

skill must be obtained. Although all arts require inborn qualities, they need careful training and experience to become perfect."

(3) "The final essential is knowledge. Nursing art, like medical art, is based on science, or knowledge of true facts and principles. Only as science displaced superstition could these arts make progress. Only the awakening of women to intellectual life and emancipation has been of equal importance in the history of nursing with the progress of the medical profession. . . .

"For the attainment of the highest efficiency the whole field of the care of the sick has come to be divided into various departments, one of which is the caretaking or nursing, and to this has now been assigned much that used to be given to the medical man. Perhaps the one essential dividing line between nursing and medical specialities is that they require a different discipline, a different administration. What this shall be has formed the controversial element in nursing history."

Medical Notions Current among Primitive People.

Ignorance of disease is one of the salient features of primitive society; but "though in most parts of the civilised world both the theory and the practice of trained nursing are surprisingly recent the historian of nursing must begin by examining the medical notions current amongst ancient peoples; for from their crude conceptions of the healing art have originated all modern methods of caring for the sick."

This the author then proceeds to do and shows that the genealogy of many eminent medical and surgical methods to-day leads back to this strange and quaint ancestry; also that "from the primitive fear of evil spirits as causing illness descended especially that dark ignorance which has been so terribly shown in the treatment of the insane."

Care of the Sick in the Ancient World.

Then follow chapters on the Care of the Sick in the Ancient World, and it is stated that of all purely medical records so far discovered and deciphered the oldest are Egyptian. One especially celebrated papyrus is described as an encyclopedia of medicine as practised by the Egyptians in the sixteenth century before the Christian era.

In Babylon and Assyria, 2500 B.C., we know that physicians already existed, as definite rules were laid down concerning their fees.

In China, one of the oldest as well as the largest nations in the world, and the cradle of a very old civilisation, the early history abounds in myths and legends.

"In the time before Christ, the Israelites formed a striking contrast to the nations around them. . . . All the principles of present day sanitation are anticipated in the Israelitish law, and its methods are in accord with modern bacteriology. There are provisions in it for the inspection and selection of food, for the disposal of excreta, notification of the authorities in cases of communicable disease, quarantine, disinfection, etc.

Midwifery is spoke of as an established craft. Specially interesting are the instructions in Leviticus dealing with leprosy, its diagnosis, quarantine and cleansing after cure.

In ancient India the sacred books, the most usual date assigned to the Vedas being about 1200 B.C., medicine has an important place, and of the attendants (male nurses) it is written: "That person alone is fit to be a nurse or to attend the bedside of a patient who is cool-headed and pleasant, does not speak ill of anybody, is strong and attentive to the requirements of the sick and strictly and indefatigably follows the instructions of the physician."

Of Greece, "the source of modern medical science," we read of the Greek culture which brings us down to the time of the great Hippocrates, the Father of Modern Medicine, whose teachings "were based definitely on the natural sciences." Asklepios, the son of Apollo, who was

the deity of health and medicine, was a marvellous physician who was later deified and worshipped, and those interested in eugenics and the law of heredity will read with interest that the two sons of Asklepios were surgeons with the Greek army in the Trojan war, and the women of the family typify skill in nursing and maintaining health. Among the daughters was Hygeia, the goddess of health, whose symbol is found on many modern public health nurses' badges, publications, etc. Another daughter named Panacea was the restorer of health, represented as presiding over the administration of medicines; while another personified recovery from illness.

We can only briefly refer to the fascinating story of the influence of Christianity on the care of the sick, of the independent and dignified position held by women in Roman Society, which proved of great importance to the development of nursing, of Phœbe, the friend of St. Paul, who organised on a wide scale the nursing of the sick poor, and other noble women whose names are written in shining letters across the pages of nursing history.

In the Middle Ages various military nursing Orders arose and established hospitals on the highways for pilgrims to Jerusalem and other holy places. Of these the Order of St. John—the Knights Hospitallers—was one of the most famous. The Order of Teutonic Knights, which flourished only in Teutonic countries, the Order of St. Francis of Assisi, which, established in 1182, is still existent. In the year 1771 some Franciscan Brothers began to work in Northern Hupeh, caring for the sick, and the Order is still at work in China to-day. The Knights of St. Lazarus specialised in the care of lepers, and there was a Sisterhood of St. Lazarus for women among women. Too little is known of its sacrificial work. As leprosy died out in Europe the Order became extinct.

The Augustinian Sisters.

Among the Nursing Orders of women is that of the Augustinian Sisters at the Hotel Dieu of Paris, one of the oldest purely nursing Orders of Nuns, and which has for 1,200 years served the hospital. At the I.C.N. Congress in Paris, in 1933, at which several representatives from China were present, some Augustinian Sisters attended. In the Pageant of Nursing History shown, one of the Sisters represented France in Nursing.

Two famous English hospitals are the oldest. St. Bartholomew's, London, founded by Rahere in 1123, where he placed both Sisters and Brothers of the Augustinian Order to nurse the patients in the wards; and St. Thomas' Hospital, in which one of the greatest reforms of the nineteenth century was wrought by a woman, Miss Florence Nightingale. The hospital owes its earliest origin to a woman, a pious ferryboat keeper named Mary.

One of the most beloved saints and nurses of the Middle Ages—Elizabeth of Hungary—is prominent in art, legend and history as a patron saint of nursing, and was the "inspiration of Wagner's exquisite creation of Elizabeth in 'Tannhauser.'" St. Vincent de Paul is another great heroic figure of the Middle Ages. "A Father of the Church, he did much work in succouring the sick."

The earliest information regarding organised medical work in China at this period goes back to the time of the great missionary, Matteo Ricci, 1552-1610. Among those who listened to his preaching was the Minister Hsu Wang Chi (Ko Lau), who received baptism under the name of Paul. His youngest daughter, Candida, shared the same Christian enthusiasm as her father. Among the charities that she organised was a foundling hospital and orphanage, and 20 years after her death an organisation of lay Christians existed which, among other works, provided care for the sick.

(To be concluded.)

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