

returned to the United States to assist with the New York Hospital-Cornell Project. In 1933 she became the first fulltime editor and business manager of *The Canadian Nurse*, the official journal of the Canadian Nurses' Association. She retired from this active life in 1944.

Ethel Johns was a capable and very intelligent woman, outspoken and firm. An excellent teacher, she was precise, clear and compelling in her classes. She was intensely proud of her profession and spared neither herself nor those working with her to achieve the goals she envisaged.

Quest for a Profession: The History of the Vancouver General Hospital School of Nursing, by Nora Kelly. Vancouver: Evergreen Press, 1973. 174 pp.

From earliest history, caring for the sick and injured has been considered essentially work for women even though their capabilities and intelligence usually were judged to be limited. Florence Nightingale, after her experiences in the Crimean war, used the gifts of money she received from a grateful country to organize a program for the education of nurses. Her experience of military life shone through the program. Nurses must be strictly obedient to every order they were given, do every kind of work assigned to them and take any form of punishment for transgression of these laws.

Many years before the Vancouver General Hospital was developed, hospitals in eastern Canada had adopted the Nightingale pattern for their "training" schools. It was reasonable, therefore, for the same kind of educational program to be organized at the newly built City Hospital in Vancouver. The author has provided an excellent description of the problems met by eastern graduates who ventured out west and staffed the developing hospital. Working a twelve-hour day, with poor living accommodation and small pay, resulted in requent resignations. The medical men and council agreed that the best answer to these complaints was to train their own nurses. Thus, in 1899, the first class of eight young women began a three-year course of training with one instructor-supervisor and one resident doctor to instruct them. Length of time in the school under these conditions was the criterion for graduating rather than examinations. School teaching and nursing were the two professions into which young women could enter and achieve some prestige in the community. There was no problem in securing large classes of students in either field. Nor did World War I diminish the supply, since nurses

were needed overseas as well as at home. The 1918 influenza epidemic created still greater demands.

In 1919, when Miss Ethel Johns became Director of Nursing, she introduced a new concept to the school of nursing — affiliation with the University of British Columbia. Though there was little interest among the student nurses of the Vancouver General Hospital to enter the program in the new school under Miss Johns' direction, three "combined course" nurses received their degrees in 1923. Patterns of instruction in the university course have altered over the years but the program progressed satisfactorily.

Each of the last four directors of nursing had a great, though different, impact on development in the school. Of these, only Grace M. Fairley has passed away. Thus, hundreds of the more than 6,000 nurses who have graduated from Vancouver General Hospital will feel very much at home as they read this interesting history.

One regret of this reviewer was that the author, who undertook extensive research, decided "to keep footnotes within reasonable bounds." Many of the 105 numbered footnotes do not prove very enlightening to an interested reader. Who has the time or opportunity to look up annual reports, minutes and so forth? A very brief sentence or two immediately below the references would have been more useful.

Vancouver

MARGARET E. KERR

The Social Economy of the Tlingit Indians, by Kalervo Oberg. Vancouver: J. J. Douglas, 1973. \$9.50.

Oberg's study of the dynamics of Tlingit economy is one of those Rip van Winkles that repose unnoticed for decades and then are awakened in print to engage the next generation of scholars. Forty years intervened between the filing of this University of Chicago dissertation and its "rediscovery" and publication. During that period numerous other contributions to Tlingit ethnography have appeared (notably those of de Laguna, Drucker, Garfield, McClellan and Gunther's translation of Krause), all of which understandably overlooked this entry buried away in the bibliographic bone-fields. It has finally been unearthed and I commend it to both scholars and laymen as a significant ethnographic statement.

Kalervo Oberg, originally a student of economics, was chosen by anthropologist Edward Sapir to gather data concerning economic behaviour in primitive societies — data which might be used in clarifying