

PRACTICAL NURSING IN HAWAII

By Myrtle L. Schattenburg, R.N.

The Practical Nursing Department of the Kapiolani Technical School, under the direction of Mr. David Lynn, principal, and Mr. Albert J. Feirer, Director of Trade and Industrial Education, is the only school in the Territory of Hawaii approved to train practical nurses.



The aims and objectives of this program are to prepare selected men and women for a career in practical nursing through the development of basic nursing knowledge and skills which would enable them to give effective care to the sick and to promote positive health; to provide sound instruction for the student so that the student may achieve a solid foundation in the principles of practical nursing; develop the necessary skills to perform the functions of a practical nurse safely and effectively and apply these principles and skills in a hospital, home or community environment; to create an understanding of human relationships so that the student will appreciate the cooperative responsibilities in the school, the home,

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the hospital, and the community; develop personal characteristics of compassion; and to function as a cooperative member of the health team.

In 1947 a group of educators met to plan for additional vocational training in the Territory of Hawaii. There was a need for trained practical nurses and since the Vocational Division of the Department of Public Instruction recognized the field as being one that would attract students, it was willing to establish a school. Minimum standards were set up by a committee of professional nurses. The guide for establishing practical nurse programs, published by the Office of Education in the Department of Health, Education and Welfare, was used in the development of the course. The Honolulu Chamber of Commerce generously provided funds for equipment.

The opening day in October of 1947 saw two full-time and one part-time instructors greeting the first class of 22 students. Each year three groups of men and women coming from all the neighboring islands, and ranging in age from 18 to 50, have been enrolled. The smallest group enrolled there comprised 16 students. For the September class of 1958 the largest group, 36 students, has been accepted. Two men in this class will bring our men graduates to a total of 16.

in maintaining a progressive and smooth running association; and spirit or soul—a belief that the organization fills a vital need. Loyalty to its principles and standards is essential. Members are an organization—they elect its officers, and they chart its course by voting through delegates for By-Laws, procedures, and policies.

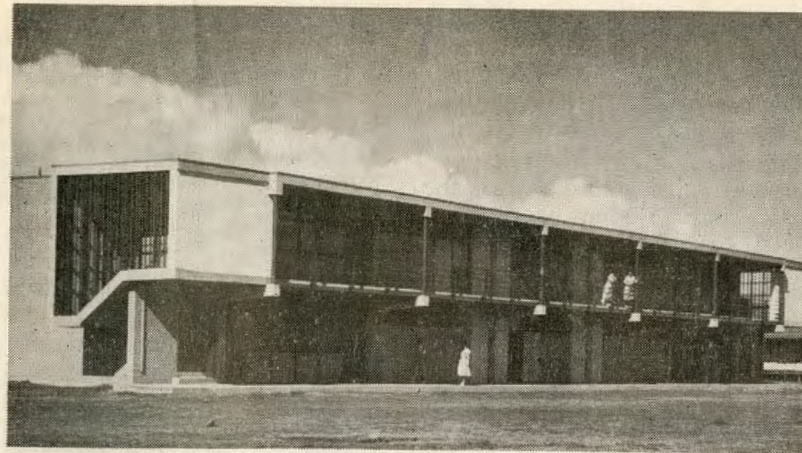
A good member is a mature member. We are really grown up when, in electing officers, we consider their capabilities rather than our personal friendship for them. We are really grown up when we give careful consideration to proposed changes in policies or By-Laws and vote for that which we believe to be best for the entire membership and not just for a locality. As members we are really grown up when we accept the will of the majority with a true sense of democratic principles rather than resentment that “our side” didn’t win.

We have really grown up when we learn to step down gracefully—when, after having served as an officer, we give up the officership and function as a good member of the team, giving willingly of our knowledge and experience to help those who now represent the organization.

We hear so much about the team concept—in industry, in nursing, and in personnel management. An organization is a perfect example of a team. Here we find the President as team leader, assisted by the other officers, committees, and members. Each member of the team is important. Each member should accept responsibility to give unselfishly of her time and talents for the welfare of her district organization and the National Federation of License Practical Nurses.

“The strength of all free people lies in unity, their danger in discord.”

Clara Roitero, *President*
NATIONAL FEDERATION OF LICENSED
PRACTICAL NURSES



The New Kapiolani Technical School, Honolulu, Hawaii

A committee representing all affiliating agencies, with the school staff, a social worker, and an expert in vocational information and guidance, participate in the selection of students. Factors considered are the National League for Nursing Pre-Admission Classification Examination; high school records, including aptitude tests; reference; and personal interviews.

During the first 16 weeks the student spends a seven-hour, five-day week at the school. This is a modern two-story building with well-equipped classrooms and laboratories for nutrition and nursing practice. Preclinical instruction includes Nursing Principles and Skills, Personal and Vocational Relationships, Body Structure and Functions, Nutrition and Diet Therapy, Obstetrics and the Newborn, and Meeting the Needs of Children and Adolescents. Students are taken in several hospitals for 12

to 16 hours of actual patient care under close supervision by the school staff during this period.

Usually one-third of the class affiliates with the Hilo Memorial Hospital for 22 weeks of the clinical period, returning to complete the course in Honolulu. Experience at Hilo Memorial Hospital includes medical, surgical, and pediatric nursing as well as two weeks each at Olaa (for a study of geriatrics) and three weeks at Pepeekeo (a plantation dispensary).

Since its beginning, many changes have been made in the Kapiolani Technical School, such as increasing the length of the course from 36 weeks to one year, and the addition of one full-time and one part-time instructors. The greatest development, however, has been in the curriculum. Because of greater utilization by hospitals of practical nurses, the number and complexity of procedures taught have increased

to include catheterization, bladder irrigation, Levine feeding, discontinuing of intravenous; and, under some circumstances, the giving of oral and hypodermic medication.

With the administration of powerful and rapid-acting drugs, the practical nurse student has been instructed to be more alert to symptoms and the importance of reporting them to professional nurses. Nursing the total patient, understanding of patients' needs, and the importance of teaching health to the patient are also included in the curriculum.

In the 11 years of operation the school has also organized a two-year evening extension course on Maui, two courses on Hawaii, and three on Oahu. The Kapiolani Technical School has qualified for funds from the Federal Government which have made possible the extension and improvement of the program. This has included the preparing of a handbook on vocational standards for practical nursing schools in the Territory, and additional teaching equipment and assistance with teachers' salaries. Also, a special complete extension course on Kauai has been organized and is now in operation, which includes hospital experience. Several post-graduate courses have been given and more are being planned for the future.

Much effort has been made to bring the need for more trained practical nurses before the public. The Department chairman participates in local high schools' career days, radio and television programs and speaks before all neighbor is-

land high schools in the Territory. Attempts have been made to interest older prospective students such as veterans and women's club groups. Newspapers have cooperated and have been generous in providing space for publicity. There is still a great need for more well-qualified applicants.

The school has been extremely fortunate in having the inspired leadership of Mr. William Coulter, former Deputy Superintendent of Vocational Education. He has never failed to point the way to improvement in organization and curriculum. We are grateful to the Territorial Legislature of 1955 which granted funds to construct and equip a beautiful, functional, and modern building. The staff as well as some 600 alumni are proud of their school and are ever striving to meet more nearly the aims and objectives of the program.

Just to Be Needed

"She always seems so tied" is what friends say;

She never has a chance to get away.

Home, husband, children, duties great or small,

Keep her forever at their beck and call.

But she confides, with laughter in her eyes,

She never yet felt fretted by these ties.

"Just to be needed is more sweet," says she,

"Than any freedom in this world could be."

—MARY EVERSLEY.

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