

What Prevents Unity

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THE nurses are blamed for not uniting. This is so because of lack of class consciousness. They are prone to craft consciousness and this brings about a conflict, economic, social and psychological.

The majority of nurses come from the lower middle class families but the environments of their training and conditions of service tend to make them middle class operatives. They are prone to mix with classes and social groups above them but not below them. They would rather form a professional organisation or association than a responsible trade union because in their minds a trade union is associated with the working class whereas a professional association is not. They would like to have better living and working conditions, higher scales of pay, etc., but are unable to do so because of lack of organisational unity amongst themselves.

There are too many groups and sub-groups. They are afraid of losing their identity in a larger group. Their pattern of training tends to isolate them from their environments. There is a special Student Nurses Association but they are ignorant of and reluctant to join a general students organisation within the community.

Emphasis on Duties

In the initial stages the profession was in the hands of missionaries with their emphasis on duty rather than on rights. Therefore, the concentration was on the patient rather than on the self. The missionary heads of the profession could afford to take this attitude because their security

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was guaranteed by the mission headquarters. Leaders who entered the profession were people with a very high sense of social service or they entered the profession because there were no other alternative means of livelihood.

The missionary concept of the profession has been dinned into the ears of the members of the profession since its very inception. The nurses, therefore, discharge not only their own duties but also those of persons above and below them. The result is that work continues and the demands are not very forcefully projected. The work of a nurse has never been clearly defined and nurses are expected to discharge omnibus responsibilities of categories above and below them.

Pushed in a Corner

In the course of the last twenty five years nursing has branched out into several professional channels, viz., physiotherapy, occupational therapy, medico social worker, dietician, technician, etc. Formerly, all these duties were completely carried out by a nurse alone. Even today after the fixed duty hours of these specialized categories the work to an extent tends to be carried out by a nurse.

All these categories tend to have limited and fixed duty hours after which these functions are mostly carried out by a nurse. People in these categories enjoy better scales of pay and better working conditions whereas the nurses tend to be pushed in a corner.

The conditions of work and services of nurses tends to isolate them from the other members of the society. The shift duties which they have to perform prevent them from inte-

grating themselves with the rest of the society.

The privileged atmosphere in which they are isolated during their period of training and almost guaranteed employment thereafter tears them apart from the life of the social group from which they come. This leads to infighting between various groups and sub-groups. Naturally, the authorities take advantage of this lack of professional unity. Therefore, they fall an easy prey to all sorts of charlatans who seek to organise them.

RESULTS OF NURSING PUZZLE 3.

It is regretfully noted that none of the five entries received for the Nursing Puzzle 3 were found correct. The errors were in the range of 3 to 7, hence no awards are given for this puzzle. The entries for Puzzle number 3, when compared with Puzzle No. 1 and 2, are definitely scant, i.e., only five from over 1800 students in 250 Units. The reason for the sudden drop is beyond my guess. I request the members and also the faculty to kindly pen a line about the probable reasons for this sudden fall. However, those that participated will be anxious to know about the correct solution which is given below. I request my young friends to kindly make efforts to participate in a larger number in the ensuing ones.

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CORRECT SOLUTION

1. Diaphoretic 2. Dander 3. Monoplegia 4. Hypodermoclysis 5. Gammot 6. Tenesmus 7. Phlebotomy 8. Paramnesia 9. Amenorrhea 10. Antrectomy 11. Astragalus 12. Myopia 13. Sartorius 14. Psychosis 15. Strabotomy 16. Prolactin 17. Leucoderma 18. Glycosuria 19. Astigmatism 20. Nephropathy 21. Ankylosis 22. Thrombolysis 23. Hydrocephalus