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The place of history in supporting science and nurses' professional practice

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The history of nursing is essential for supporting science and a professional practice recognized and socially valued. Knowledge of the history of the profession is related to identity formation, its meaning, its possibilities, crossroads and curves.

Taking the movement on advanced practice in nursing, science and history are important to the professional field to reflect on these elements and to think about perspectives in the game of life in nursing as well as to outline our reality and possibilities for the future.

I invite the readers to embark on this reflection and, exercising the epistemology of the subject, to understand a point of view about all the fads implanted in society, as well as the repercussions of the implementation of the new in the nursing profession, when innovation represents a certain denial of the past and a mistaken idea that progress is the refusal of the past.

Firstly, we are faced with the relationship between people's and collectivities' identity and history. We also identified its centrality for understanding the world, the phenomena that surround us, a collectivity, itself and its place in the world as a political subject.

In this regard, history has a space for constructing societies and their relationships, exercising a dialectic of creator and, at the same time, of creature. Thus, the relationship of history towards the understanding and intervention on social life is obvious.

However, how can we think about politics, movements, work and social relations without the instruments of history? How to rescue individuals from "prisons" without an understanding of history, of what one is and what one can be? And this is fundamental to reflect on a predominantly female profession, with a religious and military base, usually placed "along the way" with the following sentence: why didn't you study medicine?

Secondly, we perceive nurses inserted in a precarious work context, with difficulty understanding the meaning of what they do, in addition to dealing with medical prescriptions or ministerial public health programs. This situation is aggravated by the fact that such programs are often based on the logic of market needs and reinforce gaps between the work of physicians and other professionals.

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In the meantime, we delve into a discussion of advanced practice, believing that it is a movement for the visibility and transformation of Brazilian nursing. How can we identify a practice more advanced than human care, expressed by a bed bath of a critically ill patient, a dressing of a person in palliative care, a follow-up of a child's development or a care plan that covers the biopsychological and spiritual dimensions? Is there anything more advanced than that? And what is really advanced? In a profession, where each individual is an endless universe of senses and meanings, why do we take on the new and discard what we did before as second-rate?

Thirdly, we highlight the Brazilian nurses, the object of this editorial, how much this profession militated and militates for constructing the Unified Health System (SUS - *Sistema Único de Saúde*) as a State and universal policy. Moreover, they constructed, with their hands and minds, the SUS Brazilian National Immunization Policy (*Política Nacional de Imunização*), which saved Brazilians in the darkest times of history, of fascism and denialism, applying more than 12 billion doses in the world and immunized, with all the necessary doses against COVID-19, more than two hundred thousand people in Brazil⁽¹⁾.

We are not referring to the application of injections, but to all the technical-scientific knowledge that exists for this program to work and be so fast in Brazil. Although the press does not show or value it, we know very well who manages and implements vaccination in the SUS: THE NURSES.

By advanced practice, we understand all care for individuals, communities and ecosystems, guided by history, theories and models, specifically by the Nursing Process. And that, which is genuine and valuable in nursing, is nothing new, because it is simply what it already is, i.e., it is part of our history.