YUSN Alumnae Bulletin

Yale School of Nursing

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Surrounding Dean Emeritus Annie W. Goodrich at the 25th Anniversary celebration of the Yale University School of Nursing are, left to right, Mary Quinlan '46, Barbara Matthews '46, Pamela Perkins '51, Margaret Meagher '51, Viola Madorno '51, Shirley Randall '51, Lola Stempa '51 and Joan Sappington '51

FLORENCE NIGHTINGALE SPEAKS ON THE 25th ANNIVERSARY

"When to the sessions of sweet silent thought
I summon up remembrance of things past,
I sigh the lack of many a thing I sought,"*
But joy at gains that you have made at last.
Now can I begin to rest; to know
That Perseverance fans the feeble light
That, lit in dark Scutari, had to glow
To burn the shadows hiding Nursing's might.
Now can I find Peace within my soul,
For you will see that all the world will burn
With your belief in Nursing's distant goal —
Which nurses yet unborn will pass in turn.
The while I think of nurses everywhere
I think of you with Faith, with Trust, with Prayer.

*Shakespeare: Sonnet XXX

Kathleen Barrett '39
FEBRUARY FIFTH

The day has long since passed, but the memory of the 25th Anniversary of the Yale School of Nursing will always be a happy and satisfying one. Numerous alumnae, beyond our greatest expectations, returned to hear the important addresses, attend the selection of teas, dinners and coffees, see the exhibits, and meet old friends and new.

The Saturday festivities opened with an informal get-together over coffee and doughnuts in the Brady Seminar Room over at the School. While many alumnae visited with friends around the hospital and the School, others retraced their steps through remembered halls, attended a round table discussion of the much-publicized Rooming-In units. Students of the School played hostess to career editors of the nationally known magazines, Charm, Mademoiselle, Seventeen and Glamour.

The Historical Library, which was the scene of the more formal exercises in the afternoon, was crowded to overflowing with alumnae, guests and friends of the School. President Charles Seymour presided. Our guest speakers' selection of topics were of such interest, both immediate and for the future, that the Yale Journal of Biology and Medicine is including them in an issue in the near future, and plans are being made to have a reprint sent to each alumna and guest. (If you'd like extra copies they may be obtained for a small charge.)

The tea following the exercises had originally been scheduled for the moderate sized Beaumont Room. As acceptances began to pour in during those hectic days before the celebration, it soon became apparent that no mere "moderate sized" room would be adequate. So, the tea was held in the large Club Room of the Medical School — and would have been more comfortable in a room three times that size. Over three hundred "tea lovers" attended!

In the corridors of the Medical Library wing were display cases of exhibits which had been thoughtfully and carefully arranged by the first year Y.S.N. students. Items portraying the history of the Connecticut Training School, the Yale School of Nursing, the honors showered on our Deans—all were beautifully displayed, and were very much a center of attention.

Then came the alumnae dinner—and again the sizeable influx of alumnae necessitated a change of plan. Instead of dining at the Faculty Club, the alumnae met at the Y.W.C.A., and after a most satisfying meal were dumbfounded by a young magician, and regaled with hilarious tales of "the good old days" at C.T.S. and Y.S.N. (You'll be as disappointed as we were, we know, to learn that we lost fifty dollars on the dinner—alumnae who told us they were coming and didn't. Contributions are being received, at $2.50 a plate, from you who forgot to cancel your reservations.)

That evening, those alumnae and guests who felt "in a dancing mood" enjoyed the informal dance sponsored by the Y.S.N. students who were raising funds for the very worthy cause—that of sending a student to Stockholm in June for the I.C.N. meeting.

It was a full day, and a very satisfying one. We, who were fortunate to be here, will never forget it, and hope that in some small measure the word pictures of the Dean and your editors brought you some of the excitement of the occasion.

NEW HAVEN REGIONAL

The spring meeting of the New Haven Regional group of the Y.U.S.N.A.A. will be held on Monday evening, April 25, at 7:30 P. M., in the Brady Auditorium. Dean Bixler will report on her trip and meetings with alumnae groups throughout the country.

25th ANNIVERSARY SOUVENIRS

Y.S.N. printed tea napkins with the Collier cartoon, "Yale Now Has a School of Nursing" are still available at $2 and
$2.50 a box by writing to your Alumnae Office.

DATA FROM THE DEAN

It was a grand "birthday" present for me when the University sent me on a quick trip around the country to visit alumnae groups. I left New Haven as scheduled on February 14 and made the twelve stops planned by the Alumnae Office and listed in the last number of the Bulletin. Later in the spring I hope to visit a few more groups and although it is too much to expect to see every one of the 934 graduates, I feel I made a good beginning on this jaunt with a total count of 142. Practically every day the sun shone, almost always the trains and planes were on time, and everywhere, without exception, a most heart-warming welcome greeted me.

Those of us who have been alumnae for a long time have often spoken of the wonderful spirit of Y.S.N. graduates. The increase in numbers has obviously intensified this spirit. There is no doubt in my mind of your sincere loyalty to the School and your interest in the present and future programs. It was fun to find members of widely separated classes in each group and to have them get acquainted with each other. I trust that the news items that I carried from place to place did not get too garbled in transit. It was fun for me to greet old friends and my own young students, and to meet many individuals whom I had previously known by name only. At each meeting there were some who had come a great distance and at considerable inconvenience to themselves. Everywhere, too, I had an opportunity to meet others than our own alumnae, who are actively engaged in nursing, and their interest in our School was flattering and gratifying.

One of the highlights was the luncheon meeting with the Yale Club in Seattle, arranged by Mr. Henry Gellert. About 20 men and 6 of our alumnae were present. Mr. Gellert was so impressed by the beauty that the men had been missing all these years that he announced that from now on all Y.S.N. Alumnae are invited to the regular monthly luncheon meetings of the Yale Club in Seattle! (Minneapolis papers please copy.)

It would be impossible to tell you about all the nice things that happened. Each group seemed determined to meet again and that is important to all of us—that regional groups get established on a reasonably permanent basis. The suggestions of what the regional groups can do for Y.S.N. were numerous. If some can start scholarship funds it will be tremendously appreciated. We have not had enough funds this year to grant complete scholarships to all the students who need financial help, although we divided the available money as evenly as possible and the students have taken supplementary loans where necessary. Members of other groups have offered to do some active recruiting for the School, and this, too, will be very helpful. I seized the opportunity to remind everyone that contributions to the Alumni Fund are of help to the School of Nursing, because our deficit is made up from that Fund. And I hope that a much larger percentage of alumnae dues will be paid, as we must support our own association.

To all of you my sincere thanks for the hearty welcome, the good food, the corsages, and most of all for your wonderful enthusiasm. Let's hope we can do it again.

Elizabeth S. Byler

COMMENCEMENT PLANS

The Y.S.N. Alumnae dinner will be formal this year and will be held at the Lawn Club in New Haven on Saturday, June 18. Reunion classes of 1929, 1934, 1939, 1944 and the 1949 graduating class will be honored. A cocktail hour at individual expense will precede the dinner. (Approximate cost of dinner will be $3.50.) Informal entertainment (no formal speaker) will be the order of the evening.

More details later—but, mark the date on your calendar now, get your baby sitter lined up, and, you members of reunion classes, contact your secretaries:

1929 Marion Russell, 1048 Union Street, San Francisco, California
1934 Mrs. Thomas E. Shaffer, 399 W. 9th Ave., Columbus, Ohio
1939 Mrs. Harry L. Nelson, 3204 West Ave., Austin, Texas
1944 Mrs. John S. Boyce, Jr., 819 Demerius St., N3, Durham, North Carolina
"HOW COME WE CAME"— Chapter III
Elizabeth Grigg ’45W

We all know how far in advance of the times Miss Goodrich was in her thinking and how much opposition she had to combat in the early days of the Yale School of Nursing. Miss Effie Taylor stresses what a difficult board they had to deal with, and how Miss Goodrich was often in despair. “What will we do?” was the question frequently on her lips. Despite all her doubts, however, she went ahead and did things just the same. It was this visionary quality which gave her the strength to surmount the obstacles she encountered, and which makes her still a woman ahead of the times. “Miss Goodrich was so far-sighted that we haven’t yet begun to touch the needs of nursing,” said Miss Taylor.

Miss Taylor first heard of the Yale School of Nursing in a very informal way. Miss Goodrich said to her, “Meet me in the subway under the Brooklyn Bridge.” They sat there on a bench and talked about “the patient as a whole,” case studies, and the curriculum. Then, Miss Goodrich said, “Won’t you come and be superintendent of nurses in the Connecticut Training School?” So it was that Miss Taylor carried on until the new school was brought into being. At the time of assuming this office Miss Taylor was Executive Secretary of the National League of Nursing Education, and her experience was of great value to the School. Miss Dorothy Alling was president of the last class to graduate from the Connecticut Training School. Miss Taylor speaks of her as a “tower of strength” in a very fine class.

The curriculum of Y.S.N. has been studied continuously since the beginning. Even such matters as round corners versus square corners were discussed, since the school was not to be top heavy with theory. Miss Taylor (Johns Hopkins) says, “New York Hospital had its way!” (Our first Dean is a graduate of New York Hospital—remember!) A stupendous effort was made to integrate theory and practice, and the nursing service never lost sight of this. There was never a day that Miss Goodrich and Miss Taylor did not confer on the carrying out of the principles of the hospital and school. In the same way, they discussed assignments and appointments together. Miss Taylor quotes Miss Goodrich as saying to her frequently, “You didn’t tell me anything,” but Miss Goodrich asserts, with her usual twinkle, “She told me all that was good for me to know.”

As time passed the importance of having college graduates as students became more apparent. More and more were entering, and it became imperative that all students be on the same educational level. By 1934, when Miss Effie Taylor took office, all entering students were college graduates. There was continual need to strengthen the curriculum and to study the course in all branches. It was felt that the thirty months’ course did not give enough time; and the course was extended to thirty-two months. It was found desirable to give more individual and more group instruction. More bedside nursing was offered. This meant an increased faculty and more problems.

(To be continued)