

Doctoral Dissertation

Attitude of Nurses for the Reform Movement Period of Psychiatric Medicine

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The objective of this research is to give a description of what happened with psychiatric medicine when the psychiatric medicine system was reorganized and restructured during the time period from after the Pacific war to the 1980s. This research will also describe the situation for the normal operations of psychiatric hospitals that play a central role in psychiatric medicine as well as trends in psychiatric nursing.

From the 1960s to the 1980s, psychiatric medicine in Japan rapidly recovered from being in ruin after the war while being reorganized into a new psychiatric medicine system that led to the current system. However, there have been many criticisms of this process. In particular, the excessive establishment of psychiatric hospitals that was a backlash against the progression of de-hospitalization in many other countries brought about a subsequent doctrine of isolation and institutionalization and the periods of hospitalization becoming prolonged. Moreover, the closed off nature of psychiatric hospitals caused a variety of scandals within these hospitals, and this became a social problem. At the end of the 1960s, there was a movement to reform psychiatric medicine centrally led by young psychiatrists that significantly shook up psychiatric medicine. This was partially due to the influence of the sudden establishment of psychiatric hospitals, the change in treatment methods, and the social conditions of rapid economic growth and the student movement. After this, the problems with psychiatric medicine in the post war period were pointed out and debated one after another. There were many points that were improved and revised because of this movement, and the influence that it brought about had a large influence on psychiatric medicine. However, the resultant psychiatric medicine system that has an excess of psychiatric sickbeds (30,000) is still in operation today.

How were the inner workings of psychiatric hospitals managed in the midst of these types of agitated circumstances for psychiatric medicine? The people who had the largest numbers among the staff

members of psychiatric hospitals that supported the lives of the increased number of in-patients that accompanied this sudden increase in sickbeds were psychiatric nurses. However, this particular point has been overlooked. Thus, it has not been clarified how nurses managed the everyday operations of psychiatric hospitals through their psychiatric nursing duties.

Therefore, this research will give a description of the process of the reorganization of the psychiatric medicine system in the postwar period as well as the organization of psychiatric nurses and the process that aimed at the establishment of psychiatric nursing as a profession. Moreover, this research will give a description of the way that professional psychiatric nurses took efforts on "habit training" as the basis for psychiatric nursing. The everyday operations of psychiatric hospitals have been and continue to be supported by a small number of staff members since the explosion in psychiatric hospitals took place. Next, the focus shifts to the movement to reform psychiatric medicine that is a point worthy of special mention in psychiatric medicine during this period; this research gave a description of the trends of looking for a new course of action in psychiatric medicine by referencing the anti-psychiatry thought from the beginnings and end of this movement. In the movement to reform psychiatric medicine there was some habit training criticism that took place, and the way that the nurses responded [Remark1] to this was described. Then, the influence that the movement to reform psychiatric medicine had on the daily operations of psychiatric wards and on the psychiatric nurses who are responsible for these daily operations was discussed.

The conclusion of this discussion was that psychiatric nurses took in part of these criticisms, and the trend of consciously respecting the human rights of patients permeated the field because of reflections on these criticisms. However, habit training was not abandoned, and it still continues today in psychiatric hospitals with changed methods. In this way, the level of freedom and the treatment of patients has been improved by the movement to reform psychiatric medicine. Moreover, people began to have an awareness of the issues, and the environment within psychiatric hospitals saw a change. However this did not lead to an improvement or reform movement to abandon the doctrine of isolation and institutionalization as can be seen from the lack of reduction in the number of sickbeds that was excessively increased.