

UNIVERSAL SISTER

By

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THE Nurse is a universal "Sister". As she enters the nursing profession and comes into closer relationship with other human beings, she earns this title from the public who begin to respect her. The Sister plays an important role in the Hospital in taking care of the ailing, right from birth till death.

As soon as a child is born it receives the affectionate welcome of the "Sister in White." The anxious father who walks up and down outside the labour room relaxes as soon as he sees the Sister with a smiling face to convey the good news. The tired and fatigued mother smiles with confidence at the Sister when the new-born is shown to her.

Patients with pains, aches and all sorts of physical and mental ailments say "Sister, please do help me." Relatives of the patient ask her: "Sister, will you please come and see my.....?"

Doctors leave all instructions with the Sister about the patients under her care. Laboratory Technicians, Compounders, Social Workers, Dietitians, Occupational Therapists and many others in the Medical team discuss various problems concerning the patients with the Sister.

The Sister is an important person between the patient and the Medical Superintendent, Nursing Superintendent and Administrative Officer.

The Sister is a Sister even while off duty. People ask her questions regarding their patients even outside the hospital. They respect and regard her for her contribution to the health of the nation is great.

One day a young patient of a Mental Hospital brought "Rakhi" to the Sister and asked her to tie it on his wrist. The sister obliged and the patient touched her feet and quietly pushed a Rupee note into the pocket of the Sister's uniform.

A father sent Rakhi to his son, who was in a Mental Hospital.

There was a line written in the letter, "Dear Ward Sister, will you please tie Rakhi to my son on Raksha bandhan Day?"

My dear Sister, you are loved by the whole humanity as a sister in the real sense. You are great. People admire you in every walk of life. A moment's forgetfulness or negligence on your part can result in grievous injury to your patient.

Sister, Sister, Sister, undoubtedly you are sharing truly important moments with every type of person in the Society. My thousand thanks are due to that great person who first designated you as "Sister".

The Society respects you so much. Have you ever asked your inner mind whether you deserve all that? Have you subjected yourself to a self-examination?

Do you come on duty on time or do you take your own time?

Are you clean and tidy while on duty or you look shabby with torn uniform and unpolished shoes?

Are you fresh and cheerful while on duty, or are you irritable, angry and pre-occupied with your own

problems?

Do you co-operate with your colleagues and respect your seniors or do you possess the habit of nagging throughout?

Do you appreciate good qualities of your colleagues and your seniors or do you feel jealous about them?

Do you speak truth always or do you tell a lie at times to save yourself from a difficulty?

Do you go round and supervise your subordinate staff and help them do their duty well or do you just spend time chit-chatting?

Do you give individualized comprehensive nursing care to your patient by completely understanding his emotional, sociological and psychological needs or do you just work as a pair of skilled hands?

Your juniors are watching. They can copy both the good and bad qualities and what a devastating day for your profession if they do the latter.

Nursing profession embraces every eligible man and woman, irrespective of caste, colour and creed. If all Nurses try to be loyal to their noble profession, the whole world will call them Sisters and that too in the real sense. In the days of trials, tribulations and challenges, let us uphold our noble profession and keep our colours flying.

The Modern Nurse—Her Responsibilities

By Mrs. M. E. Daniel, Govt. R.S.R.M. Hospital, Madras

MUCH has been done in recent years, but there are yet many things which need improvement.

Nursing today demands a high level of knowledge and skill, and the basic nursing education aims at providing learning experiences to equip the student with the knowledge required to perform her functions efficiently. A trained nurse has to be (i) a technical expert in clinical nursing and (ii) an administrator or teacher proficient in consultation, planning and promotion of professional activities. In

the clinical field, the nurse is required to help the physician in carrying out procedures and treatments and report to him the condition of the patient so that he gets proper attention and treatment to attain and maintain health.

Scientific and technological advances have revolutionised medical practice and every new development in medical sciences creates new responsibilities for nurse and brings in changes in the nursing functions. By the time a student nurse completes her studies she

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