Commissioning of Male Nurses

In regard to the very excellent article, “Perspectives of Nursing Service” in the July 1978 issue of Military Medicine, it should be noted that commissioning of the first male in the Army Nurse Corps occurred October 6, 1955. Edward L. T. Lyon is the historic person who was sworn in by Brigadier General Harold W. Glattly, First Army Surgeon. The ceremony took place at Fort Jay Army Hospital, Governors Island, New York; Major Edith Frow, Chief Nurse, First Army, represented the Army Nurse Corps. Lyon was commissioned a 2nd Lieutenant under the Bolton (Francis P. Bolton, Congresswoman from Ohio) Amendment to the Army-Navy Nurses Act of 1947, signed August 9, 1955 as Public Law 294.

Implementation of this law was prompted by experience in the Korean conflict. When advance troops of the US forces were pushed from the Yalu River, female commissioned nurses were evacuated to rear echelons. As all male nurses at that time were non-commissioned, medics were left without nurse command personnel—and the accompanying preoccupation of sufficient authority to fulfill all duties and responsibilities effectively.

General Dwight D. Eisenhower, then President of the United States, recognized the incongruity of the situation and signed P.L. 294.

Ed Lyon completed his active service as a 1st Lieutenant in 1957, and retired from the Reserve in 1975 as Major. He is a graduate of Kings Park School of Nursing, Kings Park, Long Island, N.Y., and holds a B.S. in nursing from Indiana University, Bloomington, Indiana.

He chose to enter hospital administration as a career and earned his master’s degree in this field from Washington University, St. Louis. He held administrative positions in hospitals in Indiana, Ohio, and Michigan, and became the chief executive officer of Memorial Hospital in Manitowoc, Wisconsin.

Lyon now is education coordinator of the American College of Hospital Administrators, and has achieved the status of Fellow in the College.

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The Bugle Call: Addendum

The article on “Bugle Call TAPS” (143:486-487, 1978) by COL Eugene C. Jacobs, USA, Ret., was a worthwhile addition to the information provided in Military Medicine.

Colonel Jacobs included in his article the words of the chant, which accompanied TAPS, when sounded by a drummer.

As a former bugler in military bands, I learned a version of TAPS, which may be of interest. It is as follows:

“Day is done,
Gone the sun,
From the land, from the sea, from the sky,
All is well,
Safely rest,
God is nigh.”

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Book Reviews (Continued)

Annual Review of Allergy 1977-1978. Ed. by Claude Albee Frazier, M.D., Chief of Allergy, Memorial Mission Hospital and Staff Member, St. Joseph’s Hospital, Asheville, N.C. Medical Examination Publishing Co., Inc., Garden City, N.Y., 625 pp., multiple illus., $18.00.

This is a paperback text which summarizes new developments in both the clinical and basic science aspects of allergy. Forty authors contributed to 26 chapters in what becomes a rather substantial sized textbook. Numerous recently published articles are reviewed in each chapter. This permits the book to serve both as a ready source of information and as a significant reference source. For instance, in Chapter 2 titled Asthma in Adults, there are three abstracts of articles concerning mortality in asthma, four articles on states of the art in bronchial provocation tests in etiologic diagnosis and analysis of asthma, ten articles concerning various aspects of the physiology of asthma, 21 articles on therapeutic agents and their affects in asthma, and seven articles concerning hypersensitivity diseases of the lung.

The topics covered are extensive and range from pediatric allergy to diseases of autoimmunity, to fiberoptic bronchoscopy, and to therapeutic manipulations of mononuclear phagocytes. There is an excellent index. This book should be very useful to any student or physician interested in allergy, but would be particularly valuable in reviewing significant recent literature in preparation for certification and recertification examinations.

Col Jerry M. Earll, MC, USA
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