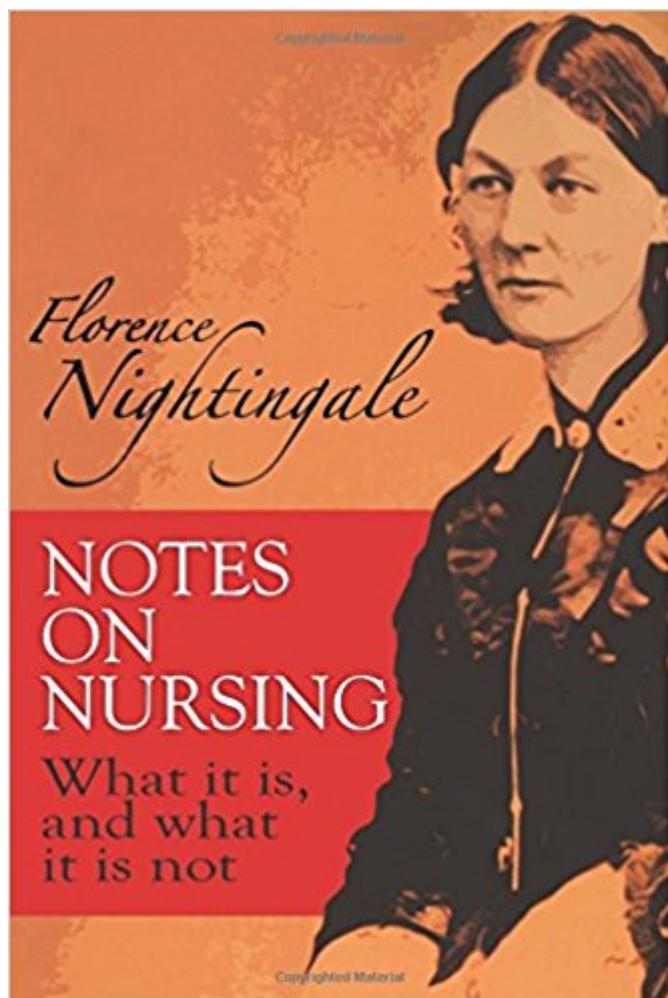


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# Notes On Nursing: What It Is, And What It Is Not (Dover Books On Biology)



## Synopsis

"My heart always sinks within me when I hear the good housewife, of every class, say, 'I assure you the bed has been well slept in: and I can only hope it is not true. What? Is the bed already saturated with somebody else's damp before my patient comes to exhale in it his own damp? Has it not had a single chance to be aired? No, not one. It has been slept in every night.'" From the best known work of Florence Nightingale (1820-1910), the originator and founder of modern nursing, comes a collection of notes that played an important part in the much needed revolution in the field of nursing. For the first time it was brought to the attention of those caring for the sick that their responsibilities covered not only the administration of medicines and the application of poultices, but the proper use of fresh air, light, warmth, cleanliness, quiet, and the proper selection and administration of diet. Miss Nightingale is outspoken on these subjects as well as on other factors that she considers essential to good nursing. But, whatever her topic, her main concern and attention is always on the patient and his needs. One is impressed with the fact that the fundamental needs of the sick as observed by Miss Nightingale are amazingly similar today (even though they are generally taken for granted now) to what they were over 100 years ago when this book was written. For this reason, this little volume is as practical as it is interesting and entertaining. It will be an inspiration to the student nurse, refreshing and stimulating to the experienced nurse, and immensely helpful to anyone caring for the sick.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

First I am an RN (an OLD RN) and to me modern Nursing began with Miss Nightingale. Prior to her works hospitals were a place to be feared. Nurses were women who were paid in Port Wine and worked 20 hour days carrying slop buckets and then delivering meal trays or changing bandages. Miss Nightingale along with Dr Ignaz Semmelweis on the medical side, brought the simple idea of cleanliness equals health to the public. The simple act of hand washing and circulating air by opening windows made dramatic changes in a patient's chance of survival. Prior to that era doctors would go from autopsy to surgery to office hours and never wash their hands or change their bloody coat. (That's just nasty isn't it?) Now the younger Nurses I know say Miss Nightingale was old fashioned and something of a prude as it came to what a Nurse is. Well maybe so, but if it had not been for someone beginning a school to educate Professional Nurses there would not BE the career/calling/occupation of A NURSE for the past century or more. We don't wear aprons, don't wear caps, don't salute the doctors, but we DO make all the difference in patient care. Thank you Miss Nightingale for being A NURSE!! I downloaded this as a free book, but just as well would have paid for a hard copy as it is a classic beauty in my opinion.

Nursing is a vocation; not "just a job." Miss Nightingale knew this, and this book reflects this philosophy. Nursing-schools, many years ago, designed the curriculum--and educated the aspiring nurses--with this in mind. Sadly, many present-day nurses (and nursing-schools) have lost this ideal...and the state of affairs in nursing bears this out. If you're seriously considering nursing--or are a nurse who is "burned out," read this book. It will enlighten and edify you.

Much of what Florence Nightengale is still pertinent today when you get back to the basics of nursing. Excellent commentaries by various authors at the beginning of the book provide insights on how Nightengale's thoughts and theories apply to modern nursing.

Florence Nightingale was the first "modern" nurse. Her methods were revolutionary in her time, and they form the basis for the techniques of patient management that have been taught ever since. This volume is a great overview, in her own words, of her ideas on care, cleanliness, and the nursing process in general. Her directives are widely applicable today. Anyone interested in the healthcare process, nursing, or notable women in history would do well to read this little volume. Highly recommended.

This is a wonderful book that should be a required reading for anyone working in or around the

healthcare field. It is a sad reminder of how little we have done to maintain her work ethics, especially, in regards to cleanliness, ventilation, and wholistic treatment of the infirm. Nightingale has a certain "tongue in cheek" way of speaking in parts of this book. She suffered no ignorance nor laziness. It is striking to me how people of this modern age think their thoughts are so "cutting edge" and "innovative". Read this book and you will see Florence was thinking it long before they thought it. She speaks of the implications a certain painting might have on an ill person viewing it day in and day out as well as every other detail affecting the sick person. As a nurse, I am in awe of her; and, as a nurse, I see how much we have failed her in modern hospitals and healthcare systems. I recommend this book to everyone: young/old, and all backgrounds.

Love this book. Brings me back to the reasons I became a nurse. It made me fall in love with nursing all over again.

Bought this book while writing a formal nursing Meta paradigm paper for on-line Bachelor's of nursing class. Ms. Nightingale's points and ideas are really about caring for the in-firmed or sick, elderly, and diseased. Her points are still relevant today. We still have problems with noise control, sanitation--antibiotic resistant bacteria, environment control--ambience control relevant to patient well being as a use of healing, etc.

Dover books categorizes this book in biology and yet nursing is so much more than the biology of those in our care. If you want to know what makes nursing so special and valued, read this book. If you want to impress your nursing instructors cite this book in your papers. Nightingale is where nursing began and needs to value.

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