

The Indian Nurse Abroad

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EVERY human has needs. The need to survive, be secure, be loved, be self-actualized and possess self-esteem. These needs are the essential factors of every human life regardless of class.

Today Indian nurses emigrate in large number to Western countries in search of more promising future and to seek acceptance among other professionals. The training and experience they gained at the expense of the State is being utilised by another nation.

It is not the attractive salary alone that draws our nurses out of the country. In India they face a society prejudiced against them. Why do we waste our time practicing prejudice against each other, under-estimating other fellowmen in Socio-economic terms? Why could we not learn to broaden our minds learn to recognize our fellowmen and respect their needs. The time has come for everyone of us to be recognized and to be identified as an individual human being.

Even our Indian parents could not imagine welcoming a nurse as their family member. Yet, having been to Western countries, I have observed that our Indian friends mostly doctors and professionals married to western nurses return home with public respect. Do they think "white nurses" are superior to Indian nurses? Does their colour impress them so much that they forget their prejudice against nurses? I would like to impress upon our friends that Indian nurses are no less qualified intellectually and socially than any western nurse to command respect and status in the Society.

In fact, many Indian nurses serving in the West want to return home. But they question their future in India. Can the Indian society provide her with a conducive en-

vironment for a happy and secure life?

Should we wait till we lose all our nurses to the West and neglect encouraging our youngsters to accept nursing as a helping profession? Our nurses need to be satisfied socially and economically to maintain their morale and personal growth. Then, they will be able to provide the best comprehensive nursing care to individual Indians in hospitals or in the community.

As an Indian nurse, I have experienced many unhappy environments, seen injustice and harm done to a person by prejudice because of low socio-economic status.

Briefly, where do the nurses stand in India among other fellow beings? How could we ever dream of a healthy national life without our nurses, without providing for dynamic comprehensive nursing care for the people? A cry in the health field for qualified nurses to care for the people in India is heard frequently where a nurse does not enjoy social prestige and respect in public life.

But may I ask, who could afford to be a nurse to be considered unskilled, menial and dirty labourer? A nurse, who can be strong enough bears all the discriminations from her fellowmen, doctors, hospital administrators, even from her nursing staff with frustration.

What is her future? Is it wrong for a nurse to seek for higher aspirations in her life? What about her needs to be loved and belong to someone? Is it a dream for her to want to be married?

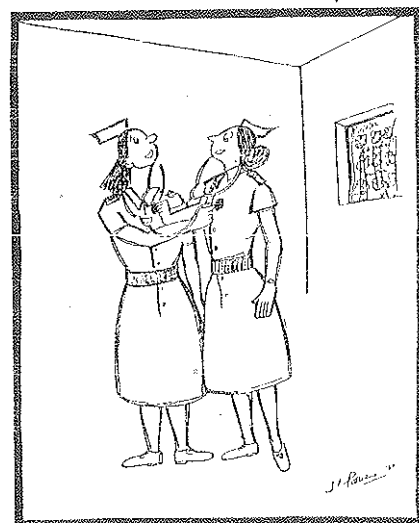
To the Indian community, a nurse is supposed to hide her emotions and needs underneath her white uniform unlike a human being.

If our country do not learn to recognize the nurses, identify their needs and accept them as complete human beings, then refined girls capable of skilled work and better education will seek other professions.

Nursing cannot lag behind other health professions. Let the nurses be among other professions and let them play an important role in the nursing field, working towards the same goals.

Can we afford to sit back while other nations speed up their plans in every angle to serve the community by providing sound positive health? It is in the hands of Indian society at large to accept or neglect the nurse as a respectable member of the society making significant contribution to community health.

U Did It !



Let us search our hearts.

Wanted — (Contd. from page 178)

Wanted A Grade Staff Nurses for St. Joseph's Hospital, Baramulla, Kashmir. Apply with copies of Certificates and Testimonials, giving details of experience to the Nursing Superintendent.

Wanted Urgently Sister Tutor or B.Sc. Nursing Tutor with at least two years teaching experience. Apply: Nursing Superintendent, Tiruvalla Medical Mission, Tiruvalla, Kerala.