



Focus

August 1990

Christian Science Nursing

What
When
Why
Where
Who



Fern Lodge

Annual Meeting Invitation

This year's Annual Meeting will be on the San Francisco Peninsula.

First Church of Christ, Scientist
1449 Oak Grove Avenue
Burlingame, California

Sunday afternoon
September 9th
2:30 p.m.

Mrs. Marjorie Dagnall, C.S. of Aptos, California
will speak with us on the topic,

A Special Calling

This meeting will be dedicated to answering questions about
Christian Science nursing.

If you have a question you would like us to address, please
complete the form in this *Focus* and return it in the enclosed
envelope. We will also welcome questions from those who
attend on the day of the meeting.

Parking is available in the church lot and on the streets nearby.



Take no thought for...what ye shall put on

To begin thinking about questions that relate to Christian Science nursing, let's consider a topic that seems almost insignificant when compared to the questions of What, When, Why, Where, and Who. At Fern Lodge and a number of other Christian Science nursing facilities nurses are no longer all dressed in white. This reflects a recent trend in the field towards colored uniforms or no required uniforms. Some may find this change refreshing, others may find it disturbing. Let's just make sure that what we or others are wearing — white or otherwise, does not take center stage in our thought. It does not deserve that kind of attention.

Consider some of our Biblical examples. Was it because Jesus had a designer robe, woven top to bottom without a seam, that the woman with the flow of blood desired to touch its hem? No! She was reaching for the healing Christ, and her need was met. And what kind of clothes do you suppose the Good Samaritan wore? Probably it was something quite plain and practical, very likely travel-worn. Did his attire determine his willingness and ability to help the injured man on the road? Did his clothing matter to the man needing help?

Think now for a moment of someone you trust and esteem, someone you would want to help you if you had a need. Would it matter what color they had on? It is unlikely they could be ungracious in anything they choose to wear, because the

gracious meekness of their thought will naturally find expression in gracious, appropriate clothes. It's the strong, spiritual, unrelenting reliance on God that is sought, and this is by far the most important robe — what thought is clothed in. Let's make sure we keep that robe sparkly pure.

Winds of change are blowing in Christian Science nursing, as in our Movement and in the world around us. Some of the changes may, if we are unwary, draw our thought away from our basic purpose as Christian Scientists in the nursing practice. Let us watch that we don't get fooled into focusing on these peripheral issues. It's an old trick of the devil's — drawing our thought away from where it should be to something that looks important, but that really is relatively insignificant. It's the temptation Jesus addressed when he said "Take no thought for your life, what ye shall eat; neither for the body, what ye shall put on." Seek God first and the other stuff will fall into place (*Luke 12:22-32*).

New Accreditation Standards

We rejoice in the devotion of thought to Christian Science nursing indicated by The Mother Church Board's in-depth review of nursing over the last five years. This review resulted in the publication of *The Foundation for Christian Science Nursing* booklet, summarized in the May 1988 *Journal*. This statement does much to clarify the What? of Christian Science nursing, giving specifics about what is included in nursing work. The *Foundation* also addresses the When? and Why? of Christian Science nursing, sharing insight into the role of nursing in the care of individuals and in the healing mission of our Church.

This spring we received revised *Accreditation Standards for Nursing Facilities for Christian Scientists*, which serve to help focus thought on the role of facilities in upholding and supporting the healing work of Christian Science nurses. These new standards from The Mother Church shed light on the questions, "Christian Science nursing, Where? and Who?"

Facilities eligible for accreditation will be those whose "predominate service is rendered by Christian Science nurses" and where the "primary mission of the facility is to provide a place where individuals come to commune with God while receiving temporary aid and assistance consistent with the theology of Christian Science." The *Accreditation Standards* also require nursing facilities to "meet all legitimate requests for Christian Science nursing in the region" and to "emphasize assisting people in their homes wherever possible."

In many cases the best place for an individual to receive Christian Science nursing is in his or her own home, in the care of family and friends. Recently we have been seeking ways to offer nursing assistance away from Fern Lodge. Providing in-home nursing is in its early stages and not always available because of the nursing staff required. But we will give whatever help

we can now, and under God's firm and tender guidance we will be more effective in offering Christian Science nursing wherever it is needed in our community. The role of Christian Science nurses includes instructing others who are willing to help provide care. We will be glad to offer assistance and instruction in cases where family, friends or church members are willing to help in someone's home. The Where? of Christian Science nursing includes our homes and churches, and Who? includes each one of us.

Another aspect of in-home nursing that deserves consideration is the need for financial aid that may make a facility like Fern Lodge the only affordable place to receive needed care. We appreciate The Mother Church focus on home nursing, and with Field support for home care the means for offering any necessary aid will be supplied. Fern Lodge will continue the benevolent Fund for Care and use it to meet requests for benevolence for home care as it becomes possible.

The purpose of Fern Lodge is to provide temporary nursing care, encouraging expected healing. We are grateful for a clear statement from the Church in support of the stand for healing and for their expressed understanding that temporary care is not measured by the time it is needed. An individual's reliance on God, trust in His care, and expectancy of wholeness, are the criteria for receiving Christian Science nursing. Our policy remains "to offer Christian Science nursing without regard to how long it is needed or to an individual's ability to pay for such care."

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