

Marshall Kerry



Kerry Marshall ... New at BGH

BGH Nursing Director: Filling Community Needs

"It's not good enough to discharge a patient and say 'come back when you're sick again.'"

With that, Kerry Marshall, Belleville General Hospital new director of nursing service, gets into one of her favorite topics: the extension of nursing service to the community.

Miss Marshall, who was graduated from the University of Toronto's diploma course in hospital administration this spring, believes its time for nursing to move from the corridors of hospitals into the community, at least on an informal level.

"Nursing service must be part of the total health care team," she says, citing as one personal goal the establishment of good community relations "so the public is aware of our potential and our limitations."

"We have facilities here—we have to be sure the community is aware of the programs we can supply."

Adaption by a patient and his family to chronic illness, education in community resources to aid a patient, health and maintenance, mental health and maternal and child care are some of the areas nursing services can bridge between hospital and community, she says.

"We treat diabetes in the hospital, then discharge a patient and send him home. But

he's got to live with it - it's not going to go away. Our responsibility shouldn't end at the hospital door," Miss Marshall says.

At 30, Miss Marshall has just completed a year of residency in hospital administration at York County Hospital, Newmarket, in conjunction with the University of Toronto master's level course.

Former supervisor of medical - surgical nursing at Toronto General Hospital, she won her Bachelor of Nursing at McGill University, Montreal.

At BGH she's responsible for 340 full time and 81 part-time nurses, nursing assistants, orderlies and clerical support staff.

Currently it's her second week — she spends her days becoming acquainted with the staff and with BGH's unique "nurse - saver" system.

"I'm becoming accustomed to the (Gordon) Friesen Concept. It's a new concept to me although of course I know the theory," she says.

The concept, briefly, calls for hospitals to be designed so that all patient needs from linen to medication are decentralized from supply rooms on each ward to the patients' rooms.

"I'm spending time in each area with clinical supervisors to find out what the ramifica-

tions are for the nursing staff.

"To me it's a beautiful system."

Part of the beauty of the concept, Miss Marshall points out, is its adaption to team nursing.

Team nursing, she says, has replaced "efficiency nursing" where one nurse gave medicine, one took temperatures and so on.

"It's much more satisfying from a nursing point of view," she says. "It puts the responsibility at the patient - care level."

Team nursing is just one of the "astounding" changes in nursing in the relatively few years since the new director began nursing in a Detroit ghetto hospital across the river from her native Windsor.

"Technology has forced us to learn new methods and the hierarchal structure has been modified. Now we expect a nurse to grow into her own competency."

Miss Marshall says she misses nursing — "every nurse does" — but opted for administration because as a staff nurse and supervisor "I saw problems I'd like to take a crack at."

"My personal complaint has been that administrators don't keep up with the needs of staff nurses.

"It's exciting to help direct where nursing will go."

The Intelligencer
May 18, 1973