



Exploring *The Netley British Red Cross Magazine*: An example of the development of nursing and patient care during the First World War

Nestor Serrano-Fuentes^{1,2} | Elena Andina-Diaz^{2,3,4}

¹School of Health Sciences, NIHR ARC Wessex, University of Southampton, Southampton, UK

²SALBIS Research Group, University of Leon, Leon, Spain

³Nursing and Physiotherapy Department, Faculty of Health Sciences, University of Leon, Leon, Spain

⁴EYCC Research Group, University of Alicante, Alicante, Spain

Correspondence

Nestor Serrano-Fuentes, School of Health Sciences, University of Southampton, Building 67, University Road, Southampton, SO17 1BJ, UK.

Email: N.Serrano-Fuentes@soton.ac.uk

Abstract

Netley Hospital played a crucial role in caring for the wounded during the nineteenth century and twentieth century, becoming one of the busiest military hospitals of the time. Simultaneously, Florence Nightingale delved into the concept of health and developed the theoretical basis of nursing. This research aims to describe the experiences related to nursing and patient care described in *The Netley British Red Cross Magazine* during the First World War. The analysis displays different nurses' roles and the influence of environmental factors in the delivery of the soldiers' care. There are indications that Nightingale's ideas would have infiltrated the nursing practices and other aspects of the soldiers' recovery at Netley. The history of the Netley Red Cross Hospital shows the theoretical and practical advancement of nursing care towards a holistic approach.

KEYWORDS

First World War, Florence Nightingale, Nursing History, qualitative research, Red Cross

1 | INTRODUCTION

Nursing during conflict is an important phenomenon that has shaped the profession. The study and research of historical records of the events of the First World War have contributed to the in-depth exploration of past healthcare (Hallett, 2014; Hawkins, 2018; Shields & Shields, 2014; Siles González, 2011). Some examples examining nursing as practised during World War I showed how nursing dealt with a shortage of trained nurses to meet healthcare needs (Telford, 2010), the skills and roles needed to be a military nurse (Harris, 2008) or how they responded to their work as they faced the suffering associated with war (Hallett, 2010). Much was written and collected by those who looked after wounded soldiers (Hallett, 2007), although not all of the primary data sources have been used to complete and contribute to the development of scientific nursing knowledge. This could be claimed of the history of the Royal Victoria Hospital at Netley (United Kingdom) during the First World War since little research has been devoted to exploring how healthcare was provided.

The Royal Victoria Hospital or Netley Hospital was the largest British military hospital built after the Crimean War and a site of importance to nursing. It was a strategic setting for training and treating military personnel wounded in combat (Hoare, 2014; Queen Alexandra's Royal Army Nursing Corps, n.d.). With the increasing arrival of war-wounded, the Red Cross offered the War Office a 500-bed hutted hospital to expand its capacity. Thus, the Netley Red Cross Hospital (see Supporting Information 1, section 1) was formed by 25 huts which were set behind the Royal Victoria Hospital, with capacity for 25 patients each (Hoare, 2014). Also, The British Red Cross recruited volunteers or Voluntary Aid Detachments (VADs) due to the lack of military nurses to look after the wounded (Bourne, 2015; British Red Cross, n.d.; Kitching, 2013; The Work of Voluntary Aid Detachments, 1915). Apart from English volunteers, overseas volunteers were present in Netley during the First World War, including those from Canada (Quiney, 2017), New Zealand (Rogers, 2018) and Japan (Daniels, 2016; Japanese Nurse at Netley Hospital', 1915; Japanese Red Cross Workers for Netley', 1915; Kokusai Direct

Service, 1915; Reception by Queen Alexandra', 1915). As part of the history of Netley Hospital, it is relevant to highlight the role and the influence of Florence Nightingale. The transfer of her knowledge to Netley Hospital began with her criticism of its architectural design and its relationship to ventilation and sanitation on her visit in 1857 (Hoare, 2014; Nightingale, 1863; Royal Victoria Hospital & Netley, 1966; The Victoria Hospital at Netley', 1857). Her suggestions were never carried out due to the high additional cost they would entail (Royal Victoria Hospital & Netley, 1966). Also, some of Netley's inspectors and midwives were trained at the Nightingale School in London (Woodham Smith, 1957). This is the case of Mrs Deeble, Superintendent of the Army Nursing Service at Netley Hospital, who sought to improve the work of the wards by delivering instructions and training to the orderlies and the sisters (Summers, 1986).

Among the written information that has been kept by the Netley Hospital, this research presents a source of information about the evolution of nursing care during World War I titled *The Netley British Red Cross Hospital Magazine*. This publication has previously been recognised by an online heritage community group (Green,n.d.). Nevertheless, it has not been found to be used in academic articles and, therefore, has not been explored from a nursing perspective. Other academical articles (Johnson, 2012; Rayner, 2018) show the social image and roles of nurses during the First and Second World Wars through magazines of that time (e.g., *The War Illustrated*). It seems convenient to explore the content of this new source of information to potentially unpack new data on the development that nursing and care were having at that time. Thus, this research aims to describe the experiences related to nursing and patient care shown in *The Netley British Red Cross Magazine* during the First World War.

2 | METHOD

A socio-historical study based on the observation and analysis of primary archival sources was carried out from March 2019 to July 2019. The publication *The Netley British Red Cross Magazine* (see Supporting Information 1, section 2) came to light in 1918. It was based on personal experiences (texts) and images created by patients, healthcare professionals and other hospital workers (R. Brown, personal communication, May 10, 2019). The originals corresponding to volume 1 (numbers 2 (April), 3 (May), 4 (June), 6 (August), 7 (September), 8 (October) and 10 (December)) were consulted at the Hampshire Archives and Local Studies (Winchester, United Kingdom) after being identified using its online database. The information contained in the magazines was text, photographs and illustrations.

Different strategies were used to analyse the text considering a qualitative research: (a) pre-analysis, (b) data exploration, (c) treatment of the results by inference and interpretation (Bardin, 2016). Photographs and illustrations were studied using an iconographic analysis (Siles González, 2011). First, both authors read the different

issues of the magazine individually and selected the sections in which nursing care was present. These sections were *A Note on the Foundation and Progress of the British Red Cross Hospital, Netley, A few "lame" verses from the femur Ward, Changes in personnel of the Nursing staff, A treasured memory, Things better left unsaid, Nurse writes a letter for Jock, The pitfalls of amateur, The Night Nurse, Words with two meanings, Life in the linen store, Open air treatment and Summer time memories*.

Each author searched meaningful units in the texts and images of each chapter and codified them (subcategories). These significant units depicted aspects of soldier's care provided by nurses and/or factors that supported nursing care. Then, these codes were grouped into wider categories. A pooling was conducted between the two researchers, discussing the different categories and subcategories.

3 | FINDINGS

Two main categories emerged from the analysis: (a) Nurses' roles at Netley Red Cross Hospital and (b) The influence of environmental factors on nursing and patient care. These themes were the result of grouping smaller units of analysis (10 subcategories). A matrix (Table 1) has been created to summarise the findings and relate them to the different chapters of the magazines. Then, a full description is presented in the form of a narrative.

3.1 | Nurses' roles at Netley Red Cross Hospital

One of the nurses' roles that emerged during the analysis of the different chapters of the magazine was the *administration of treatment*. Pte. Reed¹ wrote the poem *A few "lame" verses from the Femur Ward* where different nursing roles could be identified (The Netley British Red Cross Magazine, 1918f, p. 238; Supporting Information 1, section 3):

Best thanks to the British Red Cross,
And all their kind helpers, of course;
Our treatment's been splendid
...
In Ward 37 there's a Nurse,
To whom I address this small verse.
She's a champion bed-maker,
A good temperature-taker,
And with her we all like to converse

The soldier stated, 'our treatment's been splendid' (p. 238), which could refer to the administration of medical treatment and the care of wounds. Also, the *administration of treatment* is shown in the image of

¹Pte' is an abbreviation used in the First World War. It is a type of rank, and its meaning is 'private'.

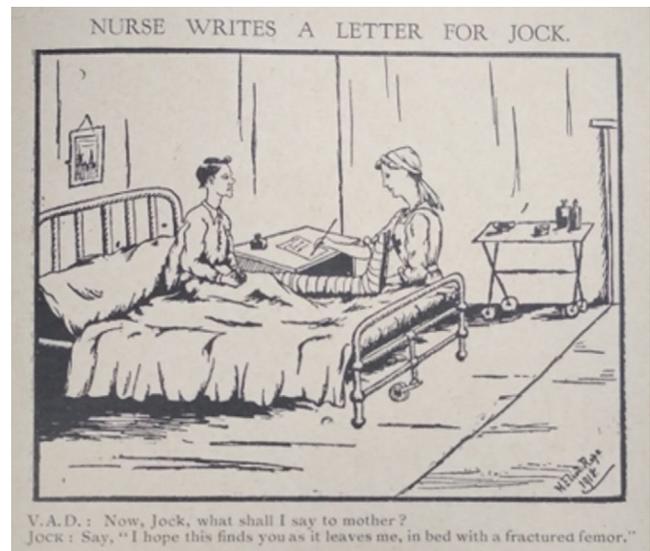
TABLE 1 Summary of findings and their location in the magazine

Categories	Subcategories	Chapter of the magazine
Nurses' roles at Netley Red Cross Hospital	Administration of treatment	A few "lame" verses from the femur Ward
		A treasured memory
	Responsibility for bed-spaces	A few "lame" verses from the femur Ward
		Things better left unsaid
	Vital signs monitoring	A few "lame" verses from the femur Ward
	Fostering the nurse-patient relationship	A few "lame" verses from the femur Ward
		Nurse writes a letter for Jock
		The pitfalls of amateur
	Management of noise and artificial light	The Night Nurse
	Monitoring food intake	Words with two meanings
Clothing interventions	Life in the linen store	
The influence of environmental factors on nursing and patient care	Open drains/presence of mud	A note on the Foundation and Progress of the British Red Cross Hospital, Netley
	Ventilation/Fresh air	Open air treatment
	Open spaces: outdoor activities	Summer time memories

the chapter *A treasured memory* (see Supporting Information 1, section 4; The Netley British Red Cross Magazine, 1918f, p. 230). The picture, humorously, shows a nurse making sure that her patient is taking the corresponding medicines. Another nursing role that emerged from the poem was *the responsibility for bed-spaces*; thus, Pte. Reed said, 'she's a champion bed-maker' (The Netley British Red Cross Magazine, 1918f, p. 238). The passage *Things better left unsaid* (The Netley British Red Cross Magazine, 1918d, p. 136) shows a nurse decluttering her patient's bed-space, again using humour as a psychological weapon against the war (see Supporting Information 1, section 4).

Vital signs monitoring and *fostering the nurse-patient relationship* were identified as other nursing roles in the previous poem. Thus, Pte. Reed expressed, 'a good temperature-taker' and 'with her we all like to converse' (The Netley British Red Cross Magazine, 1918f, p. 238). This last role is also presented in the chapters *Nurse writes a letter for Jock* (see Figure 1; The Netley British Red Cross Magazine, 1918e, p. 163) and *The pitfalls of amateurs* (The Netley British Red Cross Magazine, 1918b). The latest features a nurse asking a patient what he is planting outside the hub (see Supporting Information 1, section 4).

The management of noise and artificial light during a night shift was identified in the poem *The Night Nurse* (The Netley British Red

**FIGURE 1** The nurse is writing a letter to Jock's mother while she is sitting with the soldier

Cross Magazine, 1918b, p. 72), which was written in the first person by a nurse:

I mustn't make a noise all night,
I'm not supposed to show a light.
I slink about as if in crime,
And know I'm smeared in coke and grime.
If Friends they will my feelings hurt,
And say I'm covered up with dirt,
I shall now deny the charge,
And cry –"Tis only Camouflage!"

Other nurses' roles were pointed out within the magazines. *Monitoring food intake* is presented in *Words with two meanings* (The Netley British Red Cross Magazine, 1918f, p. 240). Here, a soldier is asking the nurse for more bacon. Finally, *clothing interventions* can also be abstracted from the data. The chapter *Life in the linen store* (The Netley British Red Cross Magazine, 1918e) is an example of how nurses dealt with the laundry service of the hospital (staff were in charge of washing clothes and ordering clothing sizes for patients) to enable the patient to wear the right clothes:

Some of the Sisters seem to think the laundry people are not very successful in their attempts at washing. Others bring back minute vests, and hold them up, and say, most reproachfully, 'Can you change this? I want it for a patient who is 6ft'. One has to admit that though an excellent fit for a child of three, it might be tight on a full grown man. One Sister returned a vest in pieces, with the explanation that the V.A.D. had got it on a patient, with great difficulty, but found, when inside he was unable to breath. Instant relief being necessary, it had to be cut off. Socks also are

frequently brought in with the remark, they could "only get a great toe in" (p. 160).

3.2 | The influence of environmental factors on nursing and patient care

The *Netley British Red Cross Magazine* makes visible examples of how environmental factors influenced on soldiers' recovery and supported nurses' care at Netley Red Cross Hospital during the First World War. For example, during winter, the accumulation of mud combined with the wet atmosphere became health risk factors (*open drains and presence of mud*). This claim was denounced by a commander in *A note on the Foundation and Progress of the British Red Cross Hospital* (The *Netley British Red Cross Magazine*, 1918a): 'What a winter that first one was –wet, cold, and generally miserable- the whole place a sea of mud –open drains everywhere, a terror by day and a snare by night, and almost every possible inconvenience was experienced' (p. 33).

Ventilation and fresh air were considered key components of the soldiers' recovery. Major Snowden, author of the section *Open Air treatment*, described the benefits of pure air in the treatment of the wounded (The *Netley British Red Cross Magazine*, 1918c; Supporting Information 1, section 5). To support his case, he referred to George Bodington, a British general practitioner and pioneer of the revolutionary open-air treatment of pulmonary tuberculosis in 1856. Before Bodington's thinking, fresh air was considered to act as poison. Bodington was highly criticised by his professional colleagues until 1898, when sanatoriums were opened in England using his innovative environmental action. Major Snowden stated:

Patients were confined to rooms, kept at high temperatures by fires, bed clothes and poultices were piled on them, and the only fresh air allowed into the room was when the window was opened for ten minutes on fine days. On these occasions the patient was instructed to put his head under the bed clothes or to cover his mouth! "Night air" was considered peculiarly injurious (p. 81).

According to Snowden, Bodington recommended to open the windows, day and night, and 'patients should be out of doors whenever possible, winter or summer'. He thought that 'the early morning air was particularly curative, and insisted on his patient being roused early, and taken on pennies to the top of a neighbouring hill for sunrise' (p. 81). Following this line of discussion, Major Snowden explained the function of the open-air treatment at Netley Red Cross Hospital:

Which of us does not know the sensation of sleepiness and headache when sitting in a stuffy atmosphere, and of the joy of a breath of fresh air afterwards? Many bacilli cannot live under their combined action. Thus, disinfection is being constantly carried on in the

open air, and the danger of infection is reduced to a minimum in comparison to that in stuffy offices, theatres, cabs, railway carriages, and other places where people congregate with colds and coughs, and all manner of diseases (p. 81).

One of the huts at Netley Red Cross Hospital was built following the previous sanitation measurements. An illustration, which was drawn by Pte. Wigg, and its explanation specified the characteristics of the Hut 41 (The *Netley British Red Cross Magazine*, 1918c).

The Hut 41 was specially designed with views to provide as much fresh air and daylight as possible, without undue exposure to the vagaries of our English climate. It faces two points, east of due south, so as to be somewhat sheltered from the prevalent S.W. winds, and also so as to catch as much sunshine as possible in the winter months. An eight-foot verandah runs the whole length of the hut, and is separated for the Ward by a two-foot wall, in which are doors to allow the beds to be brought out in suitable weather. The Ward itself is capable of holding twenty beds in two rows, each facing the open side. A portion of the west end of the hut, is divided off by glass screens, with windows on the south aspect, to form a more protected place for those who are able to be up. Light and ventilation are procured from the north by a double row of "Hopper" ventilators, which extend the whole length of the Ward, and by three roof lights. Protection from wind and rain from the south is provided by screens of canvas, stretched on frames, hinged to the top of the verandas. These, when not required, lie under the roof of the verandas, but can be easily and quickly lowered to completely protect the Hut from driving rain (p. 82).

There were some outdoor activities, mentioned in some chapters and related to *open spaces*, which could have been organised in order to improve patients' and health professionals' mental health. Thus, the section *Summer time memories* (The *Netley British Red Cross Magazine*, 1918a) presents the story of a yacht called Marika II (Supporting Information 1, section 6). This yacht, which was moored at Netley's Port, carried war-wounded accompanied by nurses. It also took soldiers and others out to sail, rest and have fun when the weather conditions were suitable. One of those people enjoying Marika II was one of the Japanese Red Cross Nurses who was helping during World War I in Netley. Thus, the yacht was presented as a living object and stated:

We are greatly indebted to E.F.Usborne, Esq., of The Salterns, Bursledon, for excursions given to patients and others in his charming yacht, Marika II, during the sailing months of 1917...The Nursing Sisters who

sometimes grace my deck with their comely presence, and their most becoming uniform...On one occasion a Sister, looking for fresh water to replenish the kettle, turned on my Petrol Tap. Fortunately the mistake was discovered in time, or there might well have been a fire in my Saloon! Those precious Sisters!...They boil tea in my gallery, make toast, and are merry, while I lie cosily at anchor in one of the many creeks on either side of the river (pp. 38–40).

4 | DISCUSSION

This study describes the experiences related to nursing and patient care shown in *The Netley British Red Cross Magazine* during World War I. After exploring and analysing the texts and images of the magazines, different nurses' roles and the influence of environmental factors were identified as historical evidence of the development of care at that time. It is relevant to highlight the idea that the roles and the environmental factors that have been found in the data can be aligned with Nightingale's thinking and writings. Thus, Florence Nightingale will be one of the drivers in this discussion section.

Within the different sections of the magazine, wounded soldiers and hospital workers (e.g., healthcare professionals, soldiers and other staff) shed light on experiences at Netley Red Cross Hospital. They used prose, poetry and pictures, with several brushstrokes of humour to tell their experiences. Poetry has been described as a precise model to show the experience of conflicts, capable of changing the experience itself and, therefore, worthy as a practice as well as a discourse (Geertz, 1973). Two types of poetry were written during World War I, professional and popular poetry. In this magazine, popular poetry was used and written for a large number of readers who might be called non-specialist, in which different topics were discussed such as disease and recovery processes (Sillars, 2007). Additionally, humour was an integral part of the war experience in Great Britain (Robb, 2002; Wilson & Perry, 2008). Humour and cartoons had the power to reassure the population, something which the British government approved and harnessed for its benefit (Hynes, 1990). It was not only behind the lines but also at the front-line, offering soldiers an opportunity to calm and separate themselves from the war's abominable reality (Hillier & Le Naour, 2001). Exaggeration is appreciated as well, recognised as one of the characteristics of humour to flesh out certain features (Feibleman, 1970).

The professionalisation of nursing in the United Kingdom is evident through the description of several roles at Netley Hospital, showing differentiation and a non-dependence on the medical profession. At that time, nurses had moved into a professionalised space, in contrast to earlier depictions. At the beginning of the nineteenth century, nursing was considered a degrading job. A narrative held sway that some nurses were dirty, immoral and callous until the second half of the nineteenth century (Helmstadter & Godden, 2016). By around mid-century, actions were undertaken to change both nursing and social attitudes towards nursing. The first

was the formation of Protestant nursing sisterhoods in England in the 1840s and 1850s (Moore, 1988), who introduced the model for professional, systemised training which established nursing as a respectable area of employment for middle-class women (Helmstadter & Godden, 2016). Florence Nightingale would continue with the work of professionalising nursing, for example, with the creation of St. Thomas' School in 1860. Within this framework, a set of knowledge, practices and attitudes established the basis of nursing care and the beginning of what is now known as modern nursing. She explained these nursing skills through her writings. Nurses should be active and strong women, of unblemished character, efficient, caring and irreversibly dismissed for the first offence of dishonesty, drunkenness, unchastity or proved impropriety of any kind. The care of sick bodies was their duty, as well as the attention to the smallest things (Nightingale, 1858). Moreover, observation, reflection and training were three essential duties: 'observation tells how the patient is; reflection tells, what is to be done; training tells how it is to be done' (Nightingale, 1882, p. 723).

Different nurses' roles were found in *The Netley British Red Cross Magazine: administration of treatment, responsibility for bed-spaces, vital signs monitoring, fostering the nurse-patient relationship, management of noise and artificial light, monitoring food intake and clothing interventions*. According to Nightingale, apart from this administration of medication, nurses were accountable for all minor dressings not performed by dressers or surgeons (Nightingale, 1858, p. 23). To be responsible for the bed-space is in line with Nightingale's concerns, for example the presence, amount and cleanliness of blankets, which were often covered with filth and vermin (Nightingale, 1863, p. 41). She said, 'with proper bed-clothes and hot bottles, if necessary, you can always keep a patient warm in bed' (Nightingale, 1859, p. 10) or 'air your dirty sheets, not only your clean ones' (Nightingale, 1859, p. 112). Another role described in the data is the monitoring of vital signs. The temperature was an essential aspect, not only as an indicator of illness, but also applied to the delivery of care. For example, patients were washed in different ways depending on their body temperature. Nightingale said, 'in other cases, sponging with tepid soap and water, then with tepid water and drying with a hot towel will be ordered' (Nightingale, 1859, p. 75). Fostering relationships was a key component of care during that time at Netley, an idea that the British nurse had previously validated, highlighting the significance of building trusting relationships and empathy with patients to move towards health (Clements & Averill, 2006; Rafferty et al., 2010). The management of noise and artificial light, as described in the magazines, is in line with Florence Nightingale's ideas, who stated that night nurses should have something to give light to patients, without disturbing them. She placed importance on the use of a reversible lamp, which is 'brighter than the dim fire of gas-light' (Nightingale, 1858, p. 10). Additionally, she considered quietness crucial in hospitals, performing each shift with the minimum noise (Nightingale, 1858, p. 34). Monitoring food intake and its quality, which emerges from the data, was a practice explained in her writings (Nightingale, 1859): 'in quality the bread and meat were good, the eggs, fowls, and milk generally very bad; the arrowroot and port

wine sometimes bad' (p. 43); the supply 'I do not consider the supply of these things to have been ever deficient in quantity' (p. 43); the relevance of cooking 'so as to secure the greatest digestibility and the greatest economy in nutritive value of food' (Nightingale, 1863, p. 18); and the necessity for variety in food 'as an essential element of health, owing to the number of materials required to preserve the human frame' (Nightingale, 1863, p. 18). Finally, Nightingale considered clothing as a vital aspect of the care of the wounded in the same way that data reflected (Nightingale, 1863). Everything related to the management of clothes (e.g., cleaning, orders and checking sizes) was included within this task. She expressed, 'a limited quantity of very good hospital dresses was in use among the patients. From November till after the winter clothing was served out, the supply was very deficient, either of shirts, socks, or other articles of underclothing' (p. 42).

It is highlighted the inclusion of environmental factors on patient care at Netley Hospital. Environmental determinants of health are integral to the assessment, diagnosis, intervention, planning and evaluation components of current nursing practice. During the nineteenth century, there were many advances in public health worldwide. Environmental sanitation changed the way populations thought about health, making public health a priority in society while developing major innovations. For instance, filth was identified as both a cause of disease and a vehicle of disease transmission. As a consequence, cleanliness was embraced as an action to improve both physical and mental health (Institute of Medicine (US) Committee for the Study of the Future of Public Health, 1988). Also, the introduction of the miasma theory, advances in bacteriology and microbiology and the discovery of the importance of air, light and water in health were vital at that time. The progression in environmental sanitation was reflected in British Nursing Schools and textbooks between 1860 and 1930, including hygienic standards, practices (e.g., management of wound sepsis) and its value in health promotion to patients (Howell et al., 2013; Jones et al., 2018). Florence Nightingale was one of the promoters of this sanitary movement (Attewel, 1998; Jamieson et al., 1968). She defended the position that health was not separable from the body, since it is a result of physical, psychological and environmental factors. Furthermore, she identified several standards to prioritise for the delivery of care: ventilation and warming, health of houses, noise, bed and bedding, light, cleanliness of rooms and walls or personal cleanliness (Hektor Dunphy, 2015; Nightingale, 1859; Rafferty et al., 2010; Tesseyman et al., 2017).

The presence of environmental determinants on patient care at Netley Hospital during World War I does not mean that nurses were explicitly driving them. However, their consideration was essential to support nursing care and improve soldiers' recovery. For example, *the presence of mud and open drains, ventilation, fresh air and open spaces* such as outdoor activities in yachts were part of the history of care at Netley Red Cross Hospital. Again, this is in line with Florence Nightingale's notes, where she stated, 'the vicinity of marshes, wet ground, damp valleys, river estuaries, and mud-banks

should be avoided. The choice of the position of the new Royal Victoria Hospital, at Netley, with its ten square miles of mud, is singularly unfortunate' (Nightingale, 1863, p. 95). She promoted fresh and natural air's roles in preventing infections (Nightingale, 1858, 1859, 1863). For example, she advised 'always air your room, then, from the outside air, if possible' (Nightingale, 1859, p. 23), or 'they have ventured to cover the patients lightly and to keep the windows open; and we hear much less of the "infection" of smallpox than we used to do' (Nightingale, 1859, p. 45). She took into account how the temperature might be affected by the action of fresh air, 'the whole art of ventilation resolves itself into applying in any specific case the best method of renewing the air sufficiently, without producing draughts or occasioning great varieties in temperature' (Nightingale, 1858, p. 52). Elsewhere, she explored this issue more deeply, identifying carbon dioxide as an element to take into consideration, 'the amount of fresh air required for ventilation has been hitherto very much underrated, because it has been assumed that the quantity of carbonic acid produced during respiration was the chief noxious gas to be carried off' (Nightingale, 1858, p. 52). Another environmental element found in the data was the use of open spaces to improve nurses' and patients' mental health, in this case, sailing in yachts. Nightingale highlighted not only the design of the physical or built environment, but also the psychological environment (Rafferty et al., 2010). She considered leisure time an important aspect of health: 'Two hours daily for exercise or recreation should be allotted to the nurses, during which two hours they are to be considered relieved of the responsibility of their wards' (Nightingale, 1858, p. 30).

There are indications that Nightingale's ideas would have infiltrated the nursing practices and other aspects of the soldier's recovery at Netley Red Cross Hospital. As mentioned previously, the nursing roles and the influence of environmental factors are in line with her writings. Also, before the I World War, seven nurses who had completed a Nightingale training course at St. Thomas' Hospital installed themselves at Netley in November 1869. One of them was Mrs Deeble, Superintendent of the Army Nursing Service. She wrote the manual *beating the Orderlies into shape* as a theoretical tool where the orderlies could learn the practical part of nursing and spent much time reading this manual of instructions to all the sisters at Netley (Summers, 1986).

These results should be considered cautiously. The material of popular character (based on experiences, with the presence of a humorous, exaggerated and subjective tone, and even images with a content that the authors do not know whether they are real or fictitious) makes it difficult to draw firm conclusions. Nevertheless, this popular source has raised reflection about some basic roles and principles of the nursing profession, through the experiences of patients, healthcare professionals and other hospital workers.

In order to understand the development of care, it is important to carry out an exercise of reflection based on the events that have occurred throughout history (Collière, 1993). In this research, the study of historical events using popular data sources offers an excellent

basis framework for nurses to acknowledge the roles, values or principles towards which the nursing science and caring have been evolving. It also shows the theoretical and practical advancement of nursing and care toward a holistic approach, having implications in the current understanding of health and nursing practice. For example, the use of social determinants of health theoretical framework reveals the existing relations between health, environmental influences and the individual (Wilkinson & Marmot, 2003). Another example is the implementation of complex care by community nurses, using holistic assessments and working within multidisciplinary teams, which address multiple factors of health and well-being.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The authors would like to express their thanks to the Hampshire Archives and Local Studies (Winchester, United Kingdom) for the facilitation of primary data sources and their kindness and patience. We would like to thank the British Red Cross archivists for their suggestions and help from a distance. Finally, a sincere thank you is to Tom Laver for his diligent proofreading of this paper.

ORCID

Nestor Serrano-Fuentes  <https://orcid.org/0000-0003-3085-7593>

[org/0000-0003-3085-7593](https://orcid.org/0000-0003-3085-7593)

Elena Andina-Diaz  <https://orcid.org/0000-0001-9687-1967>

REFERENCES

- Attewel, A. (1998). Florence Nightingale (1820–1910). *Perspectivas: Revista Trimestral De Educación Comparada*, 28(1), 173–189.
- Bardin, L. (2016). *Análise de conteúdo [Content analysis]*. Edições 70.
- Bourne, F. (2015). The First World War diaries of Emma Duffin: Belfast Voluntary Aid Detachment nurse. *Archives & Records*, 36(2), 226–247. <https://doi.org/10.1080/23257962.2015.1070716>
- British Red Cross. (n.d.). *Volunteers during the First World War. First World War*. Retrieved from <https://vad.redcross.org.uk/Volunteers-during-WW1>
- Clements, P. T., & Averill, J. B. (2006). Finding patterns of knowing in the work of Florence Nightingale. *Nursing Outlook*, 54(5), 268–274. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.outlook.2006.06.003>
- Collière, M. F. (1993). *Promover la vida: De la práctica de las mujeres cuidadoras a los cuidados de enfermería [Promoting life: From the practice of women caregivers to nursing care]*. Interamericana McGraw-Hill.
- Daniels, G. (2016). *The Japanese Red Cross at Netley: 1915–1916*. Hampshire Field Club & Archaeological Society.
- Feibleman, J. K. (1970). *In praise of comedy: A study in its theory and practice*. Horizon Press.
- Geertz, C. (1973). *The interpretation of cultures: Selected essays*. Basic Books Inc.
- Green, J. D. (n.d.). *Netley Military Cemetery*. Retrieved from <https://www.netley-military-cemetery.co.uk/>
- Hallet, C. E. (2014). 'A very valuable fusion of classes': British professional and volunteer nurses of the First World War. *Endeavour*, 38(2), 101–110. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.endeavour.2014.05.001>
- Hallett, C. E. (2007). The personal writings of First World War nurses: A study of the interplay of authorial intention and scholarly interpretation. *Nursing Inquiry*, 14(4), 320–329. <https://doi.org/10.1111/j.1440-1800.2007.00378.x>
- Hallett, C. E. (2010). Portrayals of suffering: Perceptions of trauma in the writings of First World War nurses and volunteers. *Canadian Bulletin of Medical History*, 27(1), 65–84. <https://doi.org/10.3138/cbmh.27.1.65>
- Harris, K. (2008). In the 'Grey Battalion': Launceston General Hospital nurses on active service in World War I. *Health and History*, 10(1), 21–40. <https://doi.org/10.2307/40111592>
- Hawkins, S. (2018). First World War VAD stories from the British Red Cross archives: The Holmfirth Auxiliary Hospital. *Journal of War & Culture Studies*, 11(4), 291–303. <https://doi.org/10.1080/17526272.2018.1530409>
- Hektor Dunphy, L. M. (2015). Florence Nightingale's legacy of caring and its applications. In M. C. Smith, & M. E. Parker (Eds.), *Nursing theories and nursing practice* (pp. 37–54). F.A. Davis Company.
- Helmstadter, C., & Godden, J. (2016). *Nursing before Nightingale, 1815–1899*. Routledge.
- Hillier, B., & Le Naour, J. Y. (2001). Laughter and tears in the Great War: The need for laughter/the guilt of humour. *Journal of European Studies*, 31, 267–268. <https://doi.org/10.1177/004724410103112302>
- Hoare, P. (2014). *Spike Island: The memory of a military hospital*. Harper Collins.
- Howell, J., Rafferty, A. M., Wall, R., & Snaith, A. (2013). Nursing the tropics: Nurses as agents of imperial hygiene. *Journal of Public Health*, 35(2), 338–341. <https://doi.org/10.1093/pubmed/fdt016>
- Hynes, S. (1990). *War imagined: The First World War and English culture*. The Bodley Head.
- Institute of Medicine (US) Committee for the Study of the Future of Public Health. (1988). *The future of public health*. National Academies Press.
- Jamieson, E. M., Sewall, M. F., & Suhrie, E. B. (1968). *Historia de la enfermería [History of nursing]* (C. G. Ottenwaelder, Trans.), 6th ed. Interamericana. (Original work published 1966).
- Japanese Nurse at Netley Hospital. (1915). *Daily Mirror*. Retrieved from <https://www.netley-military-cemetery.co.uk/welcome-to-rvh-netley/those-who-worked-here-a-f/japanese-nurses/>
- Japanese Red Cross Workers for Netley. (1915). *Aberdeen Journal*. Retrieved from <https://www.netley-military-cemetery.co.uk/welcome-to-rvh-netley/those-who-worked-here-a-f/japanese-nurses/>
- Johnson, E. (2012). "Who would know better than the girls in white?" Nurses as experts in postwar magazine advertising, 1945–1950. *Nursing History Review*, 20, 46–71. <https://doi.org/10.1891/1062-8061.20.46>
- Jones, C. L., Dupree, M., Hutchison, I., Gardiner, S., & Rafferty, A. M. (2018). Personalities, preferences and practicalities: Educating nurses in wound sepsis in the British hospital, 1870–1920. *Social History of Medicine*, 31(3), 577–604. <https://doi.org/10.1093/shm/hkx016>
- Kitching, P. (2013). Four faces of nursing and the First World War. *The Historian*, 119, 30–35.
- Kokusai Direct Service. (1915). *Japanese Red Cross. The Japan Weekly Mail*. December 25, 1915.
- Moore, J. (1988). *A zeal for responsibility: The struggle for professional nursing in Victorian England, 1868–1883*. University of Georgia Press.
- Nightingale, F. (1858). *Subsidiary notes as to the introduction of female nursing into military hospitals in peace and in war*. Harrison and Sons.
- Nightingale, F. (1859). *Notes on nursing: What it is, and what it is not*. Edward Stern & Company Inc.
- Nightingale, F. (1863). *Notes on hospitals*. Longman, Green, Longman, Roberts, and Green.
- Nightingale, F. (1882). Nurses, training of. In R. Quain (Ed.), *A dictionary of medicine including general pathology, general therapeutics, hygiene, and the diseases peculiar to women and children* (p. 723). D. Appleton & Co.
- Queen Alexandra's Royal Army Nursing Corps. (n.d.). *Netley Hospital*. Retrieved from <https://www.qaranc.co.uk/netleyhospital.php>
- Quiney, L. J. (2017). *This small army of women: Canadian volunteer nurses and the First World War*. University of British Columbia Press.

- Rafferty, A. M., Wall, R., & Salvage, J. (2010). Feminist, activist, nurse: Florence Nightingale's legacy. *Istanbul Üniversitesi Florence Nightingale Hemşirelik Dergisi*, 18(2), 52–55.
- Rayner, J. (2018). The carer, the combatant and the clandestine: Images of women in the First World War in War Illustrated magazine. *Women's History Review*, 27(4), 516–533. <https://doi.org/10.1080/09612025.2017.1292619>
- Reception by Queen Alexandra. (1915, December 18). *The Times*.
- Robb, G. (2002). *British culture and the First World War*. Palgrave.
- Rogers, A. (2018). *New Zealand Army Nursing Service*. New Zealand History. Retrieved from <https://nzhistory.govt.nz/war/first-world-war-nurses>
- Royal Victoria Hospital, Netley (1966). *The British Medical Journal*, 1(5484), 412–413. Retrieved from <https://www.jstor.org/stable/25406695>
- Shields, R., & Shields, L. (2014). Dame Maud McCarthy (1859–1949): Matron-in-chief, British Expeditionary Forces France and Flanders, First World War. *Journal of Medical Biography*, 24(4), 507–514. <https://doi.org/10.1177/0967772013480610>
- Siles González, J. (2011). *Historia de la enfermería [History of nursing]*. Difusión de avances de enfermería.
- Sillars, S. (2007). *Fields of agony: British poetry of the First World War*. Humanities-E-books.
- Summers, A. (1986). *Women as voluntary and professional military nurses in Great Britain, 1854–1914* [Doctoral dissertation, The Open University]. doi:<https://doi.org/10.21954/ou.ro.0000de51>
- Telford, J. C. (2010). The American nursing shortage during World War I: The debate over the use of nurses' aids. *Canadian Bulletin of Medical History*, 27(1), 85–99. <https://doi.org/10.3138/cbmh.27.1.85>
- Tesseyman, S., Hallett, C., & Brooks, J. (2017). Crisis at Guy's Hospital (1880) and the nature of nursing work. *Nursing Inquiry*, 24(4), e12203. <https://doi.org/10.1111/nin.12203>
- The Netley British Red Cross Magazine. (1918e). *The Netley British Red Cross Magazine [Magazine]*. Netley, British Red Cross Hospital (92M991/1/2/1), Hampshire Archives and Local Studies, .
- The Netley British Red Cross Magazine. (1918a). *The Netley British Red Cross Magazine [Magazine]*. Netley, British Red Cross Hospital (92M991/1/2/1), Hampshire Archives and Local Studies, .
- The Netley British Red Cross Magazine. (1918b). *The Netley British Red Cross Magazine [Magazine]*. Netley, British Red Cross Hospital (92M991/1/2/1), Hampshire Archives and Local Studies, .
- The Netley British Red Cross Magazine. (1918c). *The Netley British Red Cross Magazine [Magazine]*. Netley, British Red Cross Hospital (92M991/1/2/1), Hampshire Archives and Local Studies, .
- The Netley British Red Cross Magazine. (1918d). *The Netley British Red Cross Magazine [Magazine]*. Netley, British Red Cross Hospital (92M991/1/2/1), Hampshire Archives and Local Studies, .
- The Netley British Red Cross Magazine. (1918f). *The Netley British Red Cross Magazine [Magazine]*. Netley, British Red Cross Hospital (92M991/1/2/1), Hampshire Archives and Local Studies, .
- The Victoria Hospital at Netley. (1857). *The British Medical Journal*, 1(22), 459–460. Retrieved from <https://www.jstor.org/stable/25191349>
- The work of voluntary aid detachments. (1915). *The British Medical Journal*, 1(2819), 85–86.
- Wilkinson, R. G., & M. Marmot (Eds.). (2003). *Social determinants of health: The solid facts*. World Health Organization.
- Wilson, A. R., & M. L. Perry (Eds.). (2008). *War, virtual war and society: The challenge to communities*. Brill/Rodopi.
- Woodham Smith, C. (1957). *Florence Nightingale: La heroína de los hospitales [Florence Nightingale: The heroine of hospitals]*. Losada, S.A.

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

Additional supporting information may be found online in the Supporting Information section.

How to cite this article: Serrano-Fuentes N, Andina-Diaz E. Exploring *The Netley British Red Cross Magazine*: An example of the development of nursing and patient care during the First World War. *Nurs Inq*. 2020;00:e12392. <https://doi.org/10.1111/nin.12392>