

Some Time Studies in Obstetrical Nursing

From 'the American Journal of Nursing'

I

BY CHELLY WASSERBERG, R. N. AND ETHEL NORTHAM, R. N.

The nursing care of a normal obstetrical patient will vary according to the routine of the hospital. The following tables have been made from a time study in the Woman's Clinic of the Johns Hopkins Hospital, Baltimore, Maryland:

In 24 Hours

Procedure	Average time required	Number of times	Total time required
<i>Mother</i>			
Bath }	45 minutes	1	45 minutes
Bed making }	10 "	2	20 "
Care of perineum ...	5 "	6	30 "
Care of breasts ...	3 "	4	12 "
Taking of temperature, pulse, respirations.	5 "	2	10 "
Charting ...	20 "	3	60 "
Assisting patient with meals ...	10 "	3	30 "
Intermediate nourishments ...	5 "	3	15 "
Changing water pitchers ...	5 "	8	40 "
Bedpans ...	15 "	1	15 "
Preparation for dinner ...	15 "	1	15 "
" " supper ...	20 "	1	20 "
" " night ...			
			312 minutes
When ordered:			
Preparation of bed patient for porch ...	15 minutes	2	30 minutes
Pumping of breasts ...	10 "	6	60 "
			90 minutes
<i>Infant</i>			
Bath or oil rub }	25 minutes	1	25 minutes
Changing of bassinet covers }	3 "	2	6 "
Weighing }	5 "	1	5 "
Taking of temperatures ...	20 "	6	120 "
Charting ...	10 "	2	20 "
Nursing ...	5 "	18	90 "
Giving of water ...			
Changing of diapers ...			
			266 minutes
When ordered:			
Weighing before and after nursing ...	2 minutes	6	12 minutes
Giving of supplementary feedings ...	15 "	6	90 "
			102 minutes
			12 hours 50 minutes

The above calculations do not make any provision for the care of a patient in labor, which obviously must vary. Neither do they include any additional time needed for the care of a patient who has an abnormal condition during her pregnancy or puerperium.

II

By A. ISABEL BYRNE, R. N.

This schedule shows the number of hours of nursing service required for the average normal baby during the newborn period (first two weeks) breast-fed, according to time studies made at the Sloane Hospital for Women, New York City.

DAY DUTY—7 A. M. TO 7 P. M.

In 12 Hours

Procedure	Average time required	Number of times	Total time required
From crib to crib, includes making bed, temperature, bath, etc. ...	20 minutes	1	20 minutes
Average, 4 bottles, i. e., post cecum feeding, sterile water, etc. ...	5 "	4	20 "
Changing diapers and linen p. r. n. ...	3 "	6	18 "
Breast care ...	5 "	3	15 "
Total time for basic care, average baby. 12 hours ...	33 minutes	14	73 minutes

Nine-hour day equivalent to 540 minutes, divided by 73 minutes (average care for each baby during day) equals 7.4 babies to each student. Two students to every 15 babies allows additional time for charting, treatments, routine work, etc.

NIGHT DUTY—7 P. M. TO 7 A. M.

In 12 Hours

Procedure	Average time required	Number of times	Total time required
Temperature ...	2 minutes	1	2 minutes
Changing baby and linen p. r. n. ...	3 "	6	18 "
Two bottles (average) ...	5 "	2	10 "
Breast care ...	5 "	3	15 "
	15 minutes	12	45 minutes

To care for one baby by one nurse on night duty ... 45 minutes
 " " " fifteen babies by one nurse on night duty ... 675 "

Averaging 45 minutes for one baby on night duty, we figure one nurse adequately cares for 15 babies in 675 minutes or 11.3 hours, leaving 57 minutes for routine nursery care.



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Furuncular and Phlegmonous Complications of Diabetes

IN seemingly hopeless cases, if the general condition, metabolism and local processes do not endanger life, simple and conservative treatment should be patiently applied with the help of careful and persistent resort to minor surgery.

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Length of Training.....

Inclusive dates of training.....

Positions held subsequent to training.....

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Present address (Printed).....

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Signature.....

Position.....

Date.....

This form should be signed by a Nursing Superintendent or Medical Officer (not lower than the grade of Civil Surgeon), and should be sent to the Honorary Secretary, Mrs. Watts, Kilpauk, Madras, with copies of all certificates. No money should be sent until acceptance as member is notified.

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NOTICE

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By the courtesy of the Railway authorities concessions are granted to trained nurses enabling them to travel in a class one higher than that for which they pay fare. On South Indian Railways the concession is one half the fare in the class for which ticket is issued.

Those members who can obtain their concession forms from their own hospitals are advised to do so to save time and inconvenience. If unable to obtain a form as above then proceed as follows :—

Write to the nearest District Secretary, (see page i for addresses) or to the General Secretary if there is no secretary for your district, on the form given below.

The certificate when received from the Secretary should be sent with the prescribed form to the Divisional Superintendent in whose jurisdiction the journey is to be commenced, the Divisional Superintendent will then issue a concession which must be presented when purchasing the ticket.

N.B.—1. The use of blank forms has been prohibited owing, it is regretted, to their abuse in the past. Letters of application for concession certificates will not be answered unless the particulars on the form below are given.

Allow plenty of time when applying for the certificates. Your Secretary is probably a busy woman in a busy hospital and may not be able to reply by return.

The following is a list of some of the District Offices but at most of the largest Railway Stations a District Traffic Manager's office will be found :—

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G. I. P. Ry.	... Divisional Traffic Manager	... Jhansi.
B., B. & C. I. Ry.	District Traffic Superintendent	... Kotah (Metre gauge).
		... Delhi (Broad gauge).
O. & R. Railway	Divisional Superintendent	... Moradabad.
N.-W. Railway	... "	... "
S. I. Ry.	... Chief Commercial Superintendent.	... Trichinopoly.
M. S. M. Ry.	... District Traffic Superintendent	... Madras.
Punjab	... Traffic Superintendent	... Lahore.
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2. I intend travelling on or about..... 1929.
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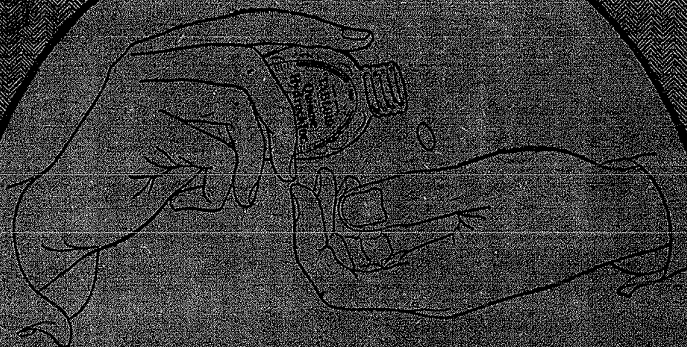
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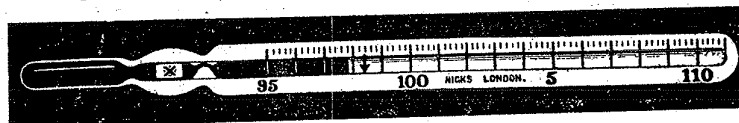
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NOTICES

All contributions and letters for publication and books for review should be sent to the Editor, Mrs. Watts, S.B.M., Kilpauk, Madras.

All matter for publication in the Journal to be with the Editor before 16th of the month.

Remittances and communications regarding advertisements, etc., to the Business Manager, Kilpauk, Madras.

Applications for membership to the District Secretary (see p. i for Addresses). If there is no secretary in your district apply direct to the Honorary Secretary and Treasurer.

Procedure for obtaining Railway Concessions, p. viii.

TERMS OF SUBSCRIPTION

The Entrance fee for all members of the Trained Nurses' Association of India, The Health Visitors' League, and the Midwives' Union is Rs. 3.

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The Handbook is supplied to all members at Re. 1.

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EDITORIAL

Co-operation *versus* Non-Co-operation

“REALLY I cannot write.” “I’m too busy.” With one consent, either of these replies has been given to “Won’t you write something for the Nursing Journal,” from the Nurses I have met on holiday this past month and asked personally. No doubt each nurse is under the impression that her refusal makes no difference as there are many others who can write and who have time to do so. But this is the situation. Every one said “nay.”

There is no written law, of course, but is not every member of the T. N. A. I. morally responsible to the Journal to provide material in the form of articles, cases, pictures, data and news, for its upkeep?

Co-operation is such a big, generous substantial term. A strength and assurance is embodied in it. It is constructive in its policy.

Non-co-operation requires no effort. There is no need to fit in with any other program. It is most destructive to progress, and yet it seems to be a peculiar form of temptation in India.

Some will say—"But there's nothing to write about." How about,—

1. Nursing Care and Treatment of a case of Tetanus.
2. " " " Black Water Fever.
3. " " " Beri-Beri.
4. " " " Kala-Azar.
5. " " " Osteo-Malacea.
6. " " " Snake-bite.
7. " " " Sun or Heat-Stroke.
8. Caste—a Barrier to Recruiting Indian Girls for Nurses' Training.
9. Suggestive Chapters for a new and up-to-date Text-book of nursing for India.
10. Recreation and amusement for the student nurse.
11. The Sweeper Question.
12. Building up the Pre-Natal Clinic.

Who will volunteer an article on any one of the above suggested subjects? We need your co-operation. This is an invitation, as well as an opportunity. Be sure to read the Exchange article on page 168.

The Editor regrets the absence of contributed articles this month. Articles that were planned and expected have not arrived. The foregoing remarks by the Assistant Editor have considerable pertinence therefore which every member is urged to note.

A Sonnet to Service

Random Musings of a Probationer

MARGARET E. HOBEL, B.A.

Student Nurse, Allegheny Hospital, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

This never-ending round of petty tasks;
Will this be happiness for years ahead,
Or shall I end it now? My spirit asks.
The answer comes with strong and joyous stress,
Go on—let not the trifling ills, the weary days,
Betray a weakling heart, a soul confess,
That trembles at the thought of pain and prays,
For Death to keep his distance. Look ahead
And view the goal beyond the irksome years—
A child brought back to play, the hungry fed,
A hopeless father comforted, the tears
Of mother-love all turned to smiles, and then
That inner peace, the gift of God to men.