

Retrospect and Prospect

By

Lillian M. Bischoff

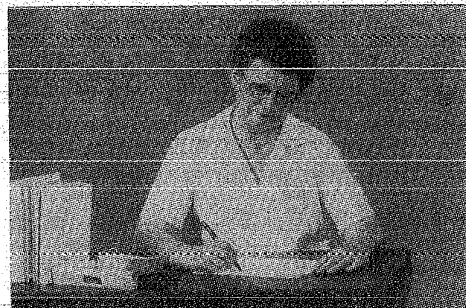
Nursing Consultant, U.S. Technical Cooperation Mission

Thank you for this privilege of congratulating you on your many and great achievements during the past 50 years. The generation that has paralleled the Trained Nurses Association's first fifty years has seen the organization's growth and development from birth, through the toddler and adolescent stages, to early maturity. Perhaps the most important observation is that nursing cannot be at a static level. During this most dynamic, dramatic, and exciting period of Indian history, the Nursing Association, along with other peoples of this generation, has realized that life is marked by problems, crises, successes and failures. To meet the inevitable problems, nurses and nursing must assimilate the many new scientific truths; they must contribute to human welfare through research; and they must master new skills.

The past activities of the Association have helped to determine its present character, and, by the same token, the nature and quality of the current efforts are helping to shape the future. With due deference to the lessons learned in the past, the Association should not be bound by it, but should hope to assist with exploratory ventures in heretofore unmeasured areas.

The familiar human problems that have been with us since the dawn of history will continue to be with us in varying degrees. It is evident that new and intricate problems will appear with this new era of science. Nursing must throw off its shackles and meet the future with an open mind, with enthusiasm and with determination for progress of the highest order. They must come out of their closed circle and participate in other aspects of local, state, national and international programmes concerned with better living and peace.

It takes little vision to realize some of tomorrow's big problems. As the population multiplies, the crying need for enough food is heard in all parts of



Miss L.M. Bischoff

the world. Hunger and lack of adequate food generate sickness, sickness generates poverty, and poverty and sickness generate conditions that lead to less and less food and varying degrees of distress. That cycle is constant and ways must be found to break it so that mankind may be free. The Trained Nurses Association is one of the many professional groups participating in human welfare programmes.

The Trained Nurses Association of India is one of the agencies through which assistance is given to nursing administrators, to sister tutors and other nurses to find ways of helping to improve nursing services to people in hospitals, in schools, in industry, in homes and community. The Association is equally concerned with the welfare of nurses.

There is evidence to show that nurses are broadening their vision to include preventive services in all aspects of nursing care in hospitals and clinics and more than 200 nurses have qualified in Public Health. The recently formed Public Health Section of Association has made some progress in this field particularly

Important Meetings

In Geneva

1. A World Health Organisation Expert Committee on Public Health Nursing is scheduled to meet from October 6 to 11 to discuss Public Health Nursing.

Miss T.K. Adranvala is planning to attend the meeting.

2. The International Labour Organisation is convening an *Ad-Hoc* Meeting on Conditions of Work and Employment of Nurses to be held at the I.L.O. Office from October 6 to 11.

The agenda for the meeting includes :

(1) Employment situation (shortage of nurses, the influence of marriage on employment, part time employment, etc.)

(2) Conditions of work (including the contract of employment, remuneration and social security).

(3) Economic and social status of professional nurses and of auxiliary personnel.

(4) Recruitment (including counselling and placement services).

Miss I.B. Ganpathy has been invited to attend the meeting.

In Delhi

The W.H.O. is sponsoring a Regional Conference on Auxiliary Nursing from November 3 to 15.

The West Pacific and East Mediterranean Regions are interested in participating in this South-East Asian Region meeting and the provisional list of countries to attend include :

Japan, Taiwan, Thailand, Indonesia, Burma, Ceylon, India, Afghanistan, Pakistan, Iran, Egypt and the Sudan.

The Indian delegates include : Miss A.C. Chakrapani of Madras, Miss C. Abana of M.P., Miss N.S. Kotwal of Bombay and Dr. M.B. Ali of Andhra.

The TNAI look forward with pleasure to meeting the nurses from these various countries during their stay in the Capital.

Retrospect and Prospect — (Contd. from page 346)

through the *Journal*. The new Public Health Manual promises additional help.

One means of meeting the future effectively is through nursing education. Gradual upgrading of nursing schools is good but often times slow and strenuous. It is more life-giving to amputate a "festering sore" and start afresh than to apply hot packs every four hours and hope that someday the sore will begin to heal from the bottom. Some nursing education programmes have "festering areas" and no amount of vacillating will help. Nurses themselves must take the initiative, plan, know the acts, amputate degenerating areas, and promote programmes of education that are effective in producing the quantity and quality of nurses that are needed. The newly formed Education Section of the TNAI has a great future in helping to break down some of the barriers relative to better education for nurses. Nursing education is a basic requirement to better care for patients, better administration for the hospital, and better preventive measures for the community. The "high

barriers" can be overcome by research, evaluation and redirection of nursing resources and personnel, and by coordinating thought and action with other agencies concerned with human welfare.

Retrospect and prospect. As we look into the future, we see a continuing responsibility and challenge. A continuing responsibility to hold the gains that have accrued over the past 50 years and a challenge to improve nursing services in all fields including : midwifery, industrial nursing, general public health, school health, nursing administration and supervision, nursing education and nursing in the specialized fields such as pediatrics, orthopaedic nursing, mental nursing, nutrition and other specialities.

The resources of the Trained Nurses Association of India are limited and the needs are limitless. May your assets grow and progress continue through full membership and participation. May the stewardship of the Association prove wise and alert in meeting the uncharted road ahead.