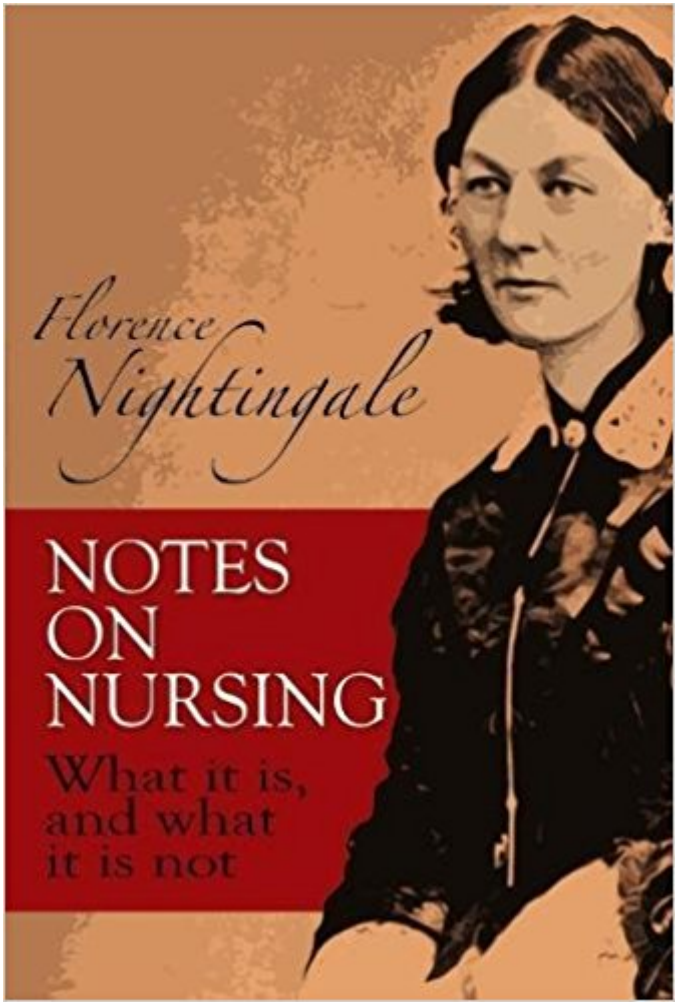
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Notes On Nursing: What It Is, And What It Is Not (Dover Books On Biology)



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Synopsis

"My heart always sinks within me when I hear the good housewife, of every class, say, 'I assure you the bed has been well slept in,' and I can only hope it is not true. What? Is the bed already saturated with somebody else's damp before my patient comes to exhale in it his own damp? Has it not had a single chance to be aired? No, not one. It has been slept in every night."From the best known work of Florence Nightingale (1820-1910), the originator and founder of modern nursing, comes a collection of notes that played an important part in the much needed revolution in the field of nursing. For the first time it was brought to the attention of those caring for the sick that their responsibilities covered not only the administration of medicines and the application of poultices, but the proper use of fresh air, light, warmth, cleanliness, quiet, and the proper selection and administration of diet. Miss Nightingale is outspoken on these subjects as well as on other factors that she considers essential to good nursing. But, whatever her topic, her main concern and attention is always on the patient and his needs.One is impressed with the fact that the fundamental needs of the sick as observed by Miss Nightingale are amazingly similar today (even though they are generally taken for granted now) to what they were over 100 years ago when this book was written. For this reason, this little volume is as practical as it is interesting and entertaining. It will be an inspiration to the student nurse, refreshing and stimulating to the experienced nurse, and immensely helpful to anyone caring for the sick.

Book Information

Series: Dover Books on Biology

Paperback: 160 pages

Publisher: Dover Publications; 1 edition (June 1, 1969)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 048622340X

ISBN-13: 978-0486223407

Product Dimensions: 0.2 x 5.5 x 8 inches

Shipping Weight: 6.4 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.6 out of 5 stars 137 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #25,682 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #24 inÃ Â Books > Medical Books > Nursing > Issues, Trends & Roles #43 inÃ Â Books > Medical Books > History #253 inÃ Â Books > History > Historical Study & Educational Resources

Customer Reviews

-Because these notes record the skillful observations of a trained eye and mind on the fundamental needs of human beings in sickness and in the prevention of sickness, they are to a great degree timeless in their usefulness to the student of nursing in any country in the world. -Virginia M. Dunbar, Dean, Cornell UniversityNew York Hospital, New York City, 1946 -As one reads these notes one is impressed with the fact that the fundamental needs of the sick and the principles of good care for the well and the ill are the same today as when they were observed by Nightingale over one-hundred-years ago.-Margaret B. Dolan, Professor and Head, Dept. of Public Health Nursing, School of Public Health, Univ. of North Carolina, 1969 -This is the work of genius if ever I saw one; it will, I doubt not, create an Order of Nurses before it has finished its work. -Harriet Martineau, author of fiction and non-fiction, c. 1860 --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Florence Nightingale was the pioneering female nurse who was responsible for the bettering of conditions in the hospitals of the Crimea, during the war with Russia. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Remember, clean the bedpan after every use. Once a day is not often enough. Open a window so you patient doesn’t smother in the stink.Did someone really have to tell us these things? Yes, someone did. And Florence did so, in a clear and precise manner with a touch of wit. I wish more people knew of her insight and wit, which survives to this day. On women’s dress in the Victorian age she says, "the dress of women is daily more and more unfitting them for any mission or usefulness." and then jokes, "every woman now either shuffles or waddles" from all the crinoline and lace. In regards to visitors she advises nurses that the patient should not be surprised "except by thieves."And yet there are other gems here that modern nurses will see as well, like informing her readers that it is rude to talk to the doctor about them in their hearing or that you should sit and not appeared rushed when patients need to talk.

Much of what is contained in this book will be recognized by nurses today. The need for sanitation, healthy food, and plain common sense is relevant today. Without Florence Nightingale nursing would not be the respected profession it is today. I referenced this book several times when writing papers for my BSN and MSN. Miss Nightingale was also a statistician whose work is still recognized today. She put her statistical data to use in convincing those in power that reforms in healthcare needed to take place. Miss Nightingale could have, with her large private income, lived in the lap of

luxury but instead went to the Crimea and provided care to those in great need. That experience is the basis for the nursing care we provide today.

This book has given me a generalised insight into Florence Nightingale’s life and as an administrator in the importance of the basic and commonsense approach to nursing which was reflected in the way our mother nursed members of our family successfully on a number of occasions in the post war years.I not only enjoyed reading this simple little book, but I picked up additional and very significant tips on the way.

At the end of a long career in medicine, this is a humbling read. Stationed in Korea, at a small hospital with limited resources, soap and water, nature’s healing oxygen, aided by the judicious use of pharmaceuticals was de rigueur. Just as Florence Nightingale reveals so well in "Notes on Nursing", the basics of patient care have only been refined over the years. I would recommend this as a quick introduction to patient care for anyone entering a career in nursing or medicine if only for its historic perspective.

I am currently half way through the book. What I have discovered early is that Florence was definately ahead of her time in the science of nursing. The book helps to bring the reader back to the main purpose of medicine which is to improve upon the patients quality of life. I thus far have really enjoyed this book and recommend it to others both experienced in the field and new.

good

Bought this book while writing a formal nursing Meta paradigm paper for on-line Bachelor’s of nursing class. Ms. Nightingale’s points and ideas are really about caring for the in-firmed or sick, elderly, and diseased. Her points are still relevant today. We still have problems with noise control, sanitation--antibiotic resistant bacteria, environment control--ambience control relevant to patient well being as a use of healing, etc.

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