Nursing. By Lulu K. Wolf, R.N., M.P.H., 1947

Leila W. Kriigel
Dr. Johnson traces the vicissitudes of American medical education through the latter half of the nineteenth century and then observes:

Yet it cannot be concluded that nothing was accomplished by the American Medical Association and its allies, the American Academy of Medicine, the Association of American Medical Colleges and the state licensing boards. When the American Medical Association was established, colleges were awarding the M.D. degree for less than six months' attendance in addition to a period of apprenticeship. Such a degree admitted the holder to the practice of medicine in almost every state. There were no admission standards worthy of mention. Sixty years later, a four years' course of at least six months each was required for the degree. In almost every state, this degree admitted the graduate not the right to practice medicine, but to a licensure examination. A goodly number of schools exacted a high school diploma for admission and a few required two years of college.

The reorganization of the Association just after the turn of the century paved the way for the establishment of the Council in 1904, under the chairmanship of Dr. Arthur Dean Bevan, professor of surgery at Rush. The council wisely recognized that it faced a most difficult task and did not set immediate objectives impossible of achievement. In 1905 the minimum standard was four years of high school for admission, a four-year medical course, and satisfactorily passing a State licensing examination. The Council began classifying medical schools according to their respective percentage of failures in State board examinations. Publication of these statistics proved to be a stimulus to the schools and provided some basis for evaluation.

The remainder of Dr. Johnson's story is one of progress and further elevation and refinement of medical education. Reference is made to the efficient secretaryship of Drs. N. P. Colwell, William D. Cutter, and H. G. Weiskotten. Dr. Johnson was secretary at the time of his writing. The second chairman of the Council was Dr. Ray Lyman Wilbur, of Stanford University. Dr. Weiskotten is the present chairman. Significant organizations and incidents related to the work of the Council since its founding are inspection of medical schools, co-operative studies with the Carnegie Foundation, certification of hospitals for internships, the beginning of graduate medical education, establishment of the National Board of Medical Examiners, cooperation with the Association of American Medical Colleges and the Federation of State Medical Boards, the advent of specialty boards, and the war contribution of medical education. In conclusion Dr. Johnson poses the immediate and future problems of the Council.

Limited space does not permit a discussion of other features of this worth-while addition to the historical literature of American medicine. The order of presentation is good. Typography is satisfactory. So far as information goes the volume is excellent. Unfortunately, with the exception of Dr. Victor Johnson's contribution, documentation is generally quite poor, indeed completely lacking in many sections. The volume is not well laid on a background of the social and cultural fabric of the times. There is still need for a critical history of the American Medical Association.

WM. FREDERICK NORWOOD, PH.D.


This new text comes as a valuable addition to the literature already published on nursing technics. The author has broken away from the traditional manner of presenting nursing procedures by not including a detailed discussion of anatomy, physiology, medicine, and surgery, a practice which is so often followed.

The general format of the book is attractive and includes a well-outlined table of contents, a generous number of original, clear illustrations, a fairly complete list of references, an adequate index—all in clear, easily read type.

The fundamental theme is the preparation of a community nurse, one who includes the
prevention of disease in the immediate care of the patient. However, this is not carried out fully in relation to all the nursing procedures. For example, there is very little mentioned regarding prevention of eye conditions, or teaching opportunities in connection with the administration of medications and enemata. The nurse's responsibilities to provide for the patient's total needs on his discharge from the hospital are clearly outlined, a procedure frequently overlooked in hospital routine.

The text is divided into three parts: Part I—"Orientation to Nursing"; Part II—"Orientation to Hospital Nursing"; Part III—"Orientation to Patient Care." "Orientation to Nursing" includes a discussion brought up to date on the nation's health problems, and the nurses' responsibilities in relation to these problems. Also included in this section are recent trends in nursing and a summary of recent nursing history. "Orientation to Hospital Nursing" continues the discussion of nursing history by including the origin of hospitals, their function, and how the hospital meets the needs of the patient. "Orientation to Patient Care" confines its subject matter to the nursing procedures relating to the patient's nursing care. The material is well organized and adequate little-used information.

Although the author states that the text is written for young students just entering the nursing profession, it seems that the chapter "The Individual in the Nursing Profession" is especially directed to the instructor to aid her in the guidance of these young nurses.

Any teacher of nursing arts might turn frequently to this text for material to substantiate and enrich her teaching. The book is recommended as a reference rather than a textbook. To teachers it has a special value to guide their thinking in the preparation of a nurse for community service rather than confining her to the narrow limits of hospital service.

Leila W. Kriigel, R.N., M.S.

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