



# Editorial

Welcome to the autumn 2018 issue of Nursing History Now. Our new format and emphasis has been very positively received and we hope you enjoy this issue.

This November marks the centenary of the Armistice and also ZKDW LV ZLGHOL UHJDUGHG DV WKH EH both of which are touched upon in this issue.

When thinking of the Armistice I was reminded of the number of nurses who recorded it in their diaries:

“7KH FHOHEUDWLRQV ¿]]OHG RXW GDPŠ that overtook us all...the war was over and our friends were dead.” L.Smith Rouen

“\$IWHU ZHHNV RI ZDLWLQJ DQG D ¿QDC QHZV ZDV SKRQHG WKURXJK 7KH HYHG Quoted by C.Hallett in Containing Trauma

Read more about how wartime nurses are now remembered in our article about the nurses’ memorial recently unveiled at the 1DWLRQDO OHPRULDO \$UERUHWXP LQ 6WD RUGVKLUH RQ SDJH

2Q SDJHV \RX FDQ UHGD D ¿UVW KDQG DFFRXQW RI FDULQJ I patients with poliomyelitis, a subject included in the RCN Pandemic exhibition which moved to Scotland in October.

You can also read recollections of the past 30 years of the 1+6 RQ SDJHV DQG JDLQ VRPH LQVLJKW LQWR WKH OLYHV D experiences of Jewish nurses who came to the UK as refugees LQ WKH V RQ SDJH

Editor



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8-9	Metal prisons	
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We’re always keen to hear from you about your work, thoughts and stories related to nursing history. Please feel encouraged to send us ideas and items for inclusion in future issues of Nursing History Now by emailing the editor, Dianne Yarwood, at [d.yarwood@ntlworld.com](mailto:d.yarwood@ntlworld.com)

# From refugee to registered nurse

Jane Brooks, Deputy Director of the UK Centre for the History of Nursing and an RCN History of Nursing Society committee member, explains how nursing provided a new start for Jewish women fleeing Nazi Europe



Maria Fuchs Reiseepass

When 16-year-old Mia Ross (nee Fuchs) escaped Austria in March 1939, she couldn't have known that she'd never see her parents again. Her elder sister, already in Britain, met her on the train. She was taken in by a kindly, though emotionally distant, family, and attended Tottenham High School for Girls.

The following summer, Mia left school and after, her former headmistress helped her secure a more desirable position as a nurse, training at Keighley and District Victoria Hospital in Yorkshire.

For single Jewish women like Mia, there occupied territories – domestic service and nursing visas. Jewish and non-Aryan Germans  
With the takeover of Austria (the Anschluss) on 9 November, people departed in ever greater numbers.

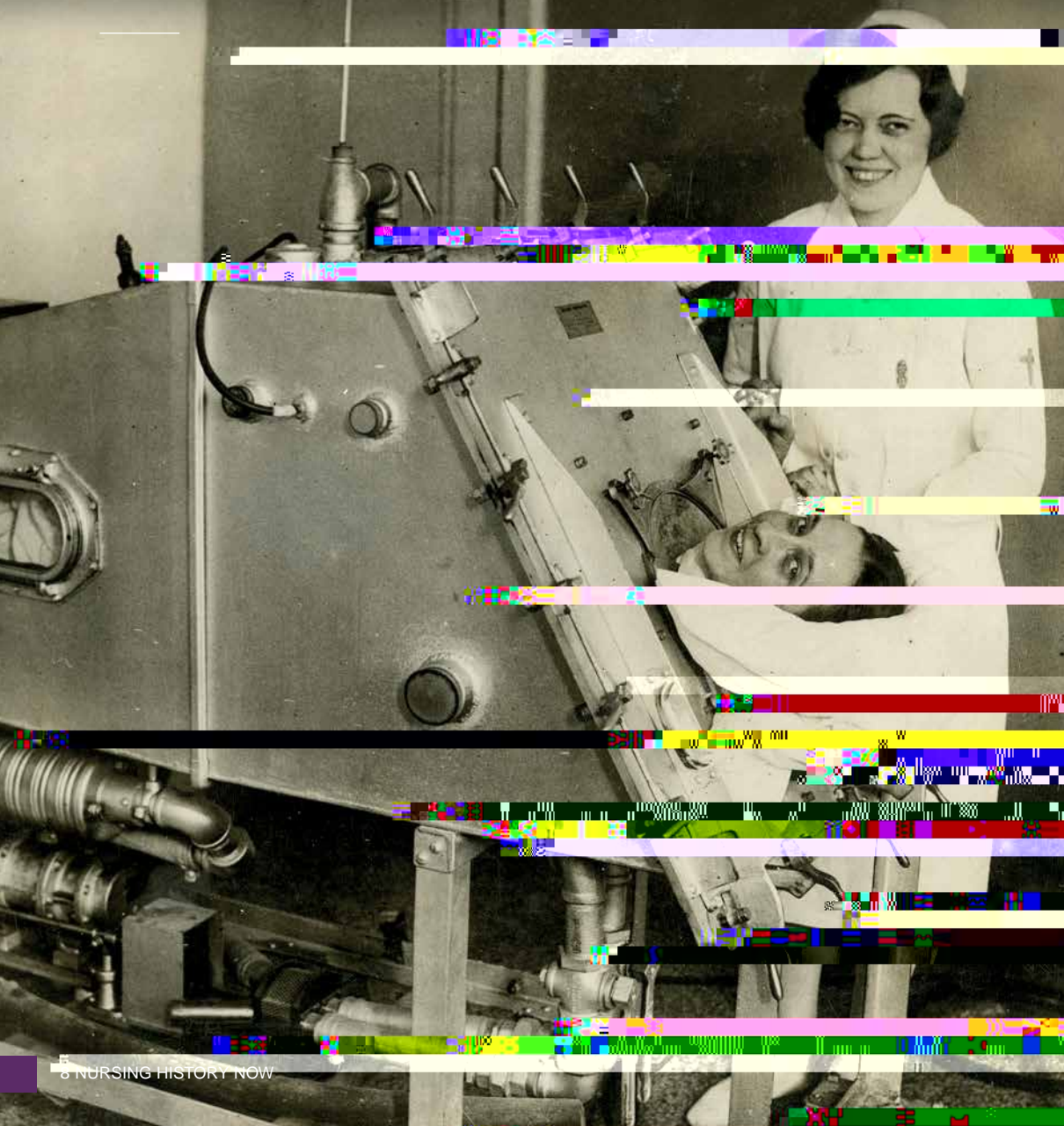
For single Jewish women like Mia, there were two ways to territories – domestic service and nursing visas.





# ‘Metal prisons’: nursing patients with polio in 1950s Northern Ireland

Iron lungs helped infected patients to breathe – but caring for those encased within them was no easy task





The devastating impact of polio and the gruelling treatment it sometimes involved is today largely forgotten in the UK. The introduction of a vaccine in the mid-1950s led to a dramatic decline in cases and today polio has been almost completely eliminated across the globe. But for nurses and patients who lived through polio epidemics, it was a harrowing experience.

RCN History of Nursing Society member Lorna Finlay recalls her nurse training at the Northern Ireland Fever Hospital, Purdysburn, Belfast.

I began fever nurse training in February

# The matron maker

Thanks to an RCN Foundation bursary, doctoral student Sarah Rogers is uncovering the history of Eva Lückes, the matron who trained hundreds of matrons in her mould



RCN Foundation grants

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IRULGYL0OVH1DUFKLOXHKLWUR10V0L0

Visit [rcnfoundation.org.uk](http://rcnfoundation.org.uk) WR 2 QG RXW PRUH

&RS1ULJKW RI WKH SLFWXUHV RQ SDJHV

LV RZQHG E1 7KH 5R1DO /RQRQ +RV

Sarah Rogers is a doctoral student at the University of Hudderseld, and the



oments of the last 30 years

# 1983

The Mental Health Act updated

This Act (updated

IURP WKH

RULJLQDO

introduced the issue of consent, whereas previously a detained patient could be treated against their will.

## An emphasis on education

The NHS became responsible for nurse education. It decided how many students should be trained and where. Schools of nursing were established.

Nurse education moved to universities, and students were no longer part of the workforce.

The impact was felt by many already experienced several years of change and upheaval as hospitals and schools of nursing closed or merged.

As a decade of change, with the introduction of the internal market, NHS trusts, a mental health framework and NHS Direct.

There was new legislation and major reports to contend with too: Health of the Nation; The New NHS: Modern, Dependable; Saving Lives; and Our Healthier Nation.

PFIs resulted in an explosion in new hospitals being built, but there were concerns over the quality of care.

non-NHS contracts were awarded for cleaning and catering services.

As junior doctors' contracts were changed. There had been a reduction in the number of junior doctors but the development of roles such as nurse practitioners, nurse prescribers and nurse endoscopists stimulated the demand for post-graduate courses and extensive education programmes. In the early years, funding was available to support these developments, but over time it became harder to access and



Although funding for education was still from NHS budgets, a complex system of negotiations was introduced and in some areas student numbers were reduced and the funding reallocated to replace the services of the old workforce.

## 1990s

### 1998

#### NHS Direct established

The nurse-led telephone information service provided health care advice through telephone contact.



### 1999

#### National Institute for Clinical Excellence

As part of plans to tackle quality variation in the NHS, NICE was established to produce clear guidance for clinicians and assess new drugs, treatments and devices for clinical effectiveness.

## News from a new millennium

As a new millennium drew closer devolution DOORZHG IRU ÀH[LLELOLW\ LQ VSHZIGLFLKJ KDDVGOHG WR D EHWWHU organisational structure. Political and LGHRORJLFDQ GL HUHGFHV UHFRXQWHU and led to many changes.

%HWZHHQ WKH IRXU 8. FRXQWV and led to variations in prescription costs and car parking charges. There was no internal market in Scotland, while Wales abolished the SXUFKDVHU SURYLGHU VSOLWTHU and based targets.

,Q WKH 1+6 3ODQ ZDV UHJDVU GHFH HQVWOK HDV ELJJHVW FKDQJH VLQFH RHEURQ 9,000 \HDU UHIRUP SURJUDPPH EXW LQ death was a result of the HIV virus. England Five Year Forward View arrived. The ÷UVW \HDUV RI WKH QHZ PLOQRUDVLP DOVR EURXJKW us strategic health authorities, foundation therapy has been trusts, the Care Quality Commission and the introduced and NHS constitution. although it's now a manageable condition, it continues to spread.

### Celebrating continued care

While changes to nurse education and legislative developments are essential to any review of the NHS in the last 30 years, it would be neglectful not to remember the many medical advances we've also seen. Progress has been made in many areas that would have been

unimaginable not that long ago. Vaccination strategies are now in place for Hepatitis A and HPV. The human genome was mapped in VSHZIGLFLKJ KDDVGOHG WR D EHWWHU of genetic conditions with hope for improved treatments and cures in the future.

6WHP FHOQ UHVHDFK VWDUWHG continually moving forward with the use of 3D images in pregnancy, robotic surgery, robotics in surgery and remote surgery utilising computer technology.

The SNP and the NHS continues to transform lives.

9,000 deaths a result of the HIV virus.

Antiretroviral therapy has been introduced and although it's now a manageable condition, it continues to spread.

7KHUH ZHUH PRUH WKDQ WUDQ LQ WKH 8. LQ 0RVW QRZ FRPH deceased donors, but live kidney transplants are still more common in the UK than anywhere else in Europe.

## NHS TIMELINE: marking moments of the last 30 years

2000s

# 2008

HPV vaccination introduced

A strategy to vaccinate teenage girls as part of the strategy to reduce cervical cancer.





# Commemorative sculpture

A new memorial has been unveiled at the National Memorial Arboretum in Staffordshire dedicated to the memory of the nurses, professional and volunteer, who gave their lives in the two world wars

Designed and created by sculptor Georgie Welch and stonemason Nick Johnson, the memorial features a sandstone globe

members of the Voluntary Aid Detachments number of names is expected to increase to

the Nursing Memorial Appeal, which led a

six-year fundraising campaign in support of the memorial.

## Rightful recognition

the appeal, says: "We're used to seeing war graves set up for soldiers who have died but there's no talk about the nurses, and I thought the relatives of nurses should also have

RCN President Cecilia Anim adds: "It is very important to have this recognition because the nurses knew there was a risk attached to what they were doing, but they put their lives aside and went to help others."

## "Nurses put their lives aside to help others"

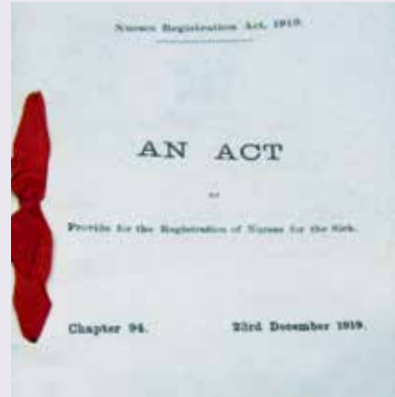
Among those attending a service of dedication at the arboretum in June were Sophie, Countess of Wessex, and retired nurse

Ethel recalled caring for survivors from only recently begun her training. "They were still in their uniforms, just how they had been picked up from the beaches," Ethel said. "A lot of them were burned or had shrapnel wounds."

During the service a wreath was placed in executed by the Germans for her part in



# Digging deeper



Nurses Registration Act

Would you like to volunteer?

Archive volunteers help preserve RCN records, improving the long-term survival of the collections.

You too could work with us on record listing, repackaging and digitisation SURMHFWV LQ RXU DUFKLYH R FH LQ Edinburgh, or you could work remotely by receiving images to be described or interviews to be transcribed.

Every tiny piece of information added to our catalogue helps people access the RCN's nursing history collections. If you're interested, email archives@rcn.org.uk and we'll arrange D FKDW WR ¿QG RXW ZKDW \RXU VSHFLDO interests are and how you could help.

and more. I started on the minutes from the early days of the RCN and read with interest KRZ IRXQGHUV VXFK DV 6LGQH\ %U Warren Gill and Rachael Cox-Davies forged ahead to establish the College during the First World War.

My investigations informed the RCN centenary H[KLELWLRQ ZKLFK , KHOSHG GHY was exciting to be involved in the selection of papers and artefacts to show in the cabinets and the creation of accompanying display

# Negotiating Nursing: British Army Sisters and Soldiers in the Second World War

By Dr Jane Brooks  
Manchester University Press

Dr Alison O'Donnell explores Dr Jane Brooks' study of gender roles and nursing responsibilities on the frontline of World War Two

She investigates the challenges of this environment, and the relationships established while care was given.

This meticulously researched book draws XSRQ SHUVRQDO GLDULHV RI WKH %ULWLVK \$UP\ nurses and sisters who served during the Second World War.

'U %URRNV ORRNV DW WKH UROH RI QXUVHV DQG QXUVLQJ RQ WKH EDWVOH¿HOG DQG WKH FDUH RI soldiers thereafter. She explores what this type of care meant, with nurses viewed as women caring for men, but in an unusual environment, away from the home.





