

Nurses' Pledge of Service

I solemnly pledge myself to the service of humanity and will endeavour to practise my profession with conscience and with dignity.

I will maintain by all the means in my power the honour and the noble traditions of my profession.

The total health of my patients will be my first consideration.

I will hold in confidence all personal matters coming to my knowledge.

I will not permit considerations of religion, nationality, race or social standing to intervene between my duty and my patient.

I will maintain the utmost respect for human life.

I make these promises, solemnly, freely and upon my honour.

THE MEANING OF THE LAMP

(Ms B Gordon Alexander RRC and Mrs C Searle, 1945)

The LAMP in your hand is the symbol of those who keep vigil over the sick.

It is the symbol of the nursing profession that those who nurse should be a light unto others

It indicates that you are prepared to develop your profession and to practice it in the light of the sciences which are the building blocks of medical and nursing science

It confirms that you are prepared to carry out your professional acts in accordance with the legal and ethical codes of your profession, and that you are prepared to care for another in his uniqueness with knowledge and compassion

It is a symbol that indicated that you are prepared to be the following for those who need your help:

The eyes of the blind who are sick
The power of movement for those who cannot move
The hands of those who do not have the strength to care for themselves
The comforter of those who are sick
The nourisher of those who cannot eat
The one who has to ward off the hazards threatening the sick – the protector of those who are helpless and those who are vulnerable
The mind of those who are unconscious
The intermediary between the doctor, other members of the health team and the patient
The advocate to those who have health problems

It confirms that you as a professional nurse are prepared to submit to the discipline of your profession

It serves as proof that you are prepared to serve as a role model of your profession

I give you reveille of nursing

Let the oil of knowledge and of love always ensure that your lamp burns brightly