

LETTER TO NURSING PAPERS

To the Editor:

It has been my pleasure to be a participant at the Western Region Conference of C.A.U.S.N. in Banff. It is doubly rewarding — (a) because of the recognition given to the Medical Services Branch, Department of National Health and Welfare, as having a part to play in the education of future generations of nurses, (b) because of the recognition by the service agency itself of a responsibility toward the education of nurses, not only for their own relatively limited employment needs, but for all of Canada, and developing countries where Canadian nurses serve.

The presentations directed toward "Nursing In The Health Care Services Today and Tomorrow — Conflicts and Compatibilities" were down to earth enough to identify with, practical enough to provoke constructive thinking, and idealistic enough to lift one's thoughts a little higher.

The five themes selected for greater depth of thought — accountability, risk vs. trust, isolationism, evaluation, sociopolitical skills — and role playing situations were very provocative. However, it was disappointing for me that there were not many more imaginative projects developed in the group work as a result. It was as if we had been given all the pieces of a jigsaw puzzle but failed to put the picture together. I wonder if nurses as a professional group suffer from a psychological poverty syndrome, battered group syndrome?, mental constipation? There's that disease orientation coming up again.

Perhaps we should start with a health assessment of the profession to determine what disease of our collective minds prevents us from utilizing our creative potential to make it what it could be — a powerful force demanding a larger share of the nation's resources to help create a better system for health care. The climate is right for women,

for the nursing profession, and for ideas to solve the health care delivery dilemma. Come on!

This letter was not intended to be a sermon, but you can see that the conference started at least one participant chewing on that food for thought.

Catherine W. Keith,
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Ottawa,
March 1973

The Editor notes:

Nursing Papers hopes to publish some of the proceedings of the Banff Conference in a future issue.



Hommage de:

**la directrice et du personnel enseignant
de l'Ecole des sciences infirmières
de l'Université Laval
Québec**

