Pride and Prejudice in Nursing Education

Presented by Professor Anne Marie Rafferty
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aims

• to explore the historical factors and forces which have shaped the development of nursing education in the UK

• to comment on the ambivalent attitude towards nurses being well educated

• to consider the evidence that a better educated workforce is associated with poorer care
Presented by Anne Marie Rafferty

How can a profession whose raison d'être is caring attract so much criticism for its perceived callousness? Or is the answer to develop a new culture of compassion?

Prime Minister Orders Search for Real Practice in Nursing

Another slap in the face: Care watchdog failed to look at hidden camera abuse footage during investigation

Nurse lacking ability and compassion, means NNE
A crisis in nursing: Six operations, six stays in hospital – and six first-hand experiences of the care that doesn't care enough
character of training

• ‘character’ vs intellect

• class and morality

• gender expectations
textbooks

`with very few exceptions there are no books compiled for the trained nurse, and she has to fall back on those written for medical men; from these it is very difficult to select what is required’….anon reviewer, 1898, Nursing Notes
obstacles to overcome

• education and educability of women
• nursing as a moral metier
• training in ‘virtue’
challenges to character

• science and sensibility

• Darwin’s doctors

• pro-registrationists and suffragists
and to demonstrate the biological differences between the male and the female of the species, you can see that the male is almost entirely brain whilst the female is shaped like a pram.
Women’s `higher’ mission

`Blue stockings with cropped heads, ill-fitting dress….and clumsy boots did little to commend culture to weaker sisters an, whilst the effect on men was calculated to excite nothing but repulsion’……Dyce Duckworth, Sick Nursing: Essentially a Woman’s Mission’, 1896.
international influences

• International Council of Nurses

• Florence Nightingale International Foundation 1910

• Rockefeller Foundation
‘Post-graduate’ courses

• Diploma in nursing, University of London

• King’s College of Household and Social Science

• Bedford College

• Royal College of Nursing
Ministry of Health
Department of Health for Scotland
Ministry of Labour and National Service

Report of the Working Party on
THE RECRUITMENT AND TRAINING OF NURSES

London
His Majesty's Stationery Office
Price 6d. net
MINISTRY OF HEALTH
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH FOR SCOTLAND
MINISTRY OF LABOUR & NATIONAL SERVICE

Working Party on
THE RECRUITMENT
AND TRAINING
OF NURSES

MINORITY REPORT

LONDON: HIS MAJESTY'S STATIONERY OFFICE
1948
PRICE 15s. 6d. NET
academic advocates

- Rockefeller Foundation and Edinburgh University
- ‘graduate’ nurse
- 80-90 graduates in 1950s
education levels of hospital nurses and patient mortality

• Aiken, Clarke, Cheung, Sloane, & Silber (September 24, 2003, Journal of the American Medical Association)

• the proportion of hospital staff RNs holding baccalaureate or higher degrees as their highest (not initial) credential ranged from 0 to 77% across the hospitals.
excess surgical deaths (observed-expected) per 1000 cases across PA hospitals with differing proportions of BSN/MSN-educated nurses
As workloads in hospitals increase, so does mortality ... But as nurse education increases, mortality decreases

L. Aiken, Univ. of Pennsylvania
conclusion

• history provides important insights into the forces which have shaped policy on how and where should nurses be educated

• research evidence demonstrates investment in nurse education is associated with reduced mortality and has a protective effect upon quality of patient care

• the system and environment within which care is delivered exerts a powerful influence on the quality of care