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The Training of Nurses: University Learning in Nursing

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together—unity, goodness, and truth as reflected in the three components of beauty: integrity, proportion, clarity."

Next, Being is divided from the standpoint of intelligibility into essence and existence, in which he clearly brings out their real distinction; then from the standpoint of their mode of existence outside our intellect, into substance and accidents, in which he gives a neat classification of the nine accidents. Then, from the standpoint of action the author treats of act and potency in which he makes clear the meaning of Aristotle's definition of chance, i.e., "the act of a being in potency in so far as it is in potency".

In the chapter entitled "Uncreated Being" after establishing the validity of St. Thomas' criticism of Anselm's argument, the five ways of St. Thomas are treated. Again a couple of diagrams prove a valuable aid in understanding the proof of God's existence from motion or change.

In conclusion there is an interesting and instructive chapter entitled "The Perennial Philosophy" in which the differences between philosophy and the different orders of scientific knowledge are brought out, by considering the various degrees of formal abstraction. Thus my humble opinion of this book is that the author has convincingly shown that Thomist philosophy is truly perennial, i.e., in the words of Emmanuel Chapman: "The perennial philosophy by its very nature must be always freshly present. Not ancient or new, but current and living, it should be ready to answer the most crucial questions of today. The philosophy in touch with existence has the challenge within itself to deepen and perfect itself, and keep itself in a constant state of renewal."

HENRY B. McCULLOUGH

THE TRAINING OF NURSES

UNIVERSITY LEARNINGS IN NURSING. A compilation of different lectures, conferences, radio broadcasts and symposia on technical and educational nursing topics. Manila: College of Nursing, University of Santo Tomás, 1959. x, 262p.

One often finds that titles of books are misleading. The reader starts and soon is puzzled since he does not find in the book what he expected to find. *University Learnings in Nursing* is a book of this type. However, the preface by Father Fernando Pedroso, O.P., clarifies the purpose of the book and thus explains also the ambiguous title.

The present work does not claim to have a clear-cut, well integrated objective either in content or style. It is "a small volume—the result of extracurricular activities," a compilation of conferences

given on various occasions by the faculty members of Santo Tomás University themselves or by other authorities in the field of nursing education and service. One underlying factor unifies the book: the articles, although by different authors, all reveal a timely trend to give students in the field of nursing a more well rounded education than formerly.

The book is divided into six parts according to the sponsoring groups of the various lectures. Thus Part I contains the lectures in the Benavides Lecture Series which have to do with nursing. Part II brings together Pax Romana conferences and seminars while Part III publishes material from the University of the Air series. In-service conferences for nurses are offered in a fourth part and the Summer Cultural Series in another.

The division classifies the various articles according to purpose and occasion, but any integration of the main subject matter is lost. The reader achieves no "view of the whole"; but of course this is not an essential characteristic of a compilation as such. Moreover, there is the advantage that the more or less technical articles which treat of the field of nursing directly are followed by lectures of broader scope. Thus the interest of the non-expert is also stimulated. The arrangement, then, makes it easier for the layman to become acquainted with specialized terminology and with the specific objective of nursing as such.

Some of the specialized articles give a clear insight into the timely endeavors now being made to improve the discipline of nursing more and more and to give its students the best training possible, both theoretical and practical. This aspect of the book is very enlightening, all the more so since it presents a wholesome approach to the problems involved in giving efficient care to the suffering members of humanity; an approach to the total man which considers him as he actually is, a being composed of body and soul, a being religious, moral and social by nature. It is mentioned again and again in the book that the efficient nurse of today must serve not only the physical needs of her patients but also their mental well being as far as she is able to do so.

The book makes rather easy reading and can be recommended particularly to the layman. He will find it stimulating and challenging.

SISTER MECHTRAUD, S.Sp.S.