding Sources: The main item of business was a brainstorming session of possible sources for funds to support history of nursing in B.C. For more than a year now, the Executive has been looking for ways to receive donations of money (and, possibly, valuable nursing history artifacts) and provide donors with receipts that would they would be able to use for tax deductions. The idea behind this investigation was to provide a history of nursing fund that could finance education *and research into history of nursing and history of nursing projects.*

The original investigation led to the Registered Nurses Foundation of B.C. -- but a major drawback of this move is that the RNF wants major injections (\$50,000) before it will ear-mark funds for specific projects and it is not interested in artifact collection at all.

Several members reported back on investigations into criteria for involvement with such groups as the Canadian Association for the History of Nursing, the Hannah Foundation, and B.C. Heritage Trust. Although several sources for funds for individual specific projects were identified, the Executive will continue to investigate possibilities for charitable tax status.

\* Finances: Treasurer Nina Rumen reported the Group has approximately \$600 in the

bank, with another \$1,500 in a term deposit for the education/research fund. Sale of the Nursing Sister cards seems to be going well, albeit slowly. (All members of the Executive Committee have cards for sale!)

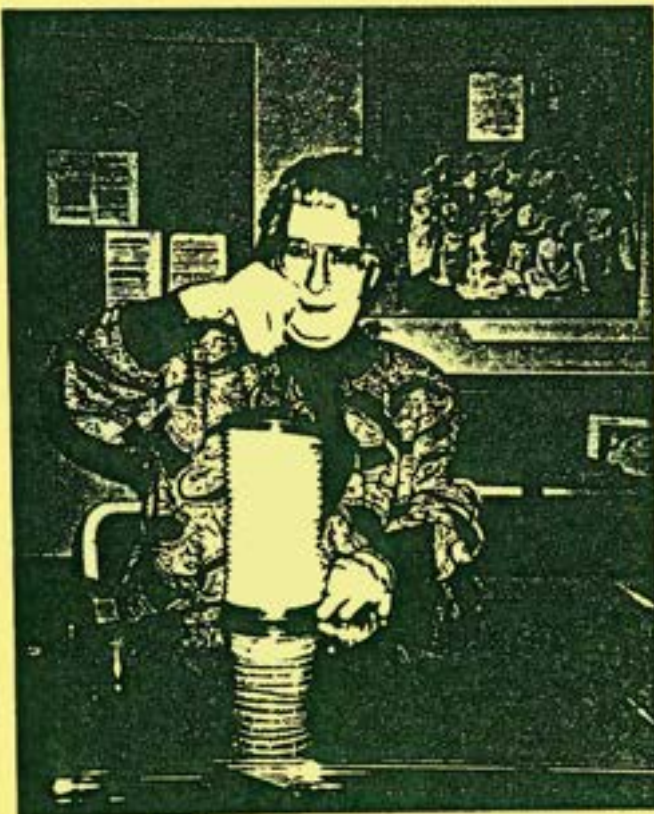
\* Membership: Current membership stands at 46 regular, 13 affiliate, 2 honorary, and 3 student members. Total: 64. (Compared with last year's 77 members.) Because this is a "short year" (the annual meeting approved a change in membership year to the calendar year rather than April 1 to March 31), the membership likely will not increase much more. The membership list is to be distributed to members with this Newsletter. If you know of someone who might be interested in joining the Group, please advise Membership Chair Diana Ritchie.

\* Request for Letter of Support: The Executive received a request for a letter of support from Myrna Robinson of Vernon, who plans to proceed with work on a nursing history book. The request did not identify the funding sources that Ms. Robinson wished to approach, but the Executive asked President Helen Shore to provide a reply suggesting general support for work on historical nursing projects.

\* Forthcoming Meetings: Plans for the September and October general meetings were discussed. Executive meetings will be held in conjunction with these fall get-togethers. Members who wish to attend executive meetings should get in touch with the president.



**\*\* NEWS \* NEWS \* NEWS \* NEWS \*\***



**ALBERTA ASSOCIATION GETS  
SCUTARI LANTERN**

The Museum and Archives of the Alberta Association of Registered Nurses, in Edmonton, has received, as a donation, a rare and priceless Turkish candle lamp carried by the nurses with Florence Nightingale during the Crimean War.

The photograph at left shows Shirley Stinson, one of our B.C. Group's affiliate

members, demonstrating the lamp in the Alberta RN Archives. Contrary to most illustrations showing the "nursing lamp," (including our logo) the lanterns used by Florence Nightingale and her nurses in Crimea would have been this shape. The soft, "accordion-like" tube folds into a flat metal piece that holds the candle, but when the lamp was carried or hung by a bedside, the flame was protected.

The Alberta lamp was a gift to the AARN by Dr. Winston O. Backus of Sylvan Lake, Alberta, in honor of his wife. The lamp had been given to the late Mrs. Valmai Backus when she was a student nurse in London, England, by a patient who was the grand-daughter of Mary Stanley. Mary Stanley was an associate of Florence Nightingale; she led a second group of nurses to the Crimean War hospitals in October 1854. Although Florence Nightingale rejected most of the new nurses, Mary Stanley remained and superintended nurses at the Koulali Hospital.

The lamp is one of only three Florence Nightingale lamps known to exist in the world. It is similar to one on display in the Nightingale Museum in London. Dr. Backus had been approached to give the lamp to the Smithsonian Museum in Washington, DC. However, he wished the precious item to be on display for nurses in Alberta.

The AARN had to raise more than \$20,000 to improve security and display the  
(Continued on page 4)



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**\*\* MORE NEWS \* NEWS \* NEWS \*\***

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lamp safely in its Archives. Nursing Alumni groups throughout the province were approached for donations to help finance the improvements. The lamp went on display for public viewing during Nurses' Week, May 11-17, 1992. If you are in Edmonton, you may wish to make a special visit to the AARN offices to see the lamp and the other Archival and Artifacts collection.

*(Written by Glennis Zilm from information from the AARN and from the AARN Newsletter. Vol. 48, No. 6, June 1992. Photo courtesy of Shirley Stinson.)*

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**\* ORAL HISTORY COMMITTEE \***

The Oral History Volunteer Group, a committee of the History of Nursing Group, coordinates the RNABC Oral History tapes, arranges new interviews, and helps organize the tapes collection. This small group of hard-working volunteers holds regular meetings separate from the main group. The RNABC Library has computerized the oral history listings as part of its main catalogue. Tapes of more than 75 interviews are available.

Summer projects for the Oral History Committee members included working on summaries of existing tapes to improve them and standardize the headings so that better cross-referencing can be done.

The next oral history group meeting is September 23, 1992, 3 to 5 pm. If you are

interested in joining this group, or if you wish to recommend that an interview be done with someone, please get in touch with Chair Sheila Zerr (see Membership List).

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**GAME: ANSWERS**

The answers to the game published in the June issue (page 7) are:

1. Year of first strike by B.C. nurses: 1939
2. Year federal Medical Insurance Act went into effect - in Canada and in B.C.: 1968
3. Year last B.C. hospital-based school of nursing (Vancouver General) closed: 1989
4. Year Sisters of St. Anne - first "trained" nurses - arrived in B.C., at Victoria: 1858
5. Year "Weir Report" was released: 1932
6. Year Graduate Nurses Association of B.C. was established: 1912
7. Year labor relations division separated from RNABC and became BCNU: 1982
8. Year B.C. first got a Registered Nurses Act: 1918
9. Year first university nursing program established in Canada (at UBC): 1919
10. Year first public health legislation passed in B.C.: 1869.



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\*\* BOOK REVIEWS \*\*

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The Visionaries 1916-1991, by Arlee Hoyt McGee. Fredericton, N.B.: Nurses Association of New Brunswick, 1992. [Illustrated, Bilingual, 196 pp.]

*Reviewed by Ethel Warbinek*

On April 29, 1916, New Brunswick became the third province to enact nursing legislation and 114 eligible nurses formed the New Brunswick Association of Graduate Nurses (NBAGN). This was followed in 1924 by establishing the New Brunswick Association of Registered Nurses (NBARN) and in 1984 the name was changed again to Nurses Association of New Brunswick (NANB).

1991 thereby marked the 75th Anniversary of the Association and Arlee McGee prepared the book to mark this historical event. As she states in the preface, "the joy and honor in compiling this book ... is founded in my understanding of the importance of the preservation and utilization of nursing's rich history, particularly in relation to the position of women in society."

The book begins with a series of anecdotes that describe the earliest recorded experiences of N.B. nurses, such as those of Elizabeth Innes, who provided nursing care to "civilians, sailors and soldiers in the city of Saint John long before the influence of Florence Nightingale." McGee describes these women as "visionaries," who set the stage for those who were to follow.

The first meeting of the Association was held in a doctor's office because "renting a heated room was too expensive." The Association has had several homes over the years until 1991, when it moved into a two-storey brick office building in downtown Fredericton.

Each Association president, from Arthur-etta Branscombe (1916-1917) to Claire Leblanc (1989-1991), is recognized. Photographs of those in office for the last 50 years are included. Historical notes provide valuable insights into the various trials, tribulations, and recurring challenges facing nursing throughout the years. During Irene Leckie's tenure (1968-1970), for example, RNs managed to get the starting salary raised 15% -- to \$430 a month -- and Leckie's address the annual meeting was titled "The Extended Role of the Nurse in the Community."

NANB has the distinction of making the first provincial donation to the Canadian Nurses Foundation and, in 1949, it was the first provincial association to include a subscription to The Canadian Nurse in its registration fees.

As McGee states, "nursing has always been the backbone of community service and its respect and appreciation for the contributions of other health workers lies deep."

One chapter on the history of schools of nursing traces the beginnings of N.B. nursing (continued on page 6)



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**\*\* MORE BOOK REVIEWS \*\***

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ing education at the Saint John General, established in 1890, through to the opening of the University of N.B. School of Nursing in 1965. At present there are no master's programs in nursing in the province, but in 1991 the proposal for an all-university educational system for nurses by the year 2000 was endorsed by Premier Frank McKenna.

McGee concludes this historical view of nursing in New Brunswick by stating: "Listening to its membership for 75 years, the NANB has set its sight on a specific direction -- one vision that allows its nurses to live up to their nursing potential. May the future continue to bless this Association with strong, determined and united Visionaries."

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History of Nursing Beginning Bibliography: A Proemial List with Special Reference to Canadian Sources, by Shirley M. Stinson, Joy L. Johnson, and Glennis Zilm. Edmonton: University of Alberta School of Nursing, June 1992. [Softcover, 97 pp. Price \$12, including postage.]

*Reviewed by Ethel Warbinek*

This useful bibliography contains 1001 entries and is the first published list of references pertaining to the history of nursing with special reference to Canada. The book, as the authors state, "covers a broad spectrum of works related to the history and politics of nursing." It is divided into five major sections: social

context; professional context; professionalization and deprofessionalization; functional foci; and special reference materials. This last section would be of special value to the novice historian. Inclusion of an index of referenced authors and a subject index helps users locate pertinent materials. This reference should prove invaluable for those interested in the history of nursing, including educators, students, and researchers. Copies available from: University of Alberta Faculty of Nursing, 3rd Floor, Clinical Sciences Building, University of Alberta, Edmonton T6G 2G3.

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**\* COMING EVENT \***

The 10th annual Conference of the American Association for the History of Nursing will be held in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, Oct. 1-3, 1993. The conference provides a forum for sharing historical research on nursing and includes presentations of papers as well as other opportunities for learning and sharing historical interests. A call for papers has been issued, with a deadline for submission of Jan. 15, 1993. History Group members who want more details should write or phone the Newsletter editor.

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**\* CONDOLENCES \***

We extend sympathy to Betty Robinson, whose husband died in June, and to Brenda Flynn, whose mother died in June.



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**\*\* MORE NEWS \* NEWS \* NEWS \*\***

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## **WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH**

October 1992 has been designated the first annual Women's History Month by the Ministry Responsible for the Status of Women. Groups across Canada are asked to celebrate the achievements of Canadian women during this month and to consider starting projects that would honor women who have made special contributions.

October was chosen as the month to honor women's history because it represents the anniversary of the famous ruling on the "Persons Case." When women were first appointed by the provinces as police magistrates and judges (Helen Gregory MacGill of B.C. was the first woman judge appointed in B.C., in 1917), some lawyers challenged their appointments on the basis that women were not "persons" as defined by the British North America Act of 1867.

This controversy affected a request for a woman to be appointed to the Canadian Senate. Four prominent Alberta women in 1928 asked the Supreme Court of Canada to rule on the matter -- and the Court ruled that women were not persons under the Act. The Canadian women then petitioned the Privy Council of Great Britain, which at that time had jurisdiction over Canadian law. The British Privy Council decision, handed down October 18, 1929, ruled women were indeed persons and qualified to hold office.

As Canadian author Nellie McClung, one of the major players in the "Persons Case,"

once said: "People must know the past to understand the present and face the future."

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## **ANNUAL MEETING 1993**

The annual meeting and conference of the Registered Nurses Association of B.C. for 1993 will once again be held in April, but the Association is planning some changes to the format. The conference is to be titled "Nursing in Transition" and the Association will ask the Professional Practice Groups (of which the History of Nursing Group is one) to take part in a one-hour workshop during the meeting as well as to host a "display table" on only one day of the Conference.

The HoN Executive decided to take advantage of the Association's invitation to take part in the conference; our membership drive and sale of the Nursing Sister cards benefits greatly from our participation with the parent group. And our annual meeting will once again be held at the same time as RNABC's annual meeting.

However, the History Group Executive is considering plans for a longer, expanded History Group meeting so that more work by our members can be presented. If you have thoughts about the format for our annual meeting, please get in touch with President Helen Shore or Vice-President Ethel Warbinek. (See membership list for phone numbers and addresses.)

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• PIONEER NURSES OF VANCOUVER •

*By Helen Shore, RN, BSN, MA*

This brief article is adapted from the Abstract presented with the poster display at the First International History of Nursing Conference, Saint John, N.B., June 17-20, 1992. These two nurses were nominated by the B.C. History of Nursing Group for inclusion in the Memorial Book of the Canadian Nurses Association.



Sister Frances Redmond



Isabelle Maud Hill

**Sister Frances Redmond  
(1854-1932)**

Sister Frances was an Englishwoman married to Dr. William Charles Redmond, Royal Naval Reserve. The family emigrated to Canada and, when the children were old enough, Mrs. Redmond trained as a nurse and midwife at Laval University. She also trained as an Anglican deaconess.

In 1887, she was invited to come to Vancouver, where she became the first district nurse, practising midwifery and

nursing women and children in their homes. Sister Frances and Father Clinton built St. Luke's Hospital in 1888 (connected to St. James' Anglican Church) and it then served as a base for nursing services to the community. Sister Frances commenced the first training school for nurses in Vancouver, taught the students, and supervised their clinical work. Before long, St. Luke's provided not only nursing in the hospital but also in a district that extended to Hope and Lilloet, 100 miles away.

She opened a soup kitchen to feed the hungry in Vancouver. She organized the Guild of St. Agatha, the first Anglican women's organization in Vancouver, and served as its first president.

Sister Frances was awarded a Good Citizens Medal, presented by the Native Sons, on Appreciation Day, City of Vancouver, in 1929.

**Isabelle Maud Hill  
(c1871-1936)**

Maud Hill was born in Hillsborough, Ontario. She graduated from the Hamilton (Ontario) General Hospital in 1900, then took training with the Victorian Order of Nurses in Montreal. She was specially chosen by Charlotte Macleod, first VON Chief Superintendent, for a politically-delicate situation as VON nurse in Vancouver (where two earlier VON candidates



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**\* MORE PIONEER NURSES OF VANCOUVER \***

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had been rejected by the local Board); Maud Hill proved to be an outstanding success and was highly lauded by Board and physicians.

Later, Maud Hill was B.C.'s earliest occupational health nurse (although the title did not exist then). She was employed by the Britannia Mining Company, Howe Sound, to provide care to employees and their families.

Her nursing and organizational abilities were recognized and she was sought as matron of community hospitals in Sumas,

Washington, and Port Alberni, B.C. She opened the first private hospital in New Westminster, and about 1917 she helped open the Vancouver Military Hospital, later known as Shaughnessy Hospital, as her last nursing contribution in B.C.

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*Helen Shore is president of the B.C. History of Nursing Professional Practice Group and is Professor Emerita, School of Nursing, University of B.C. She is carrying out research on other early Vancouver and area nurses.*

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**\*\* BITS AND PIECES \*\***

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The following information from the membership forms seemed to the Editor to be worth sharing as a part of our networking efforts. If you can share information, please get in touch with one another!

Kathy Kovacs of Kamloops suggests that some priority ought to be given to the preservation of the history of nursing through photographs. She notes that she finds that only the formal "graduation" photographs are preserved in museum archives. She suggests that there is a need for albums (perhaps arranged by decade, or by nursing areas such as operating room) showing informal (but good quality) photographs, with all pertinent information recorded. Although she says she is too busy to start on this

herself right now she would consider this a project for the future.

Dorothy Logan notes that she is on a committee established to work on history at the Vancouver General Hospital. One hoped-for outcome would be a more permanent housing for archives and artifacts.

Helen Mussallem is collating her papers and getting these ready for submission to an archival collection. Kevin Potvin and Janis Harper, both living here in B.C., have begun work with her on a biography of her life and contributions to nursing.

More on member projects next time.  
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***"VISIONARIES"***

More than 120 nurses attended the international history of nursing conference sponsored by the Canadian Association for the History of Nursing (CAHN) and American Association for the History of Nursing. Titled "'Visionaries,'" the conference was held in Saint John, N.B. in June.

The B.C. History of Nursing Group was well represented at the conference and at the CAHN annual meeting. Sheila Rankin Zerr presented a paper "Romancing the Canadian North: Nurses' Stories" and Verna Huffman Splane and Richard Splane presented at the closing plenary session on "Historians at Work" when they discussed their progress on the book on their major research study on "Senior Nurses in Government: Chief Nursing Officer Positions in National Ministries of Health." Glennis Zilm assisted at the B.C. Group's displays and sold Nursing Sister Cards. Helen Niskala also represented the B.C. group at the meetings and at the meeting of the Canadian Nurses Association that was held immediately preceding the History Conference.

Conference Highlights

Keynote address at the conference was by Christopher Maggs of the English National Board for Nursing Midwifery and Health Visiting in London, England; his somewhat controversial paper was "Reclaiming the Past to Own our Future." (See editorial.) The Luncheon presentation, given on Jeanne

Mance, was by Marie-France Thibaut, dean of nursing, Universite de Montreal.

More than 23 other papers were presented at the Conference. Unfortunately, conference proceedings will not be available, but a book of Abstracts was available to conference participants and CAHN may make additional copies available to interested individuals. (For more information about this, please get in touch with Sheila Zerr, CAHN treasurer, for price and ordering information.) The editor of a new journal, Nursing History Review, (to be published once a year, starting in January 1992) plans to include a number of the papers in a forthcoming issue (1994?).

B.C. Group Display

The B.C. Group had a display table that featured activities of our members. This display was well-attended by members of the conference. Displays included:

"Pioneer Nurses of Vancouver," by Helen Shore, which is part of a project to research pioneer nurses in Vancouver and B.C.

"Vancouver's Monuments to Nurses," by Nina Rumen

"Reclaiming our Artifacts: Graduation Pins from the Schools of Nursing of B.C.," by Irene Goldstone

"Memorial Doll Collection," by Sheila Rankin Zerr

(Continued on page 11)



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**\*\* MORE NEWS \* NEWS \* NEWS \*\***

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(Continued from page 10)

An announcement on the forthcoming book, *Mission's Living Memorials*, was also available at the display table.

Plans for the next Canadian Conference were discussed at the CAHN annual meeting. Although the plans are not yet firm, the next Canadian History Conference is likely to be held in conjunction with the research conference and the meeting of the Canadian Association of University Schools of Nursing in Ottawa in mid-June 1993.

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**HoN GROUP OCTOBER MEETING**

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**VICTORIA GET-TOGETHER TO  
HEAR NURSE HISTORIAN SPEAK**

Although plans are not yet firm, the History of Nursing Executive are hoping to hold a meeting in Victoria on October 1 in conjunction with a Public Lecture at the University of Victoria. Guest speaker at the public lecture is Nurse Historian Susan Reverby, director of Women's Studies at Wellesley College, Boston. The lecture is entitled "The Right to Care: Nurses and the Politics of Womanhood" and it will be held at 8 pm in Room B108 of the Cornett Building.

Dr. Reverby is author of the book Ordered to Care: The Dilemma of American

Nursing 1850-1945 (Cambridge University Press, 1987) and several major articles relevant to nursing history research.

In her presentation she will be commenting on the early organization of the nursing profession when women were expected to care out of a sense of duty. She addresses the question: "What would nursing be like if the right to care, rather than the duty, was considered its central core?" Her presentation will provide an historical overview of the development of nursing as the politics of womanhood have shaped the effort to move from duty to rights.

Most members of the Executive Committee plan to attend -- and will hold an executive meeting on the ferry on the way to Victoria. They would be delighted to have other members from the Lower Mainland join them. Car pools can be arranged. Unfortunately, there may not be time to make the last ferry from Victoria back to the mainland, so those who plan to go should be prepared to make overnight arrangements.

As well, efforts are being made to try to bring as many of the Victoria members together with the executive, perhaps for dinner before Dr. Reverby's address.

If you wish to attend, **mark** your calendar now and please let one of the Executive members know so that we can get in touch with you when arrangements are set for times of travel.

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\* FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK \*

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Editorial

**HISTORICAL CONTROVERSY**

Dr. Christopher Maggs, keynote speaker at the First International Conference on the History of Nursing in Saint John, N.B., in June, angered some of his audience with his comments about differences between "history" and "heritage." A major thrust of his presentation, which is not yet available in print, is that any nurse historian must have a "conceptual and theoretical framework" within which he or she examines and questions the past.

"History without theory is heritage," he proclaimed -- and drew on some examples of heritage work being presented or shown at the conference. In his view, collection of artifacts (such as photographs), or even collections of facts, are heritage rather than history. "We must prevent nursing from going down that road. ... Heritage is important, but it is not history."

Many of those in the audience, including some prominent Canadian nurses carrying out research in nursing history, were hurt and angered by Dr. Maggs remarks and during some of the open sessions attacked the idea of a conceptual, theoretical framework being developed before enough data has been collected to formulate a theory.

Both views have merit, and I found it easy to sit on the fence and accept the best from both directions. In Canada (and, I suspect, in Dr. Maggs' England and Wales), a

rigorous approach to nursing history is rather a new idea. Furthermore, over the last 100 years, nurses have been surprisingly deficient in recording their history; too little data is often available and serious concerted efforts are needed to collect many bits and pieces of "heritage" that will provide the base for more full-scale examination of concepts and the development of theory. Nevertheless, it also strikes me as mere common sense that when one begins to accumulate any artifacts or facts it is with some purpose (i.e., a conceptual, theoretical framework) in mind!

Essentially, what I am trying to say is that we need both -- and both are equally important. To stress one above the other at this point in our historical development is pointless, silly, and divisive.

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**THE HISTORY GROUP NEWSLETTER**

The History Group's Newsletter is published irregularly four times a year by the History of Nursing Professional Practice Group of the Registered Nurses Association of B.C. Unsolicited material is welcome, but the Editor reserves the right to reject, shorten, or edit materials in consultation with the author(s). APA style preferred.

Thanks for assistance with this issue go to Ethel Warbinek, Diana Ritchie, Edith Lees, and Queenie Hamwell.

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