



Editorial

Living and practicing Nursing – The multiple challenges of today, yesterday and always

Ivone Evangelista Cabral¹

In August 13, 1929, during her Conference at the Brazilian Association of Education, Zulema de Castro Amado states that “*the nurse must have a basis of practical and theoretical study, that is, a complete Nursing course, in a period of no less than three years, at a well organized School managed by graduate nurses*”.

The main idea of what is necessary for being a nurse has been rewritten by the History of Brazilian Nursing in the 1920's. Being a male or female nurse means to commit oneself to a scientific Nursing, that chose to build its bases on the principles of study (up to early 70's) as well as on study and scientism (from mid 70's on). Little by little we have found out that a light scientism was also important for us to delimit our territory in the world of professions and sciences. Therefore, human complexities, its contradictions and conflicts – all part of the same group of people who deal with people – don't quite seem to fit in the mathematical and statistical rule of exact sciences. Thus, we could think that living and practicing Nursing adjusts to Edgar Morin's complex thought and bases its thinking and practicing on the inexact sciences defined by Abraham Moles.

That's the way we see this journal's volume 3, number 1, dated April, 1999. It congregates a number of articles that will lead the reader to a deep reflexion about living and practicing Nursing from the 1920's to the present decade. The young Nursing career in Brazil of yesterday had to face many challenges that still remain today, and we have this feeling that they will always exist, for challenges and complexity seem to be two threads interlaced in the weft of Nursing's life.

If Nursing, through historical research and in order to face challenges and establish as a profession in Brazil, has discovered that groups have been discriminated and excluded in the past, now evidence points towards everyone's inclusion as a natural strategy for survival. Concretely, today's Nursing is composed of different people regardless of sex, race, creed or tendency. They form groups to investigate health problems that affect people, claim for citizen's rights, apply research methods, build new ways and add new meanings to “*being a nurse: what is it like?*”

The highlight of the reading is the inauguration speech addressed by Dr. Ieda de Alencar Barreira as full professor and entitled “*Contributions of the History of*

¹ PhD in Nursing. Associate Professor of the Maternal/Child Health Department. Researcher of the Center for Nursing Research in Child Health (NUPESC). Dean of Anna Nery School of Nursing/UFRJ



Nursing to the Development of the Career". The reader will be able to understand the bases on which the struggle for recognition and status of the career were formed, in the game played by the infinite antagonic, temporal and dialectical forces.