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## EDITORIAL.

### A SHORT HISTORY OF NURSING.

VOLS. I and II.

The great event of the past month in the Nursing world has been, without doubt, the publication of the fourth edition of "A History of Nursing," by Lavinia L. Dock, R.N., formerly Secretary of the International Council of Nurses, and Isabel M. Stewart, A.M., R.N., Professor of Nursing Education, Teachers' College, Columbia University, New York. The spoken word is ephemeral, but what is written may be carried to the ends of the earth, may be studied and memorised, and thus enrich our knowledge of the evolution of nursing systems from the earliest times to the foundation of training schools for nurses. Those of us who know our nursing history up to date, realise the debt of gratitude owed to Miss Lavinia Dock, as the inspirer of Nursing history, who, together with Miss M. Adelaide Nutting, R.N., gave us, in 1907, in two exquisitely illustrated volumes, "A History of Nursing: A Study of Nursing, Past and Present," and placed at the disposal of the student, not only the inspiration but the facts concerning the devotion, from generation to generation, of the legions of humane and spiritual men and women whose devotion to suffering humanity should be the example of the nurse of every age. The study of "Nursing, Past and Present" placed at the disposal of the student in these two volumes cannot be overestimated, and united professional nurses throughout the world, through the International Council of Nurses.

VOLS. III and IV.

In 1912, Vols. III and IV were issued, edited and partly written by Miss Lavinia Dock, presenting "A History of Nursing from the Earliest Times to the Present Day, with Special Reference to the Work of the Past Thirty Years," with 43 illustrations. Thus, in four volumes, the evolution of nursing, finely illustrated, the last two containing life-like portraits of the leading nurse organisers in the skilled care of the sick to date throughout the world, became the inspiration of nursing evolution.

The following years, 1914 to 1925, fruitful though tragic, found Miss Dock with her genius for friendship, keeping in touch, through the I.C.N., with national groups of nurses, and inspiring the whole nursing world with the spirit of fellowship, and even the devastating horrors of war failed to alienate national groups of nurses—the sick had need of them, war or no war, and 1937 found representatives of 35 nationalities gathered together in London—prepared to share knowledge, skill and duty in the care of the sick, with colleagues from the ends of the earth.

VOL. V, 1933.

A third edition of the "History," completely revised, was published in 1933, by Lavinia L. Dock, R.N., together with Miss Isabel Maitland Stewart, A.M., R.N., Professor, Department of Nursing Education, Teachers' College, Columbia University, New York. Written primarily for students in nursing schools. Briefly, it is based on the idea of a continuous strand of social studies running straight through the curriculum, and dealing especially with the social and professional aspects of nursing. Of the more significant modern trends in history teaching, only four are mentioned. First, there is the growing movement towards the integrating of different branches of the social sciences, history, civics, ethics, sociology and others relating to the study of human society; as opposed to the older tendency to split these subjects off into separate fragments and to teach them independently. Secondly, much greater emphasis is being put on the development of attitudes, interests, ideals and habits that lead to good citizenship, and less on the storage of knowledge, no matter how important this knowledge may be. Third, in all history teaching, there is a tendency to get away from the old encyclopædic treatment of individual historical facts, and to make a more careful selection of significant personalities and events. Fourth, instead of expecting that students will carry away from their classes in history all they need for future use, the effort is to open doors into various storehouses, where they can go when they need information to help them to use such sources intelligently, to balance different view points, and to reach reasoned conclusions instead of accepting uncritically anything they may read or hear.

VOL. VI.

Another decade has passed away, and we welcome with appreciation Volume VI of "A Short History of Nursing," by Dock and Stewart. Needless to say, it is finely illustrated. Although we are informed that this short history of Nursing is written primarily for students in nursing schools in the United States and Canada, the authors hope that it will serve also as a useful summary of nursing history for the profession generally. ". . . Perhaps it is not unreasonable to expect that as the spot light focuses more on the workers who helped to build up and to conserve life, more attention will be given to such forms of human aspiration and effort as nursing."

To quote the authors: "As an illustration of the life-saving adventure of the race, probably no more dramatic or moving story could be formed than that of the long line of nursing pioneers, men and women, who shared in so many of the great episodes of world history, and who led in several of its most constructive movements. As

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