

From the editor ...

For far too long, the wealth and diversity of nursing literature have suffered a lack of timely and creative reporting of the efforts of nurses concerned with the development of nursing science. Many significant developments are occurring in nursing research, education and practice; yet these have not appeared in the literature, primarily due to the fact that the existing vehicles for such reporting have not been able to accommodate the need. It is this premise that initiated *Advances in Nursing Science (ANS)*.

ANS will focus on articles that address the full range of activities involved in the development of science, including empirical research, theory construction, concept analysis, practical application of research and theory, and investigation of the values and ethics that influence the practice and research activities of nursing science. Major concerns in selecting future topics and articles for *ANS* include the professional need for: theory construction; development and application of sound research methods; targeting of research efforts; and development of a cohesive body of knowledge and ethics, as well as means of applying theory and research in practice.

The nursing discipline holds great potential for further advancement as a profession and as a

science, evidenced by the significant growth in graduate education and advanced or specialized areas of nursing practice and research. Nursing will be recognized and supported increasingly by society as a valuable service for meeting the current health care crisis in prevention of illness as well as restoration, rehabilitation, promotion and maintenance of optimal health. In order to respond to society's expectation, a critical interface must be established between the development of nursing science and the provision of vital services to the public.

What does nursing need in order to form this critical interface? There are three dimensions of need at this point in our nursing history. First, nurses need to develop as individuals. We need to grow from adolescence to full maturity. We need to uncover the reality of our own human condition. This will enable us to actualize our individual and collective potential. If this basic motivation for actualizing human potential does not exist, scientific efforts and thought will be empty, full of sound and fury but signifying nothing. It is true that we need to obtain educational and formal training and credentials for conducting the work of scientists; but unless we are willing to know ourselves first and to grow, we will not be able to use what we have learned to effect real change in our profession and in our world.

Second, we need to cultivate openness and support in the nursing community. Regardless of individual levels of education, job positions or systems of belief, we need to encourage one another to develop the individual self as well as the art and science of nursing.

. . . there is not enough candor among scientists with regard to the part played in their endeavors by their own skills, interests, and temperaments. The tendency is to rationalize the working of these factors, in accord with the law of the instrument, by the conviction that what the scientist is able to do and would like to do is called for by the scientific situation or by the nature of science itself. . . . The worth of the [scientist's] product must be assessed independently of the motivations which entered into its production. The harm is done when we misconceive the causes of

our actions as reasons for them, and so seek to impose the same actions on others.¹

Nursing can no longer afford to waste its energy perpetuating the building of harmful barriers of faulty communication and ill will between and among ourselves based on immature individual or personal bias or prejudged notions of what is "worthy," "right" or "proper."

Third, we need creativity. Creativity can only develop to the extent that the first two needs have been satisfied. The concept of creativity must become something more than a trite platitude to which we grant passing honor, while continuing to be bound in our womb of intellectualized safety, carefully ensconced from the world of reality and discovery.

... the consciousness which obtains in creativity is not the superficial level of objectified intellectualization, but is an encounter with the world on a level that undercuts the subject-object split. "Creativity" ... is the encounter of the intensively conscious human being with his or her world.²

The articles chosen for each issue of *ANS* will provide a means of communicating the efforts of nurses. Each issue is designed to contribute to the development of the science and thus the practice of nursing. This first issue of *ANS* has been designed to set forth a basic, general conceptual and philosophic foundation for future issues. Other points of view surely exist, and we hope that these will emerge in response to the content of this issue. Articles contained in the second issue will clarify and expand on issues discussed in this issue. Subsequently, each issue will be composed of articles on a selected topic; the topics will be published in advance to encourage nurses to submit their work to be considered for publication.

Letters to the Editor will be published to provide debate, critique and response to the content of previous issues. Readers are encouraged to use the Letters to the Editor section to interact with colleagues in a spirit of openness, positive criticism, support and candid expression. Nurses are invited to express their ideas in the

ANS Open Forum on matters related to specific issue topics. Readers who wish to participate in the ANS Open Forum are encouraged to contact the editor.

The beginning efforts of young scholars in nursing will be acknowledged and encouraged by regular publication of abstracts of theses and dissertations that demonstrate particular scientific merit. This feature will help communicate a limited number of research and theory development efforts emerging from graduate students in nursing. Students are encouraged to submit their work for consideration by the editorial board. (See Information for Authors.)

The success of ANS will depend on the extent to which we can meet real needs in nursing. We urge all who read this first issue to join with us in making ANS the instrument it can become in fostering the advancement of the nursing profession. We look forward to hearing from you.

REFERENCES

1. Kaplan, A. *The Conduct of Inquiry: Methodology for Behavioral Science* (Scranton, Pa.: Chandler Publishing Co. 1964) p. 277.
2. May, R. *The Courage to Create* (New York: W. W. Norton & Co., Inc. 1975) p. 56.

—Peggy L. Chinn, R.N., Ph.D.
Editor