

Presentation

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In 1947, Maria de Lourdes Verderese (Professor of Psychology of the Sao Paulo's Nursing School) presented her research at the II National Congress of Nursing, which was published two years later in the *Annals of Nursing* under the title: "Psychological value in patient care in contrast with functional care."

In her text, Verderese highlights the advance in preventive medicine and public health and the potential role of nursing in this process. Thus, she prescribes that the need to adjust rapidly and intelligently to changing situations, combined with the need for revision of curricula and practical activities in schools of nursing, becomes the guiding lines for the "education" of nurses. Along with this, she stresses her views on the usefulness of the social and biological sciences, leading her to highlight the need of psychology, sociology and anthropology for a nursing practice of quality.

For our benefit, the author raises questions about some minor issues in the use of the functional and comprehensive methods of patient care in the educational and professional practices. Her considerations from the past gain relevance in the present, when we are still discussing issues concerning the division of work in special tasks and the holistic view of man, as well as concerning the dichotomy between the concept of care and its implementation. This proves the nursing professionals' eagerness to define models of care that are more in tune with the needs of mankind and to "subvert" the functional method in their working environments.