

Book Review

Legacy: History of Nursing Education at the University of British Columbia, 1919-1994.

Glennis Zilm & Ethel Warbinek.

Vancouver: University of British Columbia Press, 1994. 336 pp.

Illustrated. ISBN 0-88865-234-8.

Reviewed by Natalie Riegler

The Canadian nursing profession has a past of which it can be proud. Glennis Zilm and Ethel Warbinek have written a people-oriented book, reminding us of the struggles and accomplishments of leaders, as they developed nursing education within the university, and of graduates, who provided nursing service in the health care system. They are to be commended on this important addition to nursing history.

The authors, who are graduates of the nursing program at the University of British Columbia (UBC), give us an overview of the school's seventy-five years. The essence of their text is in its title. The nursing education program was directed by six notable women, each of whom is the subject of one of the eight chapters: Ethel Johns (1919-1925), Mabel Gray (1925-1941), Evelyn Mallory (1941-1967), Beth McCann (1967-1971), Muriel Uprichard (1971-1977), and Marilyn Willman (1977-1993). The legacy that they have bequeathed to their graduates is the "courage and creativity" to meet the needs of the community and the nursing profession. Their stories, beginning with the first chapter which highlights the "climate for change" leading to the formation of the UBC department of nursing in 1919, are set within the social context of the time. Lest readers think this is only about British Columbia, the book gives ample proof that the directors and graduates had careers across Canada and internationally.

Each of the six women made a unique contribution to the school. Johns guided its new program "into being." Gray instituted a program for students too young to be admitted to hospital schools. The first baccalaureate-prepared director, Mallory, initiated the "scientifically based, problem-solving approach to nursing." McCann, who had a

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master's degree in nursing, implemented the master's degree program. Dr. Uprichard, though not a nurse, argued for a curriculum based on a nursing model and brought to fruition the UBC model for nursing: the nurse as nurturer, helping people to cope with their loss of wellness. Finally, Dr. Willman, a nurse, brought stability and order while managing the school's financial difficulties. During her time, the school began its doctorate program.

Along with primary and secondary documents, photographs, and interviews, Zilm and Warbinek include vignettes of the graduates. The alumnae are too numerous to mention here, but some, who have gained national and international recognition, will be familiar: Margaret Kerr, a former editor of *Canadian Nurse*; Lyle Creelman, who became Chief Nursing Officer in the World Health Organization; Dr. Jacqueline Chapman, a noted nurse researcher at the University of Toronto; and Dr. Alice Baumgart, Dean of Nursing at Queen's University in Kingston. The UBC School of Nursing can be proud of its record and this book.

Because the volume contains a lot of information, readers may approach its content in several ways. As an overview, students will find many topics needing further research. Those interested in leadership may select the chapter relevant to each director or use the index to locate the graduates. Others wanting to follow the evolution of the school can extract the pertinent information chronologically, from cover to cover. This book should be in every nursing school's library.