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Spiritual elements in the nursing profession, 1938, 1949.

ADDRESS TO
HURON ROAD HOSPITAL NURSES' GRADUATION
SEPTEMBER 9, 1949

It is not difficult to define the spiritual elements in the profession of nursing. Nursing like medicine, like so many other essential interests and enterprises of man, stems directly out of the religious sentiments and convictions of the human race. The healer among earliest peoples, was the priest. The first healing centers among the ancients were connected with Temples and Shrines. The first hospitals were built by religious organizations. The first nurses were religionists. The first scientific training of nurses which was inaugurated more than a century ago was also at the outset on a semi-religious basis.

Inherent in the care of the sick, the protection and the safeguarding of health, are certain basic religious tenets which both motivate and explain them. These tenets, as far as the Western World is concerned, derive mainly from the Jewish-Christian tradition, the source of which are the mighty ethical principles and codes of the Old and New Testaments. In a real sense, the ethical teachings of Judaism and Christianity in the early centuries were a direct and deliberate challenge to the moral callousness, the insensate attitude to human need and suffering, and the indifference to human life which characterized so much of what we call paganism.

In a world which found its enjoyment and sport in the blood-soaked arena where man killed man or beasts tore human beings for the delectation of a holiday crowd, the religions of Moses and Jesus proclaimed aloud the sanctity and the inviolability of human life and its horror of the shedding of innocent blood. In a world where the poor man was despised and hated, where, as Seneca says, most Romans regarded the chance meeting with a poor man as an evil omen, where a man would not touch a beggar but at best would throw a pittance to him; where Virgil proclaimed that the "Ideal Man knows naught of the pang

of pity for the poor"; and where Quintillian, another Roman declared, "How can a man lower himself - and not drive the poor man away, as a despised creature?", our religions called not only for compassion and pity for the poor, but for respect and brotherliness. Our homes and our hearts must be open to them. Poverty was at times even extolled, perhaps excessively, as the one classic way to salvation.

At the heart of your profession are some of these mighty religious and spiritual postulates which civilization has come to identify with Judaeo-Christian tradition.

Your profession believes that human life is a reflex of divine life, that it possesses an inherent sovereign significance and nobility, and that it is, therefore, deserving of the utmost solicitude and the most painstaking care. It furthermore believes that every individual life is similarly significant, for every life is fashioned in the image of God - not merely the lives of the great, but also of the humble - the weak, the unknown. There is beauty and promise also in the unheralded and unnoticed lives. All who belong to the motley communion of saints and sinners, which is the world of men as we know it, have the stamp of God upon them and have a claim upon the pity, love and tenderness which is the spirit of God in us.

The significance of the individual - that is one of the axioms of your profession. You deal with individual human beings. Always your service is directed to one man or one woman or one child. It is a distinct, separate and self-contained entity that you are called upon to tend, to help, to comfort.

In our age, unfortunately, the individual is being dwarfed. He is being merged or submerged more and more in the mass. The dictatorship state, for example, reckons little with the individual as such and the requirements of his separate personality. It deals with him as with an indistinguishable item in a huge statistical table.

In our religious tradition, however, the individual is paramount. The salvation of his soul - that is the supreme drama of human destiny. The Bible begins with the story of the creation of one man and closes with the story of the death of one man who saw God face to face. Commenting upon the phrase in one of the early chapters of the Book of Genesis, "this is the generation of man", where man is mentioned in the singular instead of in the plural, an ancient Rabbi states that the reason for the use of the singular instead of the plural is to indicate that at all times every single individual has the right to say, "For my own sake was the whole world created."

Your profession, insofar as it is built around personal service to the individual person - his care, his cure, his peace of mind - is closest to that classic religious tradition which unfortunately is being eclipsed in our world today - we hope only temporarily.

Your profession renders not only personal service to individuals, but personality service. I can conceive of few professions wherein the moral and spiritual personality of the server is of such importance as in the profession of nursing. Sound moral qualities are the foundations of true success in every profession. They are the strong arms which sustain men and women in all their ways. But nowhere are they so much a part of the actual professional routine as they are in the nursing profession. Without them the work of the nurse is just not possible. Reliability, trustworthiness, steadiness, loyalty, kindness, tact, selflessness - these are the indispensable ingredients of the service of nursing which alone define its success. They are its inescapable criteria and standards.

This is not to suggest that scientific skill, training and experience are non-essentials in this profession. Quite the contrary. The unique appeal of this profession is its remarkable blending of the two - the scientific and human. Good will and the best of intentions are not enough in this

or in any other profession. There must be knowledge, technique, training, skill. All the facilities and instrumentalities which science has made available and which serve to increase the efficiency of a human service must be exploited in this profession as in every other profession to the utmost. Science has bestowed a great gift upon the modern world. It has trained mankind to take the greatest care in order to insure accuracy, efficiency, and dependability - to eliminate as far as possible, chance or variability or the element of surprise, to provide for every conceivable contingency. Science is training mankind to reduce the coincidence of chance and accident to a minimum.

When I was a boy, there were no heavier-than-air planes. The whole science of aeronautics did not exist. Within a few decades the great new science was developed. Today there exists an elaborate technique and a trained personnel of plane builders and engineers, mechanics and pilots - and one flies today by day or by night, in rain or in snow, over land and sea at an amazing speed, in comfort and in confidence. Why? Because one has confidence in the scientific mind which built the machine, in the skill which went into its construction. One has confidence in the dependability of the instruments which aid the pilot to navigate his ship. One has confidence in the communication system by which the pilot is kept informed about weather conditions and receives his instructions. ~~One has confidence in the radio signals which enable the pilots to keep on a straight course;~~ One has confidence that science has made provisions for nigh every contingency. This is the great boon which science has bestowed upon the modern world. In every sphere of human activity it has increased our confidence along with our power.

But science, in spite of its great and indispensable contributions, is not enough. Especially in your profession, it is not enough. There must also be spiritual sensitiveness, human sympathy and gentleness, the gifts of the heart.

There must be a wisdom which transcends knowledge and a willingness to help which supplements our ability to help. There must be ideals to replenish the reservoirs of purpose and skill.

Mankind is reaching out everywhere today for security - political security, economic security. Nations are arming themselves to the teeth to make themselves secure against war and invasion. Desperate struggles are being waged all over the world to bring about a more secure, just and stable economic order. In some countries, bitter civil war, bloody purges and liquidations are resorted to in an effort to achieve such security. It is very doubtful whether the means which are now employed will ever bring about the desired end.

But there is another essential security of which mankind stands in daily and hourly need - the security of health, protection against the ever-present threat of plagues and epidemics which have in the past ravaged whole nations and continents and which still lurk like an ever-present menace close to every community. The slightest relaxation of medical vigilance, the slightest carelessness in public health service, the slightest let-down in discipline and organization - and the foe strikes with blind, remorseless fury and destroys myriads of men, women and children.

There are also the unpredictable disasters of wars, floods, tornadoes and fires which bring misery and suffering to untold numbers. It is the medical and the nursing professions and their allied services, indefatigably on guard in every home, school, office, factory in the land which stand between man and his age-old implacable foes of disease and disaster - the Four Horsemen of the Apocalypse. They give to man's life that element of security which alone makes possible a planned and orderly existence and a steady progress in all the avenues of man's quest and development. They have banished from our lives a dread and fear which hung like a pall over the lives of men and nations in other ages.

In the struggle for this form of security, be it noted, the weapons employed are not blood and terror and force and dictatorship - primitive futile and tragic weapons - but the moral and spiritual weapons of knowledge, research, education, love, service and the spirit of self-sacrifice.

When people are sick, they are under physical and mental strain. Frequently their suffering sadly demoralizes them. They are not themselves. Some are querulous, unreasonable, exacting. It is not a glamorous world in which the nurse performs her ministry, and unless she is possessed of the gift which enables her not only to see things, but to see through them and beyond them, she is likely to be discouraged.

(Stone cutters)

Nor are the monetary rewards of your profession comparable to those which can be earned in the market place or in some other professions. But the deepest compensations of life are not the monetary ones, nor the deepest satisfactions of life derived from them. Over and above the material compensations there are in a profession such as yours an abundance of life-ennobling and spirit-sustaining rewards which come from selfless and consecrated service to our fellowmen. In the world of spiritual economy we are paid in precious spiritual coin one hundred - fold for every act of goodness which we perform and for every word of kindness which we speak.

(The beggar)

I salute you, members of this graduating class of the Huron Road Hospital School of Nursing, for the recognized status which is about to be yours as builders of the good society, as co-workers in the essential work of civilization. Swarming, teeming cities, radios, television and the atomic bomb are not civilization any more than spires, domes and minarets are religion. The essence of civilization is a free, secure, and creative social

life. The criteria of civilization are neither wealth, nor size, nor speed nor invention, but the values which it places upon human personality, the rewards which it grants to labor and merit, the protection which it gives to human life, and the quality of its intellectual, spiritual and aesthetic interests. Civilization is everything that makes life more meaningful, sweeter, more confident and more joyous. Not everyone who is busy in this world is contributing to civilization. Many who labor labor in vain. Many who accumulate and aggrandize heap up only dust and ashes. The faithful members of the nursing profession are among the true builders of civilization.



A new civilization must be built. Spires, domes, and minarets are not religion; neither are radios aeroplanes, and swarming, teeming cities civilization. The essence of civilization is a free, secure, and creative social life. The criteria of civilization are neither wealth, nor size, nor speed, nor invention, but the values which it places upon human personality, the rewards which it grants to labor and merit, the quality of its intellectual, spiritual, and aesthetic interests and the stimulus which it gives to those social factors, which make human life sweeter, more confident, and more joyous. Measured by these criteria, our present-day civilization is but an ultra-modern expression of barbarism; and the sharp contrast which exists between its social backwardness and its scientific progress only makes the fact more bewildering and, at the same time, more menacing.

-- "The Crisis in Social Work" delivered at
59th Annual Session of National Conference of Social Work, May 1932, in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

1/ It is not difficult to define - Sp. elements
Nursing, like medicine, - (sterns)
The Healer among - priest. First healing Centers
First Hospitals - First Nurses - First Sr. Training

2/ Inherent in the prof. care of the sick - protection
R. tenets which both motivate them & explain.

These tenets derive mainly - the source, which
In a real sense, the source is the

3/ In a world which found - blood-soaked arena
" " " when Poor Man - Servant - owner
Virgil - Imperialism: "How can a Man bow -
+ not drive away..."
- not only companion & pity - Home & Heart
Poverty - extolled

4/ At the Heart of Your Profession, as some, these

② Your Pr. believes - Human life - Reflex - ∴
" " " Every lower life - Similarly
" " " significant - fashioned in image -

{ Not merely (lives of great) humble - weak - unknown
there is (beauty) promise - hunger - also
in unheralded, unnoticed lives -

on travels to-day -

Confidence - mind-constructive -

defend. of modern - implements

Radio telephone -

Radio signals - strong cover

E.M. cable - power - under heavens

conveyed - violence - def. of - by etc. - passion

11/ But - in the 7 - not enough

Exp. in your Prof. -

There must also be Humanity - gentleness - affection

wisdom -

Eagerness to serve

Teach reforms

12/ My Friends: Mankind - every where - Security

arming - struggle - and has -

Doubtful

13/ But there is another form of Security - stands
in daily hourly need of - Health S.

Protes against ever-present threat, Plagues

which in Past - ravaged - hurts

8/ Your Pr. renders not only Personal - Personality / Character / cannot conceive - wherein the moral spf.
Personality of Servor = of much importance
Sound moral qualities - foundations - Strong lines
But no where - actual (pr. routine) & procedure
without them - not possible
Reliability - Trustworth - Modest - Regality - Kindness
Tact - Unselfishness = Indiscrepancies
which alone define - the criteria

9/ This is not to suggest that Sec Skills, far from
non-essentials Just the contrary!

The Unique
Good Will - not enough
There must be Knowledge
All the facilities, which
Great gift - Can to insure - eliminate
reduced coincidence

10/ A few days ago - 7000 units - 35 M 90
new machine new implements
An elaborate organ - technician - personnel
engineers builders - mechanics - pilots

All who belong - Consumers - have seal -
and have a claim - prty. love & tenderness

②
5/ The Sig. / the Individ - one, the Charac. exrns / just
You deal - with under. human being
Always / your service is directed to one man
It is a distinct separate, self-contained and
that you are called upon to feed -

6/ In our Age unfortunately, the dwarfed
Merged - submerged masses in Mass
Coordinated WRHS AMERICAN JEWELRY ARCHIVES
the (total. Plots) reckons very little - per se
It forces being worlds
It deals with being - indisting. (item) (Statistical)
Table (Pictures)

7/ But in the Rel. traditions - paramount
The Salvation / his Love - Supreme Drama
Human Destiny
Bible begins - (1, 2, 3)

Your Prg. - in so far as it is built on service
To God - his carste is closest
Eclipsed -

The slightest Relaxation - Carelessness let-down

14/ There are also Unpredictable Disasters, harm
misery

It is the Medical & Nursing Prof - allied -
undefatigably - stand between -

dread foes & Disease & Death -

" Humanity & the Apocalypse

The post man's ^{life} element Security & confidence
which alone - prosper

Barren - Dark ages

15/ And as this Struggle for Security - Warfare

And he it is that beavers - only

16/ Civilization - A new C. must be built

Spices - radios

Essence - is the free, secure, joyous life

Criteria - as yet the size - speed, wealth, material

But values - rewards - quality - stimulates

Measured - ultra-modern - sharp contrast

17/ How - breaks

18/ Blessed - Reward -

possess a sovereign, inherent sympathies & ability, that I ~~think~~^{is} to deserve, the utmost solicitude & the most painstaking care.

(4) I believe that every individual life is similarly significant, for every life is fashioned in the image of God. And not merely the great, the great - but also, the humble - the mean, the unknown. There is beauty & promise and the hunger for fulfillment also in their unheralded & unmarked lives. All who belong to the great communities, saint & sinner which is this world, men as we know it - ~~we~~ have the seal & stamp of God upon them and have a claim upon the pity, love & tenderness which is the seal & stamp of God in us.

(3) The respectance, the individuality - that is on, the characteristic aspiration of your profession. You deal ^{in your calling} with individual human beings - always, your service is directed to an man, or a woman or a child. You think of him as a distinct, separate, self-contained human entity that you are called upon to tend, to observe, to serve, to help, to comfort.

(2) In an age, unfortunately, the indiv. is being dwarfed. He is being merged & submerged more & more in the mass - He is being coordinated. The totalitarian state, for example, seeks little with the individual and the submergence of his unique personality. It forces him into pre-arranged molds. It deals with him as an insignificant little item in a statistical table.

(1) In the Rl. Institution the individual is paramount. The salvation of his soul - is the supreme drama of human destiny. (1) Bible begins. (2) , 1st c -

(4) Your profession, in so far as it is built around ^{personal service to} the individual, his care, his well-being, his restoration, his peace & mind, his physical salvation, is closest today to the classic tradition of Religion which is to-day being eclipsed, - at least temporarily - in the world.

9) And it is ~~more~~ than personal sense, it is personally sense. I cannot (3
concern a profession where in the moral ths. personally, it is in
(real) unification as in the profession, however, and moral standards
~~with~~ as the foundation (the means in any condition. They are the means
~~as~~ where within, the means in as their way. But no-
when as they no more aspect, the actual professional activities
produce as in the profession, without them the
work, the means is just not possible. Reliability, character, honesty,
steadiness, loyalty, kindness, trust, unselfishness - these are the
indispensable ingredients, that seem to define its success
They are the evidence and standards -

57. This is what I meant that we shall, ~~and~~ learning & performance are non-separable. In the country, it is in the remarkable knowledge; God will and the best, inflections — showing, I must say, the language. The as the parents distinguish which knower the most available, to and entire can witness the offering & a human service must be explained to the subject. This is the great gift which I mean has returned upon the world now (2nd.)

[illegible]

6/ Handled 25 reading cut every other today for security - 1st security, 2nd security. 3rd security are among themselves to the 3rd security to the 3rd security.

Desperate struggles are being waged today in almost every country to bring about a new secure & stable social & economic order. In some lands, bitter civil war, bloody purges and liquidations, are resorted to in an effort to achieve such security. It is very doubtful whether the means now employed will ever bring about this desired end.

But there is another essential security, which mankind stands in daily & hourly need - Health Security - protection against the ever-present threat of plagues, epidemics, & communicable diseases which have in the past ravaged nations and continents, and which, ^{like} an ever-present menace in the proximity of every community. The slightest relaxation of medical vigilance, the slightest carelessness in public health services, the slightest let-down in discipline & organization, and the foe strikes with blood, remembers every age, every man, woman & child.

There are also the unpredictable disasters of war, floods, fires & which bring misery & suffering to untold numbers.

It is the medical & the nursing professions and their allied services, ^{wide participation and partnership in general in the home the school the office the factory} which stand between man and his age-old, unplaceable foe - the Fear of Disease & Disaster. They give to his life that element of security ^{confidence} which alone makes possible ^{a planned & orderly ~~existence~~ and} a steady progress in all the avenues of ^{man's} quest and ^{development} ~~education~~. They have learned that fear which hangs like a pall over the lives of men in other ages.

And in this struggle for this form of security, he it is noted, the

weapons employed are not blood & terror & force & dictatorship —
~~and primitive~~ ~~but~~, subtle & tragic weapons — but the moral & spiritual
weapons of knowledge, research, education, love, service
and ~~the~~ ~~self-~~ sacrifice —

And, he it noted, that because, the moral means employed,
this form of human security, is about the only one where in
real progress has been achieved.

7/. stem-cells —

Beygan —

What is Curesation —



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THE MOUNT SINAI HOSPITAL
SCHOOL OF NURSING

CLEVELAND



TUESDAY EVENING, MAY 31st, 1938

8:30 o'clock

Graduating Class of 1938

*Eileen Bollinger	Belleville, Ohio
*Grace Cannon	Youngstown, Ohio
*Evelyn Carlson	Jamestown, New York
*Jane Cowan	New Bethlehem, Pennsylvania
*Ruth Cupp	Lima, Ohio
Lorraine Dahlen	Sandusky, Ohio
*Kathryn Donaldy	Cleveland, Ohio
Selma Erickson	Dover, Ohio
Laura Fatica	Cleveland, Ohio
*Camilla Hammitt	Youngstown, Ohio
*Miriam Heazlit	Cleveland, Ohio
Ida Leiman	Elyria, Ohio
Pauline Loveland	Andover, Ohio
*Georgetta McClelland	Avon Lake, Ohio
*Marion Olson	Cleveland, Ohio
Louise Perlinsky	Cleveland, Ohio
*Charlotte Peterson	Lakewood, New York
*Alice Quick	Cleveland Heights, Ohio
*Ruth Schneider	Cleveland, Ohio
Virginia Schwartz	Lexington, Ohio
Vivian Schwartz	Lexington, Ohio
*Gladys Seifert	Madison, Ohio
*Evelyn Silvius	Ashtabula, Ohio
Betty Stark	Gates Mills, Ohio
*Edith Strauss	Cleveland, Ohio
*Esther Strauss	Cleveland, Ohio
*Myra Talso	Conneaut, Ohio
*Elizabeth Trautwein	Alliance, Ohio
Mary Tyler	Willoughby, Ohio
*Rachel Wright	Cleveland Heights, Ohio
Elizabeth Young	Canton, Ohio

**To complete practical work.*

Program

Invocation—

Abba Hillel Silver, D.D., Litt.D.
The Temple

Selections—

Arise, O Sun *Maudie Craske Day*
Dio Possente from "Faust" *Charles Gounod*

Mr. Donald Dewhirst
Baritone

Miss Annabelle Jackson
Accompanist

Address to Graduating Class—



Rev. Abba Hillel Silver

Selections—

Without a Song *Vincent Youmans*
Ol' Man River, from "Showboat" *Jerome Kern*
Mr. Dewhirst and Miss Jackson

Presentation of Diplomas,

Awarding of Scholarships Mr. Max Myers
President, Board of Trustees

Presentation of School Pins Miss M. Anna Gillis
Principal, School of Nursing

Benediction—

Rev. Abba Hillel Silver

Reception—

Commencement Exercises
of

Huron Road Hospital

School of Nursing

EAST CLEVELAND, OHIO



CHURCH OF THE COVENANT

11205 Euclid Avenue

CLEVELAND

Friday Evening, September 9, 1949

8:00 O'clock

GRADUATES

Jenell Jewell	Shirley Avanell Walton
Jeanette Klaue Slocum	Marilyn Jeanne Warman
Eliazbeth Katherine Quirk	Lois Fay Johnson
Joanne Margaret Dillon	Joan Melling Shipman
Caroline Agnes Riedel	Jean Kathleen Close
Shirley Rae Leprich	Bonnie Black Brown
Dorothy Jeanne Morgan	Doris Sivertsen Klein
Laverne Helen Russ	Miriam Irene Clark
Wilma Jeanne Hendricks	Mary Malinda Richardson
Kathryn Elizabeth McGeehon	Clara Eloise Pannier
Marie Louise Hoel	Alice Mae Watkins
Doris Mae Hewitt	Doris Joan Gilkison
Sara Joanne Tilton	Betty Jane Dolenc

Mary Longanecker Lilly - in absentia

PROGRAM

PROCESSIONAL

"Triumphal March" G. Verdi

Harry Fussner

Assistant Organist, Church of the Covenant

INVOCATION

The Rev. Edgar G. Prasse

Assistant Pastor, Church of the Covenant

INTRODUCTORY REMARKS

Harry D. Sims

President, Board of Trustees

ADDRESS

Abba Hillel Silver, D.D.

Rabbi, The Temple

PRESENTATION OF DIPLOMAS

Victor C. McLaughlin, B.S., M.D., F.A.C.S.,

President of the Medical Staff

PRESENTATION OF PINS

Hulda M. Merkel, R.N., M.N.

Director, Huron Road Hospital School of Nursing

BENEDICTION

The Rev. Edgar G. Prasse

RECESSIONAL

"Coronation March" G. Meyerbeer

Harry Fussner