

If the patient is to be treated by giving him trust and responsibility, the locked door must go. In many countries the doors are open in some of the wards or in part of the mental hospital. This "open door" system is not the same as the "open ward" system; while the former may be found in an institution that is itself "closed", the "open ward" receives patients on a voluntary basis. Some countries have no open ward system, in others the number of voluntary patients may range from 10 % to 85 % of all admissions. "The extent to which the open ward system is in use may be regarded as a fair measure of the level of psychiatric hospital care and of its acceptance by the population" . . .

The male nursing profession in France, by A. Montesinos, *Revue de l'Infirmière et de l'Assistance sociale*, Paris 1962, No. 5.

It is generally considered that nursing is essentially a female profession. The author makes a point of showing that there is nothing to justify such an opinion and he describes the present position of male nurses in France, as well as the problems raised by their recruitment and training: lack of schools for male nurse students, cultural level of ward attendants insufficient to enable them to enjoy satisfactory conditions of promotion, bad organization and application of such promotion. Mr. Montesinos makes several suggestions to improve this organization and hopes above all for the creation of schools for male nurse students. To upgrade the profession and provide professional openings and a less limited future to attract a larger number of men, especially discharged military male nurses, could be a means of partially resolving the present crisis of nursing personnel.

Quarantinable diseases, *Who Chronicle*, Geneva, 1963, No 4.

... This brief review of the development of the quarantinable diseases gives ground for optimism and especially for renewed confidence in the effectiveness of the measures employed to cut short epidemics and in particular to stop the spread, in these days of increased international and intercontinental communication, of diseases originally confined to endemic foci. But the threat of their spread remains, for in 1961, considerable outbreaks of smallpox, plague, cholera and yellow fever occurred, raising the number of cases and especially the number of deaths above the figures for 1960. Vigilance is therefore needed. Only by the co-operative efforts of laboratory workers, national and international health services, and especially medical and medico-social personnel throughout the world can the ever-present threat of the great quarantinable diseases be averted.
