History and Development of Nursing

From the Ancient Past and into the Future
Objectives:
The student will:

• Understand the historic foundations of nursing.
• Be able to explain the forces that shaped nursing in the past and continue to shape it in the present.
• Will be able to name the unique contributions of nursing leaders in the 19th to 20th centuries.
• Understand the need and mechanisms for standards in the nursing profession.
• Understand the place of the Nurse 
  Practice Act 
• Define the Health care system 
• Name economic Factors Affecting health and illness


Ancient Hebrews

- Depended on God for healing
- Houses for sick and homes for the aged
- Began sanitation procedures
- Association between medicine and religion
- Priest as health officer
Greeks and Romans

- Medicine and nursing linked
- Practice shaped by societal beliefs regarding persons and causes of disease and illness
- Healing as a spiritual ritual
- Hippocrates: Father of modern medicine
Hippocrates

- Beginning of the scientific era
- Rejected the idea that disease was caused by demons and spirits
- Advocated observation and rational thinking
Christian Era

- Rise of altruism
  - Service of poor and sick seen as service to Christ Himself
  - Visiting the poor and infirm the duty of Christians and a dignified office
  - Phoebe
  - St. Fabiola
The Monastic Age

- Monasteries centers of learning
- Monks knew the cultivation and use of herbs for medicinal purposes
- Needy and ill sought help from the brother infirmarians
Crusades

- Rise of orders with care of sick and wounded as primary focus
Nursing in the Middle Ages was relatively simple.

Nurses provided for the physiologic needs of the patient.

They dressed wounds and ulcers.

They administered medications.

Discipline was strict, steeped in a tradition of obedience.
● 330—Fabiola established first large hospital in Rome.
● 592—Roman Catholic Church established Hotel Dieu Hospital in Lyon
● 1170—Beguines, a lay order of nurses, established. Nursed the sick and taught in Netherlands, France, Germany, Belgium
● 1347-1380—Catherine of Siena established hospital of LaScala
● 1200’s—Rise of Third Order of St Francis of Assisi nursed in the towns where they were established.
Reformation and Transition

- Reformation—1500’s
- Land and properties taken away from the Catholic church
- Hospitals formerly staffed by religious no longer had caring individuals to minister to the sick.
- Protestant mindset: decent women did not work outside the home.
England

- Dissolution of the monasteries--1538
- All Catholic lands given to Protestant landlords
- Prostitutes too old to ply their trade turned to hospitals for maintenance.
The care in the new institutions was provided by prisoners, pardoned criminals, alcoholics and aged prostitutes, no longer young enough to ply their trade. The "nurses" were best characterized by Charles Dickens's portrayal of Sairey Gamp. Sairey was an elderly prostitute working as a "nurse" who ate her patient's food and drank the family's booze. She was hired to care for patients whose relatives could afford her sparse wage. Essentially her work consisted of sitting with the patient and doing as little as possible. It was a matter of survival of the nurses not the patients.
Congregations of Caring

- St. Vincent dePaul and his Daughters of Charity—1633
- Ursuline Sisters, Augustinians
- Irish Sisters of Charity and Sisters of Mercy –1812-1815
- Theodore Fleidner—Lutheran Deaconess movement -- 1836
Industrialization

- Movement of people to cities
- Overcrowding, child labor
- Asepsis unknown
- Hospitals a place of contagion
- Admission to a hospital in Vienna for childbirth was a death sentence
Ingaz Semmelweis

- 1847 development of antiseptic methods
- Developed Germ Theory
- Advocated vigorous handwashing
- Theories rejected
- Died of blood poisoning in an insane asylum after an nervous breakdown in 1865
Florence Nightengale

- 1820-1910
- Exposure to Fliedner
- Crimean War
- Nurse Theorist
- Establishment of school of nursing
- Qualifications of nurses
Mary Seacole

- 1805-1881
- Learned nursing from her mother in Jamaica
- Service to sick and injured in Crimea
American Civil War

- Catholic nuns the only organized group of women at the outset of the war
- 584 Sisters served as nurses—320 of these were Irish—many more of Irish descent
- 220 nurses were Sisters of Charity
- Men opposed to women in hospitals
Dorothea Dix

1802-1887

Reformer of Mental health care and prisons

Nicknamed “Dragon Dix”

Standards for nurses

Army Nursing Corps

Superintendent of Nurses of the Union Army
Does this meet the standards?
Uneducated widow sent by her congregation to the Western Front
Found appalling conditions
Rallied the men to chop kindling, build fires, etc.
Arranged for clothes and soldiers to be washed, bedding fumigated, garbage removed
Known as “Mother Bickerdyke” and “cyclone in calico”
Clara Barton

- **1821- 1912**
- Formed American Red Cross 1881
- After CW helped locate families of soldiers
In addition to caring for your 50 patients, each nurse will follow these regulations:

1. Daily sweep and mop the floors of your ward, dust the patient's furniture and window sills.

2. Maintain an even temperature in your ward by bringing in a scuttle of coal for the day's business.

3. Light is important to observe the patient's condition. Therefore, each day fill kerosene lamps, clean chimneys and trim wicks. Wash the windows once a week.

4. The nurse's notes are important in aiding the physician's work. Make your pens carefully; you may whittle nibs to your individual taste.

5. Each nurse on day duty will report every day at 7 a.m. and leave at 8 p.m. except on the Sabbath on which day you will be off from 12 noon to 2 p.m.

6. Graduate nurses in good standing with the director of nurses will be given an evening off each week for courting purposes or two evenings a week if you go regularly to church.

7. Each nurse should lay aside from each pay day a goodly sum of her earnings for her benefits during her declining years so that she will not become a burden. For example, if you earn $30 a month you should set aside $15.

8. Any nurse who smokes, uses liquor in any form, gets her hair done at a beauty shop, or frequents dance halls will give the director of nurses good reason to suspect her worth, intentions and integrity.

9. The nurse who performs her labors and serves her patients and doctors without fault for five years will be given an increase of five cents a day, providing there are no hospital debts outstanding.
The history of licensed practical nursing in the United States dates back to the late 1800's. In 1892, the Young Women's Christian Association in New York City gave the first training for practical nurses. Later, Ballard School, also in New York, was the first official school for training. At the time, practical nurses were taught to care for the sick and also were taught homemaking skills. After 1900, the education and licensing of LPNs became more formalized, with standardization developed in 1917 by the National League for Nursing, which was then called the National League of Nursing Education.
Linda Richards

- 1841-1930
- First trained American nurse
- Mother of modern charting
Isabel Hampton Robb

- The American Nurses Association's first president
- prime mover in organizing at the national level.
- In 1896, Robb organized the group known as the Nurses' Associated Alumnae of the United States and Canada. The group was renamed the American Nurses Association in 1911.
- In 1893, Robb gathered together a nucleus of women who were superintendents of schools and founded the American Society of Superintendents of Training Schools for Nurses. This organization became the National League of Nursing Education in 1912.
Lavinia Dock

- 1858-1956
- Advocate of legislation to control nursing practice
- Wrote one of the first nursing textbooks
- Worked with Lillian Wald at Henry Street Settlement
- Worked with Isabel Hampton Robb at John Hopkins School for Nursing
Photo # NH 53047  Nurses on board USS Relief, March 1921
Mary Eliza Mahoney

- 1845-1926
- Accepted into nursing school at age 33
- First African-American trained nurse
- Mostly worked in private homes
- Organized nurses to get fair wages and better working environments
Lillian Wald

- 1867-1940
- Responsible for development of public health nursing
- Helped initiate revision of child labor laws, enactment of pure food laws, education for the handicapped
Mary Adelaide Nutting

- 1858-1947
- Leader in nursing education
- Developed curriculum concepts and guidelines for student nurses
- Chaired the Committee on Nursing under Council of Defense during WWI
Mary Breckenridge

- 1881-1965
- Pioneer in nurse-midwifery
- Established Frontier Nursing Service
- Spent time as a public health nurse during WWI
Twentieth Century

- Practical nursing evolves to meet nursing shortages
- Steps taken to monitor practical nurses
- 1914 Mississippi first licenses PNs
- 1917: nationwide standardization
• 1917 Flu epidemic increased public awareness of need for public health nursing
• Concept of trained female nurses to care for soldiers had been proved on the battlefield
• Committee on Nursing formed under the Council of National defense, Chaired by Adelaide Nutting
  Charged with supplying US Army hospitals with nurses
• Smith-Hughes Act provided funding for LP/VN training
• Shortage of practical nurses
The famous red-lined cape of dark blue, worn by the Red Cross nurse with the red lining exposed over one shoulder.
By 1941 and bombing of Pearl Harbor, nurses were vigorously recruited to battlefront

Shortage of nurses on home front

Practical nurses move into hospitals

Thousands of self-taught “practical nurses”

Few states had established standards for LPN/LVN practice and licensure

1944 study outlined differences in practice of RN and LVN
RN vs. LVN role defined

- 1949: Licensed practical nurse
- LPN under supervision of RN
- Recommendation that LPNs organized
- Educational content of schools strengthened
- Programs extended to 9, 12, and 18 months
Nursing Education

• 1965 ANA statement:
• Nursing education should take place in schools
• Minimum preparation for professional nurse should be BSN, for technical nurse should be an ASN
Development of Practical Nurse

- **Attendant Nurses**
  - Ballard School for practical nurse started in 1892 in Brooklyn, New York
  - 3 month program
  - Students trained in care of chronically ill, invalids, children and elderly
  - Emphasis on home care, including cooking, nutrition, basic science and nursing procedure
  - 1952 approx. 60% of nurse workforce was LPN’s
Licensure

- Licensing laws protect public
- Put into effect through state agencies, usually state board of nursing and nurse practice acts.
- Licensing for practical nurses began in 1914 in Mississippi
- After start of WWII all states passed laws regarding licensing of LVN/LPNs
- Nurse Practice Acts set the scope of practice
Nursing:
Factors that influence Practice

- Legislation
- Societal expectations
- Technology
- Litigation
- Insurance and economics
- Advancements in disease prevention and wellness promotion
- War
Role of LVN

- Member of the health care team
- Under direct supervision of MD, DDS or RN
- Services provided in structured setting
- Assist individuals in activities that contribute to health, recovery, or peaceful death
Roles and Responsibilities

- Member of health care team
- Accountable for own practice
- Patient advocate
- Growth through education
- Aware of contents of Nurse Practice Act
- Ethical practice
- Perform within legal parameters
A bit about Pins