

Monday, May 17, 1982 O&E

# Nurses are finally gaining professional respect

**N**URSES, SAID a typical medical man more than 100 years ago, "are in much the same position as housemaids and need little teaching beyond poltice-making and the enforcement of cleanliness and attention to the patient's wants."

The words, spoken in opposition to refresher training for nurses and quoted in a recent publication noting the 150th anniversary of Wayne County General Hospital, would hardly endear Dr. Cornelius Pone to the women — and men — in nursing today. It seems likely they weren't taken very kindly in 1880 either. They show, of course, that nurses have come a long way in the esteem of the public and the medical profession. But they also underscore far more recent attitudes

that are close to the lordly view the myopic Dr. Pone pronounced from his medical pedestal. Nurses interviewed right here and right now kept using the term "handmaidens." It describes, they say, the way many representatives of the medical profession still view the services they have studied long and hard to be able to render.

A NEW AWARENESS on the part of nurses is beginning to change all that. Perhaps belatedly, but nevertheless certainly, they are seeing now that they don't have to bow as handmaidens forever.

They are pushing for pay higher than the salary of a supermarket cashier, and finally they are beginning to get it. They are giving up the one-time almost knee-jerk

reaction of rising when the doctor appears. They are sometimes yelling back when they have opinions that need reinforcing.

They are getting additional education and thus moving up in the health care delivery scale.

And, just recently, they are figuring out that in numbers there is strength and political clout. They are taking a cue from the physicians and joining the professional associations that can carry their message to the legislative halls of the state and nation.

THE DEVELOPMENT is good news for nurses, of course. They can hope political action will contract a move in the Reagan administration to cut by millions the fund committed to health care professional training.

They can look toward an upgraded image to increase their sense of personal and professional worth. But it's good news for everyone else, too. More money and more respect would go a long way toward alleviating the shortage of nurses that has been a problem in recent years.

More important is the fact that a crying need today is that of finding a way to put the brakes on the escalating cost of health care, now delivered mainly through hospitals.

Nurses have the training and the professionalism to come up with creative alternatives. They have made a start through nurse practitioners, paramedics who are offering services on a professional services. That may be only the beginning if the handmaiden and poltice-maker can truly become the partner.

## Game of marbles is only a memory



the stroller

W.W. Edgar

Out of sheer curiosity The Stroller took advantage of the nice spring morning to make a tour of the area's parks and playgrounds in hope that he would find a reminder of the days of his youth.

He was looking for the marble rings that were his scenes of activity when he was a young lad. Many an hour he spent trying to knock the little marbles out of the center ring.

But to his dismay, there was nary a marble ring in any of the parks and playgrounds he visited. And when he inquired from the keepers of the sports schedule, he was told that the game of marbles was now in the limbo of forgotten things.

THIS DIDN'T seem possible. But after all it had been years since The Stroller spent hours in "battle" with the other young lads in the neighborhood testing his skill as a shooter.

Back home in Pennsylvania we played our games at the street corners of our little town. They were the intersections of travel roads, and they were chosen because they had street lights.

It was on this gravel that we laid out the marble ring as soon as spring

arrived. And it might be surprising to today's young people that the stores ran special sales on marbles of all colors. They were made of clay, and each player was eager to show off the number of marbles he could win.

The big prize was the "shooter," and those of us who spent a lot of time at the marble rings developed favorites, just as the bowlers of today get attached to a favorite bowling ball.

The Stroller, at one time, held the prize "shooter" in our neighborhood. It was what was called an agate, and it was colored gray and brown. But it was specially made, and it became the envy of all the kids in the neighborhood.

IN THOSE DAYS we used several sized rings. There was a small one for the beginners. They could graduate to the large rings as they developed proficiency in knocking the little clay balls out of the center ring.

Somewhere in his coterie of memories of his youth The Stroller still has that agate "shooter." It is the only memento of his career as a marble king. That agate seemed to have a built-in direction finder. It sel-

dom missed the targets in the center ring, and it helped bring The Stroller the marble shooting championship of our little town.

It was always felt that because our group played under the street lights at night we had an advantage when we came to the daytime tournaments. And it was claimed that we had an edge when we competed in inter-city play.

YES, WE HAD inter-city rivalries in long by gone days, and we even had valley championship tournaments. Not only was the interest high among the youthful shooters but we developed a rooting section that traveled with us.

What great times we had. So it was no wonder that The Stroller was disappointed to learn that there are no marble rings in our present day playgrounds.

As the playground supervisor exclaimed, "Marbles are in the limbo of forgotten things."

It is too bad. For marbles is the one of the cheapest forms of activity for youngsters eager to show their skills — or lack of them — in competition.

## Why does television treat me this way?



Shirlee Iden

As a network television rater, my credentials are absolutely nil.

Like every other casual tube watcher, I like what I like and that's what I like.

Obviously, those pundits in high places who make the vital decisions about which shows stay in place and which are put to rest don't agree with me.

Why else would they ax "Paper Chase" and "Lou Grant"? No kind of television addict, I utilize the electronic media first for news, second for watching Tiger baseball games, and just incidentally for purely diversionary entertainment.

"QUINCY," another of my meager stable of favorites, last week ran at the same time as a Rodney Dangerfield special and a documentary on Eleanor Roosevelt. So just as I got into the "Quincy" episode about fraternity excesses leading to a drowning, my husband won out and we turned to the guy who "gets no respect."

Jack watched and laughed. I finished the newspapers and went back to a book.

Television's larger role in my life is as background noise while I read

or make my peanut butter sandwich for the next day's lunch.

If it weren't for "60 Minutes" and occasional other quality programming, I could really cut down our electric bills.

Violence turns me right off, but so does another recent TV trend. It's a tendency toward "problem" subjects — depressing, mental and physical conditions, topics I call "criers" that are taking up more and more time.

SOME OF these are uplifting stories, when you get through all the mental anguish and suffering to the "high" you are intended to feel.

As a news person, I care about trends in mental health, prenatal care, infertility, adoption problems,

immigration and the overcoming of devastating handicaps. But after a day at the office, I find that stuff heavy-going.

Agonizing with the "Paper Chase" actors happened just as my son was undergoing the same distresses. Naturally, Lou Grant's newsroom problems sometimes vaguely parallel some I've encountered.

But Lou Grant and those law students were fully rounded characters. They were already old friends; they cared, they erred, but they met the deadline and labeled the bad guys.

I'm going to continue to miss that round law prof, Rossi, Billie and Lou even more than I miss "The Lone Ranger" and "My Gal Sunday."

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