It is sobering to realise that as recently as the year in which On the Origin of Species was published, learned opinion was that diseases such as typhus and cholera were spread by a ‘miasma’, and suggestions that doctors should wash their hands before examining patients were greeted with mockery by the profession. The Cambridge Library Collection reissues milestone publications in the history of Western medicine as well as studies of other medical traditions. Its coverage ranges from Galen on anatomical procedures to Florence Nightingale’s common-sense advice to nurses, and includes early research into genetics and mental health, colonial reports on tropical diseases, documents on public health and military medicine, and publications on spa culture and medicinal plants.

Lectures on General Nursing

Eva Charlotte Ellis Lückes (1854–1919) was a pioneer of nursing training and friend of Florence Nightingale. In 1880, aged only twenty-six, she became matron of the London Hospital, the largest hospital in England, a post she held until her death. During her time there she improved working conditions for the nurses and trained her own staff, recognising the importance of a knowledge of anatomy and physiology, but never losing sight of the primary duty of a nurse to care for a patient's needs. First published in book form in 1884, these lectures were part of the training for probationers at the London Hospital. Emphasising the importance of attention to detail, the lectures address the practicalities of nursing, covering such topics as the management of infection, caring for sick children, bandaging techniques, and drug administration. Also reissued in this series is Lückes's popular 1886 textbook Hospital Sisters and their Duties.
Cambridge University Press has long been a pioneer in the reissuing of out-of-print titles from its own backlist, producing digital reprints of books that are still sought after by scholars and students but could not be reprinted economically using traditional technology. The Cambridge Library Collection extends this activity to a wider range of books which are still of importance to researchers and professionals, either for the source material they contain, or as landmarks in the history of their academic discipline.

Drawing from the world-renowned collections in the Cambridge University Library and other partner libraries, and guided by the advice of experts in each subject area, Cambridge University Press is using state-of-the-art scanning machines in its own Printing House to capture the content of each book selected for inclusion. The files are processed to give a consistently clear, crisp image, and the books finished to the high quality standard for which the Press is recognised around the world. The latest print-on-demand technology ensures that the books will remain available indefinitely, and that orders for single or multiple copies can quickly be supplied.

The Cambridge Library Collection brings back to life books of enduring scholarly value (including out-of-copyright works originally issued by other publishers) across a wide range of disciplines in the humanities and social sciences and in science and technology.
Lectures on
General Nursing

Delivered to the Probationers
of the London Hospital
Training School for Nurses

EvA C.E. Lückes
CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY PRESS

Cambridge, New York, Melbourne, Madrid, Cape Town,
Singapore, São Paolo, Delhi, Mexico City

Published in the United States of America by Cambridge University Press, New York

www.cambridge.org
Information on this title: www.cambridge.org/9781108054270

© in this compilation Cambridge University Press 2012

This edition first published 1884
This digitally printed version 2012


This book reproduces the text of the original edition. The content and language reflect
the beliefs, practices and terminology of their time, and have not been updated.

Cambridge University Press wishes to make clear that the book, unless originally published
by Cambridge, is not being republished by, in association or collaboration with, or
with the endorsement or approval of, the original publisher or its successors in title.
LECTURES ON GENERAL NURSING
LECTURES

ON

GENERAL NURSING

DELIVERED TO

THE PROBATIONERS OF THE LONDON HOSPITAL

TRAINING SCHOOL FOR NURSES

BY

EVA C. E. LÜCKES

MATRON TO THE LONDON HOSPITAL

LONDON

KEGAN PAUL, TRENCH & CO., 1, PATERNOSTER SQUARE

1884
Cambridge University Press
978-1-108-05427-0 - Lectures on General Nursing: Delivered to the Probationers of the London Hospital Training School for Nurses
Eva C.E. Lückes
Frontmatter

(The rights of translation and of reproduction are reserved.)
PREFACE.

During a portion of my training as a nurse I was privileged to attend the lectures to nurses given for several years by Dr. Allehin at Westminster Hospital. I have frequently been glad that I was fortunate enough to have the nursing question at the time when my attention was first turned to the subject, placed before me from his point of view. I believe this fact to have been of much service to me, and I hope by this time to many others, for whose training I have been, in a measure, responsible.

I am also much indebted to Dr. Allehin for his kind assistance in preparing the plan of these lectures when I delivered them for the first time to the probationers of the London Hospital three or four years ago. It will be obvious to all that, in adopting to a large extent the classification laid down by Dr. Allehin, I have not attempted to follow it out on the technical lines indicated and ably carried out by him in his own lectures. But, partly from having learnt to regard the subject originally from his point of view, and partly from having failed to find elsewhere any other system which
vi

PREFACE.

appeared to me equally clear and comprehensive, I have from
the first utilized his classification as a means of conveying in
the most systematic method such information on the general
details of nursing as appears essential for the teaching of
nurses. At the same time I must not conceal from the
public that for the bulk of the material in these lectures I
alone am responsible. I am glad, however, to have this
opportunity of gratefully acknowledging my personal obliga-
tion to Dr. Allchin. In compiling these lectures I read many
works connected with the subject, with the view of getting
together as much useful information as possible for the
benefit of those I had to teach. I have been much helped by
several of these works, and in making use of the valuable
suggestions I have found I have endeavoured, as far as
possible, to acknowledge the source whence they were derived.

So much has already been written on the subject of
nursing, that there is but little scope left for originality, and
my sole object has been to collect as much practical informa-
tion as possible, and place it before those studying the matter
as simply as I could.

It will be remembered that these lectures only form the
first course of the complete set given every year to proba-
tioners training at the London Hospital. I have confined
myself for the most part to minute details, that are usually
considered almost too trivial to mention, and I believe it is this
fact which chiefly explains the kind appreciation they have
met with from the probationers, and the frequent requests for
their publication. I have felt the more at liberty thus to limit my instructions, from the knowledge that everything I have failed to teach will be more fully and ably set before the probationers in the courses of lectures which regularly follow mine. Mr. Treves’ lectures on Elementary Anatomy and Surgical Nursing are complete in themselves, and the same applies to the lectures on Elementary Physiology and Medical Nursing so kindly given by Dr. Sansom. The repetition involved in listening to different lectures much on the same subject can scarcely fail to make the information given more familiar to the hearers, and I heartily share in the gratitude felt by the whole nursing staff for the unwearied kindness and patience with which these gentlemen have been careful to make the theoretical education of the probationers of the London Hospital thorough, comprehensive, and complete.

I take this opportunity of mentioning this fact, because I should be sorry for any one reading these lectures to be under the impression that they indicate the limit of the instruction given in this training school for nurses. At the same time, if these lectures contain useful information, I can but hope that their publication will extend the possibilities of such usefulness as they may possess. In the first place, I am hopeful that in this form they may be of service to past, present, and future nurses of the London Hospital; and, in the second place, that other hospital and private nurses may derive some benefit from them.
PREFACE.

I am anxious to express my very cordial thanks to all those who have at any time helped me, directly or indirectly, with any hints or suggestions in connection with nursing. I could not have expressed such definite views as I have occasionally ventured to do had they not been derived from the practical knowledge of many accomplished nurses as well as from my own personal experience.

EVA C. E. LÜCKES,
MATRON TO THE LONDON HOSPITAL.

March 3rd, 1884.
CONTENTS.

LECTURE I.
The distinction between the work of doctors and nurses—The relation they bear to each other in the work—What trained nursing is—The personal qualifications desirable for a nurse ... 1

LECTURE II.
The nurse's part as an active agent in carrying out "rest" when employed as a means of treatment, including bed-making, the washing, and various minor details connected with the nursing of helpless patients ... ... ... ... ... ... 24

LECTURE III.
The principles of bandaging—The padding of splints—General preparation and application of surgical dressings ... ... ... ... 46

LECTURE IV.
The employment of cold and heat as remedial agents, and the manner in which they act—Local and general applications of cold, including ice, evaporating lotions—General applications of dry and moist heat, etc. ... ... ... ... ... ... 69
CONTENTS.

LECTURE V.
Local applications of dry and moist heat—Hot bags, poultices, fomentations, etc. ... ... ... ... ... 88

LECTURE VI.
Counter-irritation, dry and wet cupping, leeches, blisters—Prevention and nursing of bed-sores—Undressing of accident cases 101

LECTURE VII.
The nurse’s duties in connection with the various methods of administering drugs ... ... ... ... 118

LECTURE VIII.
System of observation of the sick to be cultivated by trained nurses—What details are specially to be noticed—System and manner of reporting to the doctor ... ... ... ... 141

LECTURE IX.
Operations—Nursing of special operation cases ... ... ... 160

LECTURE X.
On the nursing and management of sick children ... ... 174

LECTURE XI.
On the nursing of infectious diseases—The nurse’s duties in preventing the spread of infection ... ... ... ... 192

LECTURE XII.
Ventilation, warmth, and light of wards or sick rooms—General summary of nurse’s work, and the standard of excellence desirable to be attained ... ... ... ... 213
The following is a list of works on nursing that may be consulted with advantage:—

“Notes on Nursing.” F. Nightingale. Harrison, Pall Mall.
“Handbook of Nursing,” published by Lippincott & Co.
“Medical Nursing.” Dr. Anderson. Maclehose & Sons, Glasgow.