METHODOIST HOSPITAL SCHOOL OF NURSING RECORDS, 1908–1968

Collection Information

Historical Sketch

Scope and Content Note

Series Contents

Processed by

Jenny Holly
February 2015

Manuscript and Visual Collections Department
William Henry Smith Memorial Library
Indiana Historical Society
450 West Ohio Street
Indianapolis, IN 46202-3269

www.indianahistory.org
COLLECTION INFORMATION

VOLUME OF COLLECTION: 4 manuscript boxes, 5 bound volumes, 1 box photographs, 1 OVA box of photographs, 3 folders OVC photographs, 15 graphic flat file folders, 3 boxes of lantern slides

COLLECTION DATES: 1908–68

PROVENANCE: Indiana Methodist Hospital School of Nursing Alumnae Association, c/o Thelma R. Seward, Nineveh, IN

RESTRICTIONS: None

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ALTERNATE FORMATS:


Indiana Methodist School of Nursing Materials, M 1029, OMB 0126

ACCESSION NUMBER: 2003.0103

NOTES:
HISTORICAL SKETCH

Using surplus funds from the 1899 International Convention of the Epsworth League of the Methodist Episcopal Church, a fund was established for the building of a hospital in Indianapolis. Prior to this, the hospital situation in Indianapolis was less than ideal. Three hospitals existed but were overcrowded and unable to fully serve the city's population. Soon after the hospital was built, a nursing training program was established. This training school, first opened in 1908, graduated its first class of two students in 1909. The backgrounds and experiences of the early students varied. Some recruits transferred from other schools, some already possessed some nursing education, and others were complete beginners. In 1911, the program graduated the first group of fourteen nurses who attended the entire 3 year training program. The nursing program grew rapidly and by 1919, 206 students were in training.

Early students in the program followed a strict schedule. Prior to 1917, nurses worked a 12-hour schedule from 7 AM to 7 PM. Throughout the school's history, nurses studied a variety of coursework alongside clinical experience. By the 1960s, coursework included psychology and sociology alongside surgical methods, bacteriology, diet and nutrition, and others.

The nursing program's history was tied to larger historical events. During World War I, the superintendent of nurses, Miss June Gray, left the school along with a number of nursing students to serve on U.S. Army Base hospitals. In 1918 and 1919, an influenza epidemic struck Indianapolis along with the rest of the country. The epidemic infected a large number of people at Fort Benjamin Harrison. The nursing school sent a supervisor and 13 students to help, all of whom were infected with the virus.

World War II affected the school and hospital as well. Overcrowding, bed shortages, rising costs, and nurse shortages were issues faced by the Methodist Hospital as well as hospitals nationally. The nurse shortage was of particular concern and the school attempted to recruit "young women of high scholastic ability and good character who will make first-class nurses." Nursing recruitment efforts were instituted in Sunday School classrooms and high schools. Edward Gallahue, president of the American States Insurance Company, developed the most successful recruiting effort. The "Gallahue Plan," or, "Indiana Plan," as it became known nationally after an article in the Reader's Digest, used a method of visiting Methodist summer youth camps and showing a film on nursing to young women. Prospective students filled out cards and were followed up with phone calls and mailings.
The last class of nurses graduated in 1968. The Methodist Hospital program was phased out and replaced by the nursing program at Indiana University on what is now IUPUI's campus. Those 77 students in the class of 1968 joined a total of 3,668 nurses who graduated from the three-year training program during its 60 years of operation.

The Methodist Episcopal Hospital is now the Indiana University Health Methodist Hospital.

Sources:

Materials in Collection

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

Series One: Series One contains course outlines from the 1965–1966 academic year. Each course folder contains an overview of the course, lists of assigned student readings, and learning objectives.

Series Two: This series contains two grade books containing the outcomes of student coursework from 1908–1917 and 1918–1920. Loose pages from the 1908–1917 grade book are in Box 1, Folder 27. Also included in this series are two Nurse Record Books spanning the years of 1916–1920. Like the grade books, these record books chronicle student progress, but are focused on clinical experience hours.

Series Three: Series Three contains procedures manuals from 1932–1943. The series begins with a Nursing Procedures Index. This index includes materials from 1932–1943 and contains procedural information for nursing tasks. Following this guide is a Nursing Procedures manual from 1938. Like the Nursing Procedures Index, this manual covers basic and advanced tasks a nurse would learn while at the school. This manual includes lists of supplies a nurse would need on hand to perform various procedures. This manual is indicated as having belong to Elizabeth Ann Duvall and includes handwritten notes on procedures at the back of the manual.

Series Four: This series contains the results of accreditation reports from 1960 and 1966. These reports outline the program's format and operating procedures as well the evaluation by the various reviewing committees.

Series Five: This series consists of meeting minutes from Education Committee Minutes, Curriculum Committee Minutes and Faculty Meeting Minutes. These minutes were organized by academic year as opposed to calendar year. Minutes included in this series span the years 1941–1965.

Series Six: Series Six contains School of Nursing exhibits. These "exhibits" are 10 outlines, lists, and organizational documents for the school.

Series Seven: Series Seven contains lantern slides numbered 1–358. These slides are of artworks and illustrations that mostly contain images of nurses, religious figures, sickness, and death. The slides were not labeled with identifying information for the illustrations other than slide number.

Series Eight: Series Eight contains items related to charitable donations and gifts to the School of Nursing. Included in this series is a bound Memorial Record. This record is an illustrated book containing names of donors. Also included in this series are two photographs of scholarship donors.
Series Nine: Series Nine consists of 38 composite photographs of the graduating class. The photographs in this series vary in size and format. Some years are incomplete or are missing student photos. A number of the photos are identified with the student name. However, some are unreadable or are only dated, not identified.
SERIES CONTENTS

Series 1: Course Outlines, 1965–1966

CONTENTS

Introductory Pages and Templates
Human Anatomy
Chemistry and Medical Physics
Fundamentals of Nursing I
Psychology
Introduction to Nursing
Human Physiology
Bacteriology
Fundamentals of Nursing II
Introduction to the Philosophy of Religion
Introduction to Sociology
Fundamentals of Nursing III
Nutrition
Diet Therapy
Medical-Surgical Nursing I
Community Health
Medical-Surgical Nursing II
A.N.R.C. First Aid
Maternity Nursing
Operating Room P.A.R. Nursing
Out-Patient Clinics

CONTAINER

Box 1, Folder 1
Box 1, Folder 2
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Series 2: Grade and Record Books, 1908–1920

CONTENTS

Grade Book, 1908–1917

Loose pages from 1908–1917 Grade Book

Grade Book, 1917–1920

Nurse Record Book, 1916–1918

Nurse Record Book, 1919–1920

Series 3: Procedures Manuals, 1932–1943

CONTENTS

Nursing Procedures Index, 1932–1943 (1 of 4)

Nursing Procedures Index, 1932–1943 (2 of 4)

Nursing Procedures Index, 1932–1943 (3 of 4)

Nursing Procedures Index, 1932–1943 (4 of 4)

Nursing Procedures Manual 1938 (1 of 2)

Nursing Procedures Manual, 1938 (2 of 2)
Series 4: Accreditation Reports, 1960–1966

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National League for Nursing Accreditation Report, 1960  Box 2, Folder 7
Report of Survey, ASNLN, Feb. 29-Mar. 5, 1960  Box 2, Folder 8
Self-Evaluation Report for Continued Accreditation of Diploma Program and NLN Survey Report, 1966  Box 2, Folder 9

Series 5: Committee and Faculty Minutes

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By-Laws and Minutes, Educational Committee 1959-1965  Box 3, Folder 1
Curriculum Committee Minutes, 1965–1966  Box 3, Folder 2
Curriculum Committee Minutes, 1964–1965  Box 3, Folder 3
Curriculum Committee Minutes, 1963–1964  Box 3, Folder 4
Curriculum Committee Minutes, 1962–1963  Box 3, Folder 5
Curriculum Committee Minutes, 1961–1962  Box 3, Folder 6
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Curriculum Committee Minutes, 1947–1948  Box 3, Folder 18
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Curriculum Committee Minutes, 1945–1946  Box 3, Folder 20
Curriculum Committee Minutes, 1944–1945  Box 3, Folder 21
Curriculum Committee Minutes, 1942–1943  Box 3, Folder 22
Minutes of Faculty Meetings, 1957–1958  Box 4, Folder 1
Minutes of Faculty Meetings, 1956–1957  Box 4, Folder 2
Minutes of Faculty Meetings, 1955–1956  Box 4, Folder 3
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