A HISTORICAL ANALYSIS OF THE
LIBRARY’S ROLE IN NURSING EDUCATION

The Johns Hopkins Nurses’ Journal Club
and Society of Teresians, 1891 – 1925

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TO ANALYZE...
the significance of a distinct culture of library engagement at the Johns Hopkins Hospital School of Nursing (JHH SON) during the formative years of American nursing education

TO EXAMINE...
how the Nurses’ Journal Club and Society of Teresians 1) contributed to the growth of the JHH SON Library and 2) nurtured students’ professional sense of self through intellectual inquiry and shared reading

TO APPRECIATE...
the vital role of libraries in the development of nursing students’ professional identities during the late 19th and early 20th centuries – and today
METHODS

Analysis and synthesis of primary and secondary source historical material

PRIMARY SOURCES
Alan Mason Chesney Medical Archives at Johns Hopkins
  • Institutional Records
  • Personal Paper Collections
  • Johns Hopkins Hospital Bulletin
  • Johns Hopkins Nurses Alumnae Magazine
Early articles in The American Journal of Nursing

SECONDARY SOURCES
Historical studies for background information on:
  • The Johns Hopkins Hospital
  • Nursing education history
  • Nursing library history
BACKGROUND

The Gilded Age in America

- Libraries and librarianship
- Reading culture and “bibliophilia”
- Philanthropy
- New educational opportunities for women
- Growth of hospitals
- Hospital-based nursing schools influenced by Florence Nightingale
Mary Adelaide Nutting (class of 1891)
Student Portrait

Class of 1893 Group Portrait
Superintendent Isabel Hampton in middle back row

Images courtesy of Chesney Medical Archives, JHMI
“Feminist friendship” at the Johns Hopkins Hospital School of Nursing

Isabel Hampton
1859 – 1910

Mary Adelaide Nutting
1858 – 1948

Lavinia Dock
1858 – 1956

Images: Hampton & Dock in public domain
Mary Adelaide Nutting, courtesy of Chesney Medical Archives, JHMI

The Nurses’ Journal Club
(1891 – 1894)

Meetings
• Every second Monday of each month in the library
• Attendance was required for students

Organization
• Structured, yet informal - to promote esprit de corps
• President was elected each year

Content of Meetings
• Reports and readings from journals and magazines
• Original papers composed and read by senior pupils

Library Collection
• Developed to meet the needs of the Journal Club
• Collection grew mostly through donations

“At the Training School for Nurses a Journal Club has been organized for the study of the current literature of nursing and the allied branches of hygiene and medicine.”

- Henry Hurd
Superintendent’s Report of the Johns Hopkins Hospital, January 31, 1891
### Original Papers – Evidence of In-Depth Research

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Paper</th>
<th>Author</th>
<th>Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>“The Hospital Ward”</td>
<td>Mary Emory</td>
<td>March 9, 1891</td>
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<tr>
<td>“Intestinal Anastomosis”</td>
<td>Emma Cleaver</td>
<td>March 23, 1891</td>
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<tr>
<td>“Preparation and Use of Salt Solution”</td>
<td>Ada Graham</td>
<td>January 25, 1892</td>
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<tr>
<td>“Some Possibilities for Nurses”</td>
<td>Alice McDonald</td>
<td>January 9, 1893</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>“Loyalty Among Nurses”</td>
<td>Dora Hamilton</td>
<td>January 23, 1893</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>“Diseases of Children”</td>
<td>Alice McDonald</td>
<td>March 13, 1893</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>“One View of Nursing”</td>
<td>Ada Carr</td>
<td>April 10, 1893</td>
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### Periodicals Available to the Nurses’ Journal Club

- The American Journal of Medical Sciences
- The Atlantic Monthly
- The Century Magazine
- The Hospital
- The Lancet
- Medical and Surgical Record
- The Nightingale
- The Nurse Record
- The Trained Nurse
The Library

“...we trust that in these rooms some bright, pleasant, social hours may be passed, and among the books, magazines, and papers that are sure to find their way here, when the need for them is realized, the pupils may spend valuable hours keeping bright what is already theirs...”

– Isabel Hampton, October 9, 1889, Remarks at Opening of JHH SON

A good reference library can be made up from the following works: Gray's Anatomy; Human Physiology, Austin Flint, M. D.; Principles and Practice of Medicine, Wm. Osler, M. D.; Materia Medica and Therapeutics, Bartholow; Text-book of General Therapeutics, Hale White; Diseases of Children, Eustace Smith, M. D.; Taylor on Poisons; Practical Examination of Urine, James Tyson, M. D.; Nursing and the Care of the Nervous and Insane, Charles E. Mills, M. D.; An American Text-Book of Surgery, edited by Keen and White; Manual of Gynaecology, Hart and Barbour; Skene's Gynaecology; Obstetrical Nursing, Parvin; Puerperal Convalescence and Diseases of the Puerperal Period, Kucher; Massage and the Swedish Movements, Ostrom; Drainage and Sewerage of Dwellings, Paul Gerhard; Parkes' Practical Hygiene; Hospital Construction, J. S. Billings, M. D.; Notes on Nursing, Florence Nightingale; Guide to District Nursing, Mrs. Dacre Craven (Florence Lees); Text-Book of Nursing, Clara Weeks; Duties of Hospital Sisters, Eva Lückes.

A list of text-books for class-teaching can be made up of the following: The Human Body, Martin; Essentials of Anatomy, Charles B. Nancrede, M. D.; Materia Medica for Nurses, L. L. Dock; A Hand-book of Invalid Cooking, Mary A. Boland.

– Excerpt from Chapter 1 of Isabel Hampton’s Nursing: It’s Principles and Practice (1893)
Library Management and Organization

- Administered by school superintendent and staffed by students
- Accession books recorded all titles in the general and historical collections
- Donors included Susan B. Anthony, Mary Garrett, William Osler and Henry Hurd
- Library Committee made collection development decisions
- Student library fee of one dollar a year contributed to journal subscription budget

“Library Rules”
- **Hours**: 6:30 – 8:30 p.m. on Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday evenings
- **Card System**: Student signed card in book, and left the card with student on duty
- **Check-Out Policy**: One book out at a time for a two-week period with one renewal
- **Overdue Fines**: 2 cents per day
“The writer has watched the reference library of the Johns Hopkins Hospital Training School for Nurses grow within a very few years from about thirty volumes to nearly two hundred, and at few hours of the day can one go into the class-room without finding eager students making notes or looking up interesting points.”

- Mary Adelaide Nutting, April 1903

On January 12, 1905, nursing students hosted ‘A Book Tea’ fundraising event “devoted to the building up of our own cherished Library on Nursing.”

- Johns Hopkins Nurses Alumnae Magazine (February 1905): 24
“On Wednesday evening, December 13th, 1905, the Head Nurses and Senior Students of the Johns Hopkins Training School for Nurses were called together to consider the advisability of forming a society for the study of the ‘history of nursing’.”

Teresians Book, December 13, 1905
Records of the Society of Teresians, Chesney Archives, JHMI
Society of Teresians
(1905 – 1925)

“It was suggested, therefore, that the object of the society be: first, the study of the history of nursing; second, to aid in the building up of the historical library of the Johns Hopkins Hospital Training School for Nurses; third, to publish from time to time papers of especial interest and value on this subject.”

Teresians Book, December 13, 1905
Records of the Society of Teresians, Chesney Archives, JHMI
Nutting formed the Teresians while she and Dock were researching and writing their 4-volume *A History of Nursing*.

Name was inspired by a reference to St. Teresa of Avila in Osler’s essay “Science and Immortality”.

Original papers on nursing history and biography were read and discussed.

Excerpt from *Johns Hopkins Nurses Alumnae Magazine*, February 1906
The sitting room has made an exceeding comfortable and attractive library with its pictures and easy chairs covered with brown leather. All the available wall space between the windows has been built in with large book cases, which are nearly filled with our very valuable library of general literature of 1500 volumes.
Library Timeline in the era of the Teresians

Library holds over 2000 volumes. Books and artwork acquired through purchase or donations

1910

Kelly expresses interest in donating his entire collection of Nightingale memorabilia to the Library*

1920

Minnie Blogg, from the Welch Library, and her sister Harriet Blogg, catalog the SON Library’s books

1921

c. 1905

Nutting donates her Nightingale collection and a mahogany bookcase

1905

Dr. Howard Atwood Kelly donates a bound volume of 6 letters written by Nightingale

1917

Loula Kennedy becomes Director of Instruction and supervises the Library

1921

1925

Last meeting of Teresians in the Nurses’ Home parlor: “Refreshments and dancing followed the literary program”

*Teresians Book, JHMI Archives

*Note: The SON Library was initially unable to store this collection due to space limitations. In 1930, it was housed in the Welch Library in The Nightingale Room. In 1942, it was transferred to the newly renovated SON Library.
## Notable Members of the Journal Club and Teresians

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Nurse</th>
<th>Graduation Year</th>
<th>Professional Nursing Achievements</th>
</tr>
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</table>
| Mary Adelaide Nutting  | 1891            | • First nurse to be appointed a university professor  
                              • Led the Nursing Education Department at Columbia                                           |
| Emma Cleaver           | 1891            | • Earned her Doctor of Medicine in 1895  
                              • Medical missionary in Japan                                                               |
| Ada Carr                | 1893            | • First full-time instructor at the JHH SON  
                              • Editor of the journal *The Public Health Nurse*                                            |
| Katherine de Long       | 1894            | • Led the American Red Cross Nursing Service in Italy in 1917  
                              • Organized Red Cross hospitals in Rome and Milan                                              |
| Alice Fitzgerald        | 1906            | • WWI nurse with the British Expeditionary Forces in France  
                              • Organized nursing schools across eastern Europe after WWI                                    |
| Virginia Dunbar         | 1923            | • Earned scholarship to study nursing history in London  
                              • Director, American Red Cross Nursing Service in the 40s                                        |

Implications for Health Science Librarians Today

- Journal Clubs for Evidence-Based Practice
- The Library as Place
- Information Literacy Instruction on Historical Research in the Health Sciences
- Nursing and Medical Humanities
CONCLUSIONS

• Literary culture and library engagement at the JHH SON nurtured students’ sense of professional identity

• Access to professional literature, combined with the study of nursing history and shared reading practices, ignited students’ spirit of inquiry and created *esprit de corps*

• Libraries at early hospital-based nursing schools represented ideals beyond the books on the shelves. . .
“To the leading educators of early twentieth-century American nursing, the library was both the intellectual and professional nexus of the hospital-based training school. The book, long an erudite commodity, and the library, the book’s complementary and edifying milieu, were idealized by nursing leaders as proof of the ascending status of the nursing educational system.”

- Keith C. Mages

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Johns Hopkins Hospital
Wood engraving in Harper’s Weekly (vol. 32, p. 667)
Public domain http://resource.nlm.nih.gov/101435498
Johns Hopkins Hospital School of Nursing


Isabel Hampton Robb Collection, Personal Papers. The Alan Mason Chesney Medical Archives of The Johns Hopkins Medical Institutions (hereafter cited as JHMI Archives).


Johns Hopkins Hospital Circular of Information, 1901-1907. Records of the Johns Hopkins Hospital Training School for Nurses. JHMI Archives.


Nutting, Mary Adelaide. Student Notebooks. 1889-1891. Boxes 505978 & 505985. Mary Adelaide Nutting Collection. JMHI Archives.

“Opening of the Nurses’ Home and Inauguration of the Training School for Nurses [October 9, 1889]” *Bulletin of the Johns Hopkins Hospital* 1, 1 (December 1889): 6-8.


Johns Hopkins Hospital School of Nursing Library


Library Rules. Library Committee Annual Reports. Box 504385. Records of the Johns Hopkins Hospital School of Nursing. JHMI Archives.


“Progress in the Hospital,” *The Johns Hopkins Nurses Alumnae Magazine* 7 (March 1908): 5-12.

Nurses’ Journal Club


Nurses’ Journal Club. 1891-1894. Box 511136. Records of the Johns Hopkins Hospital School of Nursing. JHMI Archives.


**Society of Teresians**


**Background**


Background, continued


Images

Slides 3 & 4 – Johns Hopkins Mt. Washington campus; and Peabody Library. Author’s photographs

Slide 5 – Mary Adelaide Nutting Student Portrait, 1891; and Class of 1893. Courtesy of Chesney Medical Archives, JHMI

Slide 6 – Isabel Hampton, 1910 (https://www.flickr.com/photos/internetarchivebookimages/14582842300/)
  Mary Adelaide Nutting, 1891. Courtesy of Chesney Medical Archives, JHMI
  Lavinia Dock, c. 1890s (http://resource.nlm.nih.gov/101441748)

Slides 9 & 16 – JHH SON Library images from 1893 and 1911. Courtesy of Chesney Medical Archives, JHMI

Slide 22 – Johns Hopkins Hospital (http://resource.nlm.nih.gov/101435498)
THANK YOU

Questions?

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