

# ALOHA FROM HAWAII

A "Malahini" writes about a practical nursing student

by Nettie Hutchins, R.N., M.A.

Hawaii has always been an intriguing and prosperous chain of Mid-Pacific islands. A century ago ships landed and embarked with sugar and spices. Today, this chain of islands, which constitute our 50th state, has a more diversified economy. The sugar and pineapple industries are losing their dominance as key income producers to a fast growing tourist trade, military spending, and the international market.

Flying to Hawaii for a vacation is a rewarding experience. It is impossible to describe adequately in writing, the abundance of beauty of the people and their natural surroundings, glamorous and sophisticated hotels, the breathtaking view of the early morning sunrise over Diamond Head, the genuine rhythm of the drums and feet, and the long-established habit of informal group singing.

However, Hawaii is not unique in its need for health personnel and in its interest in well-prepared nurses. It shares with the other states a determination to give its citizens the best possible patient care.

There is one school of practical nursing in the Hawaiian Islands. It was the coordinator for the practical nursing department of the Kapiolani Technical High School, Marjorie Elliott, who introduced me to Yolanda Morris, the student about whom this story is written.

Miss Morris has always lived in Honolulu, with her parents, sister and five brothers. Her mother is from the island of Maui, her father from Kauai. Yolanda herself is a mixture of French, Chinese, Hawaiian, Aztec Indian, Spanish and Italian. "Chop Suey" was the term she good-naturedly used in reference to her background.

Fortunately, for its citizens, one's race is of minor significance in Hawaii. Here among Caucasians, Japanese, Hawaiians, Filipinos, Negroes and Chinese, the East and the West have met in a working sphere of democratic equality. Hawaiian residents take pride in their success in smooth racial interrelationships.

Marjorie Elliott, coordinator of

the island's only practical nurse program and longtime resident of Hawaii, commented that "you can usually recognize a new comer or 'Malahini' from the mainland."

"He will want to know if a person is Japanese or Chinese or Hawaiian." "Frankly," she said, "we don't know ourselves."

I first met Yolanda Morris when she was on duty at Kaiser Hospital, one of the three large hospitals used by the Kapiolani School for clinical experience. I was impressed at once with her warm personality and friendly smile. Her manner with patients was one of consideration and attention. Her patients obviously enjoyed the personal attention from their nurse. Patients are people no matter in what part of the globe. They respond to T.L.C. (Tender Loving Care).

As a beginning student, Miss Morris has enjoyed her medical-surgical experience. It allowed her to put into practice the theory she learned in her basic nursing courses. These courses included the fundamentals of nursing, Family Living, Personal and Vocational Relationships, Nutrition and Diet Therapy, as well as First Aid and Defense Measures.

Following this period which Miss Morris was just completing, her specialized clinical experience will begin. She will study Mothers and New Babies for 8 weeks; Care of Well Children for 2 weeks; Care of Sick Children for 2 weeks; Rehabilitation Nursing for 2 weeks; Psychiatric Nursing for 8 weeks. The incorporation of psychiatric nursing into the

practical nursing curriculum is noteworthy since many schools on the mainland are working toward this goal.

Nursing is the vocation in Yolanda Morris' life, but dancing is her favorite pastime. From the age of four she was instructed in the basic steps and hand movements of the beautiful Hula. By the time she graduated from the Star of the Sea High School in 1965, she was a professional dancer and a member of the Actors Guild. She travelled as far as Tokyo with a professional dance troupe and hopes in the future to go to Europe. Yolanda takes two dance lessons a week and dances professionally once a month.

On one of my visits with the Kapiolani students, Yolanda performed two dances. For the Kawio-kukapulani, she wore a green satin dress with an extended train. As she danced her hands and arms told the story of a young baby being rocked in its mother's arms. Then, she changed to the traditional grass skirt and performed the fiery Tahitian Hula. Yolanda danced so beautifully that people were eager to ask her how she would eventually reconcile dancing with nursing. "Well," she said, "you can't be a hula dancer all your life because the young ones take your place; nursing is really my chosen profession, I have always wanted to be a nurse."

Yolanda Morris loves her island of Oahu because of the warm-hearted people, the mild climate and the geographic setting which makes travelling easier. But like many of the resident islanders she is concerned about the increased number of highrise buildings that are being constructed. With additional commercialization of the beach facilities

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Hanayo Hasimoto, R.N., P.H.N., B.S., clinical instructor, Medical & Surgical Nursing, third from left, demonstrates the use of an elastic bandage to the assembled student practical nurses at Kapiolani Technical School in Honolulu. Yolanda Morris, student practical nurse, who is shown at her right, observes closely. Also watching are Nettie Hutchins, R.N., M.A., back row, right, and Marjorie Elliott, R.N., B.S., chairman of the practical Nursing Department





# The Premature & The Full-Term Infant<sup>1</sup>

FIG. 1

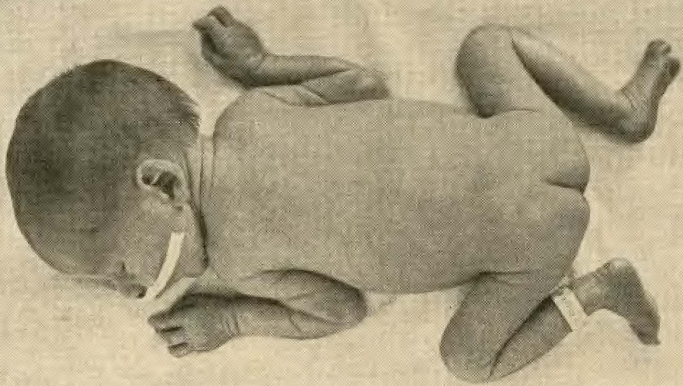


FIG. 2

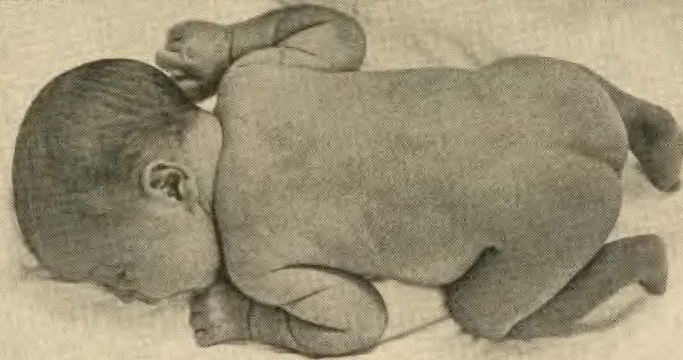
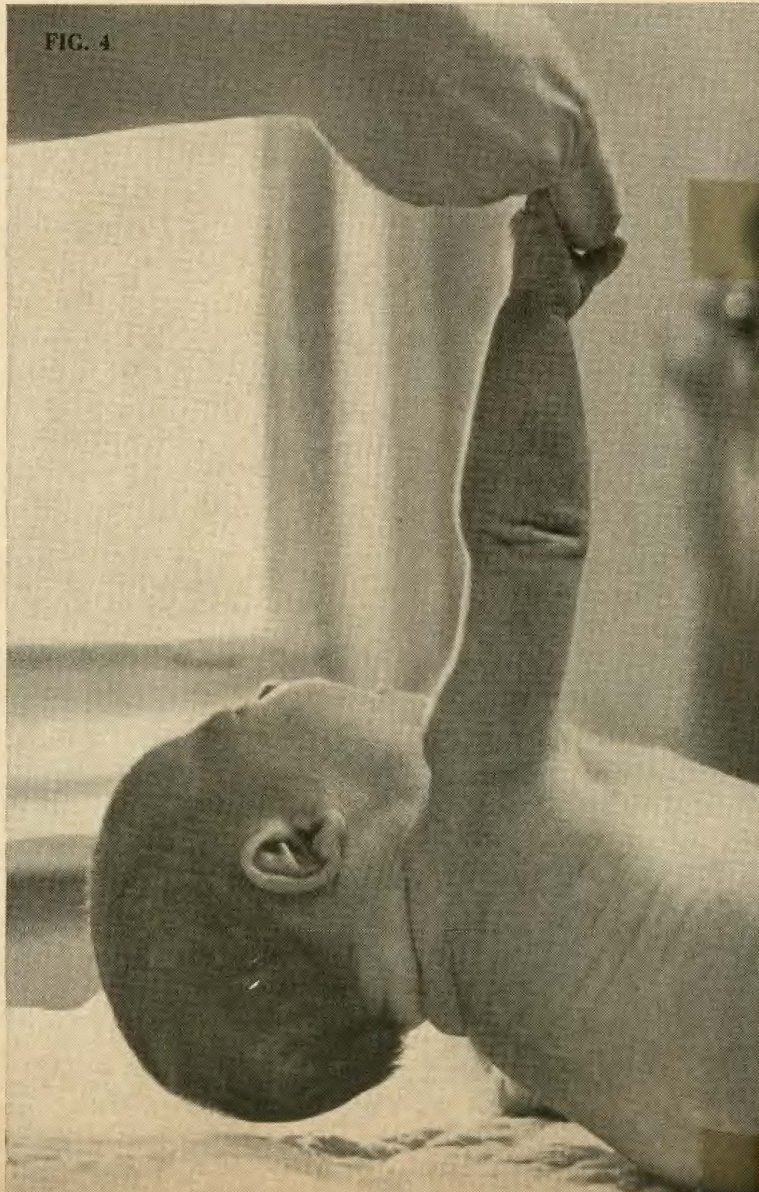


FIG. 3



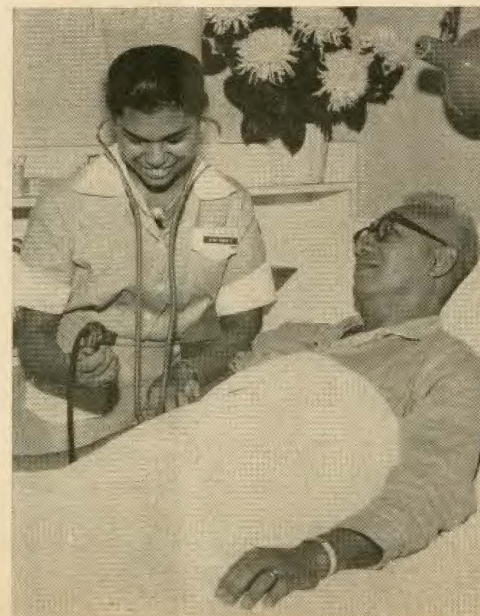
FIG. 4



Hanayo Hasimoto, R.N., P.H.N., B.S., Clinical Instructor, Medical & Surgical Nursing, seated right, and nurse, left, discuss nursing notes with Yolanda Morris student practical nurse



Nettie Hutchins is shown demonstrating basic transfer techniques for rehabilitation with her teaching models. Left, is Evelyn Takazawa, R.N., B.S., Clinical Instructor, Medical & Surgical Nursing



Yolanda Morris, student practical nurse, takes the blood pressure of Harris H. Harbottle

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there arises the problem of losing the natural beauty of the tropical atmosphere.

Yolanda shares her family's love of exotic food. The Morris' family menus often include Chinese noodles and roast duck, Japanese shrimp tempura, which is shrimp breaded with flour and fried in deep fat. Her mother also prepares abalone or opihi, which is a black shell-fish found in the sea rocks. However, when Thanksgiving arrives Yolanda and her family exhibit all-American food tastes. They enjoy a typical dinner complete with turkey, cranberry sauce and yams.

Miss Morris is proud of her parents and is grateful for the education they have made possible for her. Her parents have taught her to appreciate and use what she has to the best of her ability and to not resent those who seem to have greater blessings. She looks forward to being married and having a family someday. For the present, she is preparing for the vocation of practical nursing.

It was such a wonderful experience to be in Hawaii and such a fine opportunity to learn about practical nursing in this island community. It was with regret that I said goodbye to Marjorie Elliott, Yolanda Morris and the many other fine people I met. I shall always cherish the beautiful flower and seed leis that the students placed over my head when I met them for the first time. I felt then that I understood the true meaning of the word "Aloha."

The author wishes to acknowledge the assistance of the following people in preparing this article: Raymond Won, principal of the Kapiolani Technical School; Marjorie Elliott, R.N., B.S., chairman of the Practical Nursing Department; Katherine Deai, R.N., B.S., Clinical Instructor, Obstetrics and Pediatrics; Hanayo Hasimoto, R.N., P.H.N., B.S., Clinical Instructor, Medical & Surgical Nursing; June Morioka, R.N., B.S., Clinical Instructor, Medical & Surgical Nursing; and Evelyn Takazawa, R.N., B.S., Clinical Instructor, Medical & Surgical Nursing.