

India's Nurses

By

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Certainly India's Nurses need to be congratulated at this auspicious time of celebrating the Golden Jubilee of their professional organization.

Looking back, we can feel happy over the achievements of the Trained Nurses Association of India through its consistent and continued efforts. The pioneer nurses through these years were people with vision and enthusiasm which we find in no way lacking in India's nurses today. There is no doubt that these have been years of struggle, but life without struggle is not worth living. The T.N.A.I. has certainly made history and still is making history in its endeavour for better nursing education, nursing service and service conditions for its members. In every sphere of activity the T.N.A.I. aims at the welfare of nurses.

While the past was glorious and inspiring, the future unknown today, however challenging it might be, presents a responsibility and an obligation in furthering our goals and achieving their ends. If we fail to recognize this responsibility we may be falling short of what is expected of us. During these days when our country is passing through rapid changes in socio-economic aspects, we see that the public is becoming conscious of the role of the nurse in the community's development and health programme. The nurse of today is quite different from her predecessor both in her preparation and undertaking. Nurses of today are better prepared in the class room, ward, and district to meet the total requirements of total health care. The nurse is being recognized as an important member of the health team, and the liaison between the doctor and the public. We also find Nurse Consultants to advise Governments and International Organisations on nursing policies. In the State Governments where such advisers are not

available for guidance and planning, there is evidence of chaos and confusion, misuse of nursing personnel, want of good nursing care and so on.

In this great profession of nursing, nurses have proved themselves to be good administrators and "ministering angels". On the path of duty she has to realise her obligations and limitations so that she will be a credit to herself, to her institution and to her profession.

Ever since modern nursing was established by Miss Nightingale, nursing has marched ahead keeping pace with the advancement in science and medicine. It has gone through various stages of development; and more and more emphasis is being paid to prevention than cure and nursing now includes both preventive and curative services. Thus the nurse of today is able to assess the situation in which she is working and finds ample scope for Life's Adventure with thrilling potentialities in a changing world.

History repeats itself, and Nurses of India today are making history for the nurses in the tomorrows to come. The knowledge and the spirit of nursing should be kept burning with a sense of vocation, integrity, unselfishness and devotion to duty.

As science progresses, nurses among others, become conscious of their achievements and realise that it is founded on human understanding. Science alone is limited when confronted by personality and human circumstances.

In these days of rapid development of fearful scientific development, we should not let science rob us of the "human touch" that marks our profession. In these troubled days when nations strive against each other, we must keep before us our service to mankind regardless of race, cast or creed.